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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

Some mining firms allowed to resume

posted July 23, 2020 at 11:30 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

After a series of inspections, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allowed the resumption of operations of some mining companies ordered closed by the late agency chief Gina Lopez.

“Only those that have passed through the proper (review), (and) those who have submitted motion for reconsideration with DENR,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

“Our technical experts have already conducted an audit and gone to the mining companies that had been suspended by former secretary Lopez,” he added.

He, however, did not identify the mining firms that are about to resume operations due to the ongoing reviews.

According to Cimatu, miners to be allowed to resume are those that have adopted corrective measures of their violations.

“Those that have not yet already complied must still pursue their compliance before we could allow them to open,” he said.

In 2017, Lopez ordered the closure and suspension of the mining activities, following an environmental audit.

In 2018, Cimatu directed a review of the closure and suspension orders of Lopez.

Those suspended were AAMPFIL Natural Resources and Exploration and Development Corp., Carrascal Nickel Corp., Emir Mineral Resources, Krominco Inc., Libjo Mining Corp., Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp., Strong Built Mining Development, Wellex Mining Corp. 1&2, and Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.

The agency affirmed the closure of Claver Mineral Development Corp., Ore Mining and Development Corp. and Oriental Synergy Mining Corp.

Sec. Cimatu to reopen mining companies suspended by ex-DENR Sec. Lopez

July 23, 2020 8:44 PM by [Rita Salonga](#)



A worker looks at the Rapu Rapu open pit mine owned by the Australian firm Lafayette mining in Albay province, central Philippines February 5, 2007. REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco/File Photo

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Roy Cimatu confirmed that they will be reopening some of the mining companies that were suspended during the time of the DENR Sec. Gina Lopez.

During a virtual press briefing on Wednesday, Cimatu said that the agency's audit teams have already checked and inspected the areas, and came up with recommendations.

The DENR secretary made a clarification though that only those mining firms that submitted their appeal and made the necessary adjustments based on their violations, will be allowed to resume operations.

In 2017, the late DENR Sec. Gina Lopez ordered the closure of more than 26 mining firms for multiple environmental violations. She also ordered the closure of open-pit mining because allegedly "the environmental degradation ruined the economic potential of places where it was done."

Some of these mining firms belong to high-profile personalities, some even with political affiliation.

Meanwhile, Cimatu refused to comment which mining firms are set to open.

Mining could generate much-needed revenues amid
COVID-19 crisis - DENR

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“Kailangan natin ang mining ngayon dahil sa sitwasyon natin,” DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said in an interview on Dobol B sa News TV.

Mining could generate much-needed revenues amid COVID-19 crisis —DENR

Published July 23, 2020 9:13pm

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Allowing some mining companies earlier suspended or closed by the late former Environment Secretary Regina Lopez could help generate much-needed revenues for the government to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, a top official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

“Kailangan natin ang mining ngayon dahil sa sitwasyon natin,” DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said in an interview on Dobol B sa News TV.

“Alam naman natin malaki rin ang nakukuha nating revenue dito sa mining na ito,” Antiporda said.

The DENR official, however, could not provide an estimate how much the government could earn from mining.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, on Thursday, confirmed that some mining firms closed or suspended by Lopez in her controversial industry-wide environment audit [would be allowed to resume operations](#) after onsite inspections and reviews found that the miners have rectified their violations and complied with corrective measures.

Antiporda said that while the mandate of the DENR was to ensure the preservation of the environment, the agency was also concerned how it could help the economy.

In 2017, Lopez, a staunch anti-mining advocate, ordered the closure and suspension of the mining activities of 26 firms as a result of the DENR’s environmental audit.

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In 2018, the DENR, under Cimatu, reviewed the closure and suspension orders of Lopez. He validated the suspension of AAMPFIL Natural Resources and Exploration and Development Corp., Carrascal Nickel Corp., Emir Mineral Resources, Krominco Inc., Libjo Mining Corp., Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp., Strong Built Mining Development, Wellex Mining Corp. 1&2, and Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.

Cimatu also affirmed the closure of Claver Mineral Development Corp., Ore Mining and Development Corp., and Oriental Synergy Mining Corp.

The environment chief, during the Laging Handa briefing, assured that only those that rectified their violations and complied with corrective measures will be allowed to re-open their mine sites. **-NB, GMA News**

Group slams reopening of mine sites closed by Lopez

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 24, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) yesterday slammed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for allowing the reopening of mine sites ordered closed by the late secretary Gina Lopez.

“We are extremely mad with Environment Secretary Cimatu. He should be held responsible over massive destruction of the environment in the name of corporate interests and bureaucratic corruption,” Pamalakaya said.

Cimatu announced on Wednesday that some mining companies ordered closed or suspended by Lopez would be allowed to resume operations after applying corrective measures recommended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Lopez either closed or suspended the operations of 26 mining firms for alleged violation of environmental standards.

“Mr. Cimatu shows no ethos in environmental protection. He is a 180 degree turn of his predecessor Gina Lopez, who led a crackdown against illegal mines and other forms of environmental destruction in the country,” Pamalakaya national chairman Fernando Hicap said.

The group urged other environmental activists to denounce the DENR’s turnaround on its mandate.

Cebu businesses' closures alarm chamber

Published 2 hours ago on July 24, 2020 03:40 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



The Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) on Wednesday raised concerns on Cebu City's local economy as 92 of the group's member-companies expressed possible closure of their businesses as an effect of the successive quarantines placed in the city at the height of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

In a meeting with Environment Secretary and Cebu Task Force on COVID-19 overseer Roy Cimatu and several other business leaders, CCCI President Felix Taguiam relayed the concerns of the group, which is the largest business federation in the city and the Province of Cebu.

"Most of the business owners in the city are traders. The chamber has 391 members, and right now I already received 92 requests for closure," Taguiam revealed.

The dialogue was called to provide the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) and business owners the opportunity to share best practices and recommendations on how the city can best move forward in anticipation of a transition to a more relaxed community quarantine.

Cimatu, however, expressed optimism that the city will be placed under general community quarantine (GCQ) by the end of the month, which should somewhat temper the bleak outlook.

"We are making progress now because of contact-tracing. I am expecting that cases in Cebu City will go down by next week. So, hopefully by the end of the month, we'll go down to GCQ," Cimatu vowed.

He added that the IATF and the National Task Force Against COVID-19 are implementing all possible measures to address the health situation in the city and help it breathe life into its economy.

Meanwhile, Melquiades Feliciano, who is assisting Cimatu in the battle against COVID-19 in Cebu, disclosed that the Cebu Task Force is evaluating and reviewing the mass rapid testing initiative called "Project Balik Buhay (PBB)."

A joint initiative of Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Secretary Michael Lloyd Dino with the Department of Health-Region 7, local government units in Cebu and the private sector, the PBB aims to gradually reopen the community through a calibrated, scientific and evidence-based transition from ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) to GCQ.

"We will meet with the business sector to explore how the IATF can integrate this program into our policy direction, so that the needs of the communities, especially the workers whose jobs were greatly affected by the pandemic, can be addressed," Feliciano said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/24/cebu-businesses-closures-alarm-chamber/>

Illegal wildlife trade persists even during pandemic

By Ma. Elaine P. Allanigue Published on July 23, 2020



Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI recovers 42 various species of threatened and endangered turtles with an estimated value of P550,000 during its recent entrapment operation conducted in Tondo, Manila. (Photo credit: DENR)

QUEZON CITY, July 23 (PIA) – An official from the Department of Environment & Natural resources (DENR) confirms that illegal wildlife trade persists even during pandemic.

This, after the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI recovered 42 various species of threatened and endangered turtles with an estimated value of P550,000 during its recent entrapment operation conducted in Tondo, Manila.

Among those recovered from the suspects Eumir Rommel Raganit and Bruce Kenneth Tan, who are now facing charges for violation of RA 9147, were 11 heads of black pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*), which is classified as “critically endangered” under DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09 entitled “Updated List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories.”

The black pond turtle is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or CITES, which means that the species is threatened with extinction and is not allowed for commercial trade.

Dr. Rogelio Demelletes, BMB senior ecosystems specialist and Task Force POGI head, said the illegal wildlife trade has been showing no sign of slowing down even during the pandemic.

The task force, he said, has been able to confiscate P37-million worth of illegal wildlife and nabbed a total of seven individuals in five separate operations conducted since March, when the country was first placed under community quarantine to contain the spread of COVID-19.

One of those arrested was repeat offender Sharon Jonjon Lim, who was caught selling illegally trafficked raptors in Sampaloc, Manila, on June 6. In July last year, Lim was also apprehended for illegal possession and trade of 13 rare animals, including three peregrine falcons worth P250,000 in the black market.

"We at the 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," Demelletes said.

Despite government efforts, Demelletes said that wildlife trade and trafficking continued to prevail because the penalties provided in RA 9147 seemed "too light" to deter wildlife crime.

"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," Demelletes pointed out.

He added: "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."

Under RA 9147, the penalty depends not only on the act committed but also on the conservation status of the wildlife.

The highest penalties are imposed on those guilty of killing critically endangered wildlife—jail term of six years and one day to 12 years and/or payment of fine ranging from P100,000 to P1 million.

For hunting and trading, the penalty ranges from two to four years of imprisonment and/or fine of P30,000 to P300,000 for hunting and P5,000 to P300,000 for trading wildlife.

For the mere transport of wildlife, the penalty is six months to one-year imprisonment and/or P50,000 to P100,000 fine.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu after receiving the report said a more stringent law is needed to curb illegal wildlife trade as culprits are not deterred by the punishments provided under Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

"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," Cimatu said. "This is to make sure that convicted offenders will be able to serve their sentence and will not be eligible for probation," Cimatu said.

Task Force POGI is composed of wildlife enforcers from various agencies, including the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the DENR and the Environmental Crime Division of the National Bureau of Investigation. (DENR/PIA-NCR)

Toughen wildlife law

July 23, 2020

People's Journal

Wildlife is endemic to a specific geo-political region.

Therefore, it is a part of the national patrimony; it is parcel of the national identity.

A healthy, sustainable wildlife population is also critical to ecological balance.

Thus, we fully agree with and totally support the call made by Environment and Natural Sec. Roy Cimatu for a more stringent law is needed to curb illegal wildlife trade as culprits are not deterred by the punishments provided under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

“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,” Cimatu said. “This is to make sure that convicted offenders will be able to serve their sentence and will not be eligible for probation.”

He made the statement after a task force under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources arrested two suspected illegal wildlife traders during an entrapment operation conducted in Tondo, Manila on July 10.

The Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI recovered 42 various species of threatened and endangered turtles with an estimated value of P550,000 from Eumir Rommel Raganit and Bruce Kenneth Tan, who are now facing charges for violation of RA 9147.

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“We at the 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,” Demelletes said.

Despite government efforts, he said that wildlife trade and trafficking continued to prevail because the penalties provided in RA 9147 seemed “too light” to deter wildlife crime.

“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,” Demelletes said.

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DENR eyes ecotourism activities in Cagayan Valley

Published July 23, 2020, 12:31 PM
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing ecotourism activities in Cagayan Valley, aiming to ease the economic burden on the region as caused by the coronavirus pandemic.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan, chair of the Regional Ecotourism Committee (REC), said she will ask for a meeting with the Department of Tourism (DOT) to discuss the plan.

Bambalan, in the same meeting, also intends to identify measures how to help people relying on ecotourism as livelihood could bounce back amid the pandemic inasmuch as she also wants to “prepare health and safety protocols for the re-opening of the ecotourism sites.”

The DOT is the co-chair of the REC by virtue of Executive Order No. 111 issued in 1999.

The chairmanship has a term of three years and is held on rotation basis by the DOT and the DENR.

The committee is responsible for the review, evaluation, approval and monitoring of ecotourism projects in the region.

It is also tasked to implement policies, guidelines, programs, projects and activities formulated by the national council; identify the network of ecotourism sites in the region; and recommend plans and programs for ecotourism.

DENR-Cagayan Valley said it aims to prepare ecotourism management plans in the Magapit Protected Landscape in Lallo.

Cagayan and the Bangan Hill National Park in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, within the year. The REC will be reviewing these plans for approval by the concerned Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

It said that of the 12 ecotourism management plans for the protected areas in Cagayan Valley, eight have already been reviewed by the REC for approval by the PAMB and four are still pending.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/23/denr-eyes-ecotourism-activities-in-cagayan-valley/?fbclid=IwAR0FZXII_rry4qBq3tYAF9Xx-2N9Vze5kbSwz4nfU6oOITPa9z1HI7K9Zh4

Mining firm explores Ilocos Norte's mining potential

By Leilanie Adriano July 23, 2020, 7:48 am



POTENTIAL INVESTOR. The provincial government of Ilocos Norte through its Investment Office, Provincial Quarry Office, and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources met with representatives of Nickel Asia Corporation and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau on Wednesday (July 22, 2020) at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan session hall. The meeting aims to explore greater economic opportunities for Ilocos Norte to promote inclusive growth. *(Photo by Leilanie G. Adriano)*

LAOAG CITY – Representatives of the Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC), the Philippines' top nickel ore producer with a growing interest in renewable energy development is moving up north to explore Ilocos Norte's investment potentials.

In a meeting held at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan session hall on Wednesday, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau along with the provincial government of Ilocos Norte's economic group presented the province's investment potentials, particularly on mining industry which is now being considered to help the local economy recover from the pandemic.

For years, Ilocos Norte has been conservative in terms of mining but as the Philippine government promotes rational exploration, development, utilization, and conservation of mineral resources, the provincial government has invited potential investors to help in the province's economic recovery.

In an interview on Wednesday, Jose Bayani "JB" Baylon, NAC vice president for corporate corporations, said they are here to explore the province's mining potential to generate local employment and boost Ilocos Norte's social development and management program.

"Upon the request of the governor, we are here to help as he called me the other day and wrote our president. With responsible mining, the community benefits. So we are here to explore what we can potentially develop," he said.

Following a short briefing, the group inspected the major rivers and water tributaries of Ilocos Norte where sand mining can be conducted.

As the province gears up under the new normal, all businesses including quarry operations are now back to the normal subject to prescribed health protocols.

By inviting more investors, the provincial government hopes to generate more funds for its social development programs.

As the Ilocos Norte government has allowed sand quarrying in various parts of the province which is a major local revenue generation among local government units here, permittees are now lining up at the Provincial Quarry Office to secure their permits with intent to expand their area of operation.

In November last year, the Ilocos Norte board passed the Revised Ilocos Norte Quarry Ordinance to ensure quarry applicants comply with all the requirements before they are allowed to quarry and supply the sand and gravel requirements of the various construction firms in the province. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1109812>

COVID-19 hinders probe on Semirara miner's death

Published July 23, 2020, 8:27 AM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY—The threat of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is hindering the probe on the death of a miner at Semirara Island, the country's largest coal mine in Caluya town, Antique province.



Heavy equipment is seen working at one of the coal pits of Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC), the country's largest coal producer in Caluya town, Antique province. (Tara Yap/Fie/Manila Bulletin)

Antique Gov. Rhodora Cadio said a technical working group (TWG) team was supposed to go to Semirara to physically inspect the incident site but the team members expressed concern over contracting the disease.

“They are afraid of possible COVID-19 infection,” Cadio told the Manila Bulletin in a phone interview.

This came after as Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) confirmed the July 20 death of its excavator who was hit by a limestone boulder that fell at the Narra coal pit.

Aside from the fear of getting infected with COVID-19, Cadio said it will be hard for the TWG to travel due to additional restrictions.

“For now, we can only wait for the initial report coming from SMPC,” Cadio said.

This was also echoed by the Western Visayas regional office of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-6), an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

EMB-6 Regional Director Ramar Niel Pascua said it is waiting for SMPC to submit its incident report to determine if there is environmental violation.

“If there is, then we have to send our team. But if it's an operational incident, then we do not need to go there,” Pascua told the Manila Bulletin in a separate interview.

But the access of both the Antique provincial government and EMB-6 in Semirara are limited as it is the Department of Energy (DOE) that has jurisdiction over the island which was declared a coalmine reservation.

“We are determining the exact circumstances surrounding the incident. Rest assured that we are coordinating with the DOE and other relevant government agencies on this matter,” SMPC said in a separate statement.

Meanwhile, both the Antique provincial government and SMPC will be extending financial assistance to the family of the coal miner who died.

COVID-19 threat delays probe on Semirara miner's death

July 23, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines,News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — The threat of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is hindering the probe on the death of a miner at Semirara Island, the country's largest coalmine in Caluya town, Antique province.

Antique Governor Rhodora Cadio said she is supposed to send a technical working group (TWG) to Semirara to physically inspect the incident site, but members expressed concern.

“They are afraid of possible COVID-19 infection,” Cadio said in a phone interview.

This came after as Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) confirmed the July 20 death of its excavators, who was hit by a limestone boulder that fell at the Narra coal pit.

Aside from fear of getting infected in the island that had previous COVID-19 cases, Cadio said it would be hard for the TWG to travel due to additional restrictions.

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“If there is, then we have to send our team. But if it's an operational incident, then we do not need to go there,” Pascua said. **(Tara Yap)**

Tubig mula Angat Dam na laan sa Maynilad, Manila Water tataasan

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 23 2020 08:02 PM

Sariwa pa sa alaala ni Marian Morales ang hirap na dulot ng mahahabang water interruption noong mga nakaraang buwan.

Tanggap na nilang mahina ang pressure ng tubig basta huwag lang maulit ang water interruption.

"Mahirap kasi araw-araw mo kailangan 'yong tubig," ani Morales.

Pero napawi ang pangambang water interruption dahil inaprubahan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang dagdag-alokasyon ng tubig mula Angat Dam ng Maynilad at Manila Water.

Mula sa kasalukuyang 46 cubic meters per second, aakyat ito sa 48 cubic meters per second simula Agosto 1.

"At least tuloy-tuloy or steady ang supply ng tubig para sa kababayan natin sa Metro Manila at karatig-probinsya," ani NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr.

"Nakita po 'yong importansiya ng tubig sa pangangailangan po kontra sa COVID-19," dagdag niya.

Tiniyak ng Maynilad na walang water interruption sa paglaki ng alokasyon ng tubig galing Angat Dam pero ang average pressure ay mananatili sa 7 pounds per square inch mula sa dating 16 pounds per square inch.

Samantala, umapela naman ang Maynilad sa mga kostumer na samantalain ang libreng pagsipsip o paglilinis ng poso negro habang wala pa ang sunod-sunod na bagyo.

Marami raw kasing customers ang tumatangging papasukin ang desludging equipment dahil sa takot sa COVID-19.

"Mapapanatili nating malinis ang kapaligiran, maiiwasan natin ang mga sakit," ani Adryan Balindoy, Maynilad waste water management officer.

Ipinaliwag ng mga awtoridad na kasali na sa binabayaranang water bill kada buwan ang paglilinis ng poso negro.

Puwede itong itawag muna sa barangay o sa tanggapan ng Maynilad at Manila Water para ma-schedule ang sipsipan.

-- Ulat ni Alvin Elchico, ABS-CBN News

PH, France partner to improve Pasay waste management

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora July 23, 2020, 2:54 pm



MANILA – The Philippine government and the French Development Agency (AFD) have partnered to strengthen Pasay City's household waste management and improve Pasig River's water quality, the French Embassy in Manila announced Thursday.

The entire project worth €623,000 (PHP35.5 million) will be financed by a €425,000 (PHP24.2 million) grant provided by the AFD in support of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The grant agreement was signed on July 21 by Marie-Pierre Bourzai, head of AFD's Territories and Enterprises Division and Jacques Gautier, president of Sycotom, the metropolitan agency for the treatment of household waste in the Paris region.

Sycotom, upon the request of the MMDA, will be leading the pilot project proposing waste treatment solutions at the Tripa de Gallina pumping station.

The embassy said the initiative would complement the wastewater phytotreatment system managed by the Greater Paris Interdepartmental Syndicate for Sanitation (SIAAP) and is seen to benefit between 20,000 and 25,000 residents of various barangays in Pasay City.

The project will implement a "multi-channel platform" that includes an electromechanical composting unit for organic waste to treat around 40 to 50 percent of household waste deposit and a reinforced Material Recovery Facility, a small-scale waste disposal and transfer center for the management of recyclables.

The partnership would also involve the recovery of hazardous waste such as electrical and electronic equipment waste.

After an initial three-year phase aimed at raising awareness among local residents towards sustainable practices, improving Pasig River's water quality, and reducing health risks, the embassy is hopeful the project could be replicated throughout Metro Manila. **(PNA)**

French agency extends P35.5 M grant for Pasay City waste management program

Published July 23, 2020, 5:15 PM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

Known for many years as one of the dirtiest cities in Metro Manila, Pasay City has been chosen as a pilot area for the €623,000 (PHP 35.5 million) grant from the French Development Agency (AFD) to help strengthen the city's household waste management.

The choice of Pasay City was concluded following the signing of the grant agreement between Marie-Pierre Bourzai, head of AFD's Territories and Enterprises Division and Jacques Gautier, president of Sycotom, the Metropolitan Agency for the Treatment of Household Waste in the Paris Region, last July 21, the French Embassy said in a statement on Thursday.

Undertaken in partnership with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the three-year project also seeks to contribute to improving the quality of the water of the Pasig River.

Metro Manila produces about 6,700 tons of household waste per day. In the absence of an effective waste collection system for its 17 million inhabitants, around 17 percent of the region's waste from various neighborhoods ends up in the Pasig River through dumping or by being washed away by floods.

To address this, the MMDA requested Sycotom to lead the waste treatment solutions at the Tripa de Gallina pumping station in Pasay City, one of the most critical and vital pumping stations in Metro Manila that is directly connected to the Manila Bay.

The stretch of the Tripa de Gallina itself, particularly at the Tramo Bridge in Pasay City, contains one of the highest level of coliform (bacteria), measured at about 92 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters as of October 2019.

This pilot project, which is expected to benefit between 20,000 and 25,000 residents of various barangays in Pasay City, will complement the wastewater phytotreatment system managed by the Greater Paris Interdepartmental Syndicate for Sanitation (SIAAP).

The objective of this project is to locally implement a multi-channel platform which includes an electromechanical composting unit for organic waste (to treat around 40 percent to 50 percent of household waste deposit), a reinforced Material Recovery Facility (a small scale waste disposal and transfer center) for the management of recyclables, as well as the recovery of hazardous waste such as electrical and electronic equipment waste.

Sycotom also plans to seek the best solutions to improve the Tripa de Gallina pumping station's treatment of screen waste – waste whose level of contamination does not allow recycling.

The French agency said this pilot project in Pasay City aims to be eventually replicated throughout Metro Manila after the 3-year phase of raising awareness among local residents towards more sustainable practices, improving the Pasig River's water quality, and reducing health risks.

AFD is a French government financial institution that implements the policy defined by its government, including in areas of fighting poverty and promotion of sustainable development.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/23/french-agency-extends-p35-5-m-grant-for-pasay-city-waste-management-program/>

Waste-to-energy technology

By [Architect Felino A. Palafox, Jr.](#)

July 23, 2020

WE all know that the Philippines has a serious waste management problem. In 2015, Ocean Conservancy, an environmental organization, identified our country as the world's third-largest source of plastic waste that end up in the oceans. We have seen countless photos of piles of garbage in our city streets, mountains of garbage in our landfills and trash carelessly disposed of in our waterways and beaches. After typhoons, tons of garbage are washed back onto our bay and coastal areas.

As our population increases, so will the severity of our garbage woes unless we implement radical changes in our solid waste management laws and programs. Even if Republic Act 9003, or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act," was passed in 2000, local government units find it hard to comply with and implement this law. It is expected that by 2025, our cities will produce 77,776 tons of rubbish per day, which is equivalent to a 165 percent increase. And did you know that every ton of garbage produced is equal to approximately 6.2 tons of carbon dioxide that goes into our atmosphere in the form of methane, which is a harmful greenhouse gas?

With so much trash, you would wonder why we do not utilize waste-to-energy (WTE) solutions that other cities in the world have long used to their advantage. Waste burning or incineration, a popular and cheaper waste-to-energy solution in other parts of the world, is illegal under the Philippines' Clean Air Act because it emits harmful pollutants like dioxins and heavy metals. Those opposed to the attempts to establish WTE projects here have also cited that we still have unclear directives on renewable energy projects and that local governments will only incur financial losses.

But instead of incineration, gasification is a better, economical and cleaner alternative, according to scientists and environmentalists. Through gasification, garbage is turned into synthetic gas that can be further converted into higher-value energy products like electricity, hydrogen fuel, diesel fuel and ethanol, and even construction materials and fertilizers. The technology has a high-revenue potential — profit from the garbage the WTE plant is paid to take and revenue from the high-value recycled products it can generate.

The gasification process also reduces our need for landfills and the use of fossil fuels and lowers methane emissions.

In Singapore, the Nanyang Technological University designed and built a WTE research facility called Tuas South, which is able to convert 11.5 tons of garbage from the campus daily into electricity and other by-products. The facility, worth S\$40 million, and designed and constructed with the support of the National Research Foundation, National Environment Agency (NEA) and Economic Development Board, was launched in May 2020.

The Tuas South facility has a gasification plant that can heat up to 1,600 degrees Celsius and converts trash into syngas, which is mostly hydrogen and carbon dioxide, that is utilized to produce electricity. The high temperature also turns the trash into various by-products like metal alloys and slag, which can eventually be used as materials for construction. As a research facility, Tuas South has become a platform for scientists and companies to test innovations and technologies in a working environment. Tuas South is proof of Singapore's commitment toward a more sustainable and cleaner environment.

The Finnish firm, Outotec, has established WTE plants in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy and Turkey. Their fluidized bed technology has a continuous emission monitoring system that is able to comply with the stringent emissions regulations of the European Union, and it ensures environmental compliance and “minimal emissions and low carbon in ash, with over 99 percent carbon burn-out.” Through their technology, the WTE plants can generate steam or synthetic gas for electricity production from various wastes like solid recovered fuel that is produced from mainly commercial waste like paper, plastic, textiles and wood; refuse-derived fuel that comes from combustible refuse and municipal solid waste; other commercial and industrial wastes; and construction and demolition waste.

Amager Bakke, also known as Copenhill, in Denmark is one of northern Europe’s largest WTE plants and it claims to be the world’s cleanest WTE plant. This facility has become very famous worldwide because not only does it serve as a WTE plant, it is also an architectural landmark that houses Denmark’s first ski slope that is open all throughout the year and a sports and recreation and environmental education center. According to its designers at Bjarke Ingels Group, Copenhill is “a crystal clear example of hedonistic sustainability — that a sustainable city is not only better for the environment, it is also more enjoyable for the lives of its citizens.”

Located near the waterfront, the power plant is able to convert 44,000 tons of waste from more than 600,000 inhabitants and more than 45,000 companies into electricity and heat for 150,000 homes. The plant can utilize “100-percent energy content of the waste,” so it can achieve 107 percent energy efficiency. In addition, Copenhill allows the city to reuse 90 percent of its metal waste and reuse 100,000 tons of bottom ash for road construction materials. It was built to help Copenhagen reach its goal to be the first carbon-neutral city in the world by 2025.

Many countries are offering their expertise and services to help us set up our own gasification plants. Let us hope that other cities and industry leaders in our country will take the bold step of investing in and adapting this environment-friendly waste management technology that we are in dire need of.

UP Baguio instructor na nagpresenta ng research vs tree cutting may death threat

Michelle Soriano, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 23 2020 04:36 PM

BAGUIO CITY — Nakatanggap ng banta sa kaniyang buhay ang isang instructor mula sa University of the Philippines Baguio matapos itong humarap sa konseho sa gitna ng usapin ng pamumutol ng puno sa lungsod.

Limang taong moratorium o suspensyon sa pagbibigay ng pahintulot sa pamumutol ng puno ang pinag-usapan noong nakaraang linggo sa Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Baguio.

Iprepresenta nina Dr. Zenaida Baoanan at biology instructor na si Deign Frolley Soriano ang ginawa nilang research tungkol sa benepisyong pagkakaroon ng green patches o mga lugar na mayabong pa sa puno.

"If you're going to examine the figure on your right, makikita niyo po that the blue patches are actually the green patches of forests in our city and those are relatively cooler places compared to those in yellow and compared to those in red," anila.

Pagkatapos nito, nakatanggap ang 24-anyos na si Soriano ng pagbabanta sa kanyang buhay.

"Kung hindi namin matumba mga puno, ikaw itutumba namin."

Sinundan ito ng pagbabanta naman sa kaniyang pamilya.

"Tignan natin kung ano mas mahalaga mga puno o ang pamilya mo."

Aminado si Soriano na takot pa rin siya sa nangyari.

"Right now, medyo hindi pa humuhupa yung fear... Minsan iniisip ko super bata ko pero bakit nangyayari saakin tong mga ganitong bagay. But if you look into facts and information, a lot of environmental defenders in the Philippines, madaming cases tayo ng mga pinapatay na environmental defenders," ani Soriano.

Palaisipan sa kaniya kung sino ang nagpadala ng banta dahil wala naman silang inatakung partikular na kompanya.

Umusbong ang panukalang tree cutting moratorium ng konseho sa gitna ng usapin sa pamumutol ng puno sa Outlook Drive at ang paglunsad ng petition ng isang environmentalist para ihinto ang pamumutol ng puno.

Kinondena ng konseho ang banta laban kay Soriano lalo't naimbitahan ang instructor bilang isang resource person at hindi para maging testigo sa isang partikular na insidente.

"They just concentrated on their studies. Puwede namang sakyan iyan ng ibang mga grupo. Hindi naman tama yun. I believe that these are good citizens of the country who want to help also in what's happening in the city of Baguio. Sinuportahan po tayo doon sa magandang research nila," ani Baguio City Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan.

Balak ni Soriano na humingi na rin ng tulong sa mga awtoridad base sa rekomendasyon ng pulisya matapos niyang ipa-blotter ang insidente.

Bumubuhos din ang suporta sa kaniya mula sa iba't ibang organisasyon dahil banta ito hindi lamang sa buhay ng mga tagapagtanggol ng kalikasan kundi maging sa buhay ng mga natitira pang puno sa lungsod ng Baguio.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/23/20/up-baguio-instructor-na-nagpresenta-ng-research-vs-tree-cutting-may-death-threat?fbclid=IwAR2uljPG--yyLdcdjMRZAZAer1rABhq0ESgnD5pvRNGundv-7ZCH9vyZkyk>

Hinatuan Mining coral garden project a success

posted July 23, 2020 at 10:30 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), has announced the success of its coral nursery project on the island of Hinatuan in Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte.



CORAL GARDEN. Hinatuan Mining divers monitor the coral nursery off the island in Surigao del Norte twice weekly to record its detailed growth and to graph survival rates. Photo courtesy HMC

The coral nursery initiative, designed and implemented by HMC's Mine Environmental Protection and Enhancement Department (MEPEO), aims to further enhance the growth of the natural coral reef systems around the marine waters of the island, said Forester Manuel A. Torres, Jr., HMC's MEPEO lead and Envi-Manager.

For Jusua dela Peña, HMC's dedicated marine biologist, success means that in less than a year of establishing the nursery, initially with 343 coral fragments in four nursery beds, the coral fragments have fully recovered with an excellent growth rate and a yield of 90% survival against a mortality rate of 10%.

The nursery begins the successful coral gardening in Hinatuan Island as healthy coral "outgrowths" are transplanted to propagate the coral garden.

The United Nations (UN) connects coral gardening to the current narratives about the coronavirus pandemic, detailing how humans and our livelihood are connected to corals in so many ways: the fish that live on coral reefs provide food; coral reefs are draws for tourists who bring in the cash that provide livelihood; that there are new medicines being developed from species found in coral reefs; and, that coral reefs help in the protection of our shores from erosion and pollution.

"We know that the priority right now is to keep the communities and our workforce healthy and safe from the virus, but we at HMC will never stop finding ways to also protect the environment and enhance the island's marine resources," said dela Peña.

Engr. Francis J. Arañes, Jr., HMC's Resident Mine Manager, is most happy about the success of the company's coral gardening because it showcases the healthy waters surrounding the mine site, which is something to be greatly proud of as a miner.

"The coral nursery is located 200 meters from the mine site's pier and six meters in depth from the water line. The excellent growth of the corals signifies that the water quality around the mine and HMC's marine resources are a healthy support to the overall water ecosystem," Arañes said.

"The objective of this program is to highlight NAC-HMC's sustainable best practices in marine protection, emphasizing our initiatives, as a responsible mining company, in resources protection and tourism development," he added.



As a marine biologist, dela Peña attested to growing corals as being labor-intensive, requiring dedication and focus. The nursery is monitored twice weekly with the help of experts and licensed divers. Every inch of growth is recorded, ever recovery rate or otherwise, graphed.

“We cannot emphasize enough the importance of coral gardening and we at HMC, as responsible miners, are obviously deeply passionate about this. Coral gardening plays a significant part in the sustainable development of our environment and in maintaining the integrity of our ecosystem,” dela Peña said.

Most importantly, the involvement of the community is a vital component to the success of the coral garden, he added.

Everyone in the mining communities must be taken in as part of the drive to reach the full potential of the project, HMC said. This means intensive information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns about corals and to declare the site of the nursery as marine protected area, to minimize disturbance and allow the corals to reach their full growth and be healthy enough for massive propagations.

The Hinatuan mine site, also known as the Tagana-an nickel project, is located in Barangay Talavera on Hinatuan Island. Its area of operations is within the Surigao mineral reservation.

Red tide warning up in 4 waters of E. Visayas

Published 22 hours ago on July 23, 2020 08:23 AM

By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Eastern Visayas warned fishermen in four bodies of water in Leyte and Eastern Samar provinces to refrain from gathering, selling and eating all types of shellfish that were found contaminated with red tide toxins.

In an advisory, BFAR said the coastal waters of Guiuan town at the southernmost tip of Samar island are now contaminated with red tide, an algae that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning.

The fisheries bureau has also declared high presence of red tide in the waters of Cancabato Bay in Tacloban City last 1 June, Matarinao Bay in the towns of General MacArthur, Hernani, Quinapondan and Salcedo in Eastern Samar last 25 June and in Carigara Bay covering the towns of Babatngon, San Miguel, Barugo, Carigara and Capoccan in Leyte last 14 July.

BFAR regional director Juan Albaladejo said tests done in both seawater and shellfish meat show toxins presence are beyond the regulatory limit.

The agency issues red tide warning when tests show toxins are beyond the regulatory limit of 60 micrograms for every 100 grams of shellfish meat to warn that prohibition on shellfish harvesting is in effect.

BFAR also bans the trading and consumption of *Acetes* sp. locally known as “alamang” harvested affected bodies of water to avoid possible poisoning.

Local government units are advised to regulate gathering, marketing, and transporting of shellfish in affected areas.

Fish, squid, shrimp, and crab are safe to eat “provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking,” BFAR advisory said.

NCR isolation sites swamped by surge in Covid asymptomatics

By [Samuel P. Medenilla](#)

July 24, 2020



Policemen guard the 112-bed We Heal As One center at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila serves as quarantine facilities for Covid-19 patients.

THE surge in the number of asymptomatic novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) patients in Metro Manila has overwhelmed the capacity of isolation facilities in the region.

Covid-19 testing czar Vivencio “Vince” Dizon said the six We Heal As One centers in the National Capital Region (NCR), which have a total of 3,000 bed capacity, have all run out of spaces to accommodate the large number of asymptomatic Covid-19 patients.

He said this prompted them to seek the assistance of the Department of Tourism (DOT) to tap some hotels to become additional isolation facilities.

“As of today [July 23], we were able to get almost 2,000 hotel rooms to be occupied by those who are asymptomatic and staying in LGUs [local government units] in Metro Manila,” Dizon said during his interview with Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.

Dizon attributed the spike to the number of Covid-positive cases in NCR after the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) expanded the list of categories, which could be covered by the expanded targeted testing for suspected infected individuals.

Pooled testing

In NCR, he said they are confident they will be able to test 14 million people using “pooled” testing. Under the said scheme, Dizon said the samples of 20 individuals will be pooled in a single reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test kit.

If the test result on the pooled specimen comes out negative, all of those whose samples were placed in the test kit will automatically be declared negative for Covid-19.

If the test comes out positive, he said they will continue to conduct more tests but dividing the 20 individuals into groups until they could isolate who among them are infected.

The pooled testing measure, now being used in several Western countries where it had greatly brought down costs, was adopted by the government to efficiently use its limited number of test kits.

Oplan Kalinga

Dizon said the recent intensified implementation of Oplan Kalinga, wherein a health representative and local government officials will conduct house visits to find asymptomatic Covid patients, also contributed to the higher occupancy of their isolation facilities.

The scheme initially drew concern from some groups, who claimed it could be used by the government to detain critics.

Roque, however, said their public information campaign to allay the said concern was effective based on the increasing number of asymptomatic patients who are voluntarily getting tested and going to isolation facilities.

The intensified enforcement of Oplan Kalinga earlier this month aims to reach out to asymptomatic patients exercising home quarantine without any separate bathrooms or bedrooms. This raised their chances of infecting other people living in the same home.

Roque pinned the blame on the Department of Health's (DOH) failure to clarify the strict terms for asymptomatic Covid-patients on home quarantine, especially the need for separate bathrooms and bedrooms.

"We are rectifying it now, we have fully intensified our testing. You heard Testing Czar Vince Dizon, we might be able to test every single person in Metro Manila," Roque said.

"We just need to increase our isolation centers [to accommodate them]," he added.

Image Credits: [Roy Domingo](#)



IATF eases age restrictions on Boracay Island visitors

Published July 23, 2020, 8:33 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

The age limit for tourists entering Boracay Island has been eased to allow children and senior citizens to visit the world-famous island after the Inter-agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) approved the Department of Tourism's (DOT) request to allow the then restricted individuals to visit the world-famous island in Aklan province.

In a letter, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat informed the Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) President Jose Clemente III that the IATF had approved on Wednesday, July 23, the DOT's request to relax the age limit requirement for visitors in Boracay Island.

The island was placed under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) beginning June 1. With the approval from the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), the local heads reopened the island on June 16.

But Puyat said even with the lifting of the ban on younger and older tourists, the existing policy on allowing only residents of Western Visayas region to visit the island remains.

This means that only residents from the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental can go to Boracay.

Boracay Island has no reported coronavirus case.

The tourism secretary assured government support to ensure the implementation of health and safety protocols upon arrival of local visitors.

“The DOT will always put paramount concern on the safety of our people—tourists and residents alike,” she said.

As of July 23, the DOT Western Visayas has issued 115 certificates of authority to operate (CAO) to hotels, resorts and lodging which offer 2,635 rooms all found compliant with the health and safety standards.



PH COVID-19 cases, lagpas 74K na; 2,200 naidagdag

July 23, 2020 @ 5:11 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sumampa na sa 74, 390 ang kumpirmadong mga kaso ng nakamamatay na sakit na COVID-19 sa buong bansa.

Ayon kay Health Usec Maria Rosario Vergeire, 2,200 ang naidagdag sa mga kaso base sa pinakahuling datos na natanggap ng kagawaran na galing sa 76 mula sa 90 licensed laboratories sa bansa.

Umabot naman ang aktibong kaso sa 48,136 kung saan nakapagtala rin ng 1,314 fresh cases at 886 late cases.

Nasa 24, 383 na rin ang kabuuang bilang ng recoveries dahil sa karagdagang 760.

Habang 28 naman ang nadagdag sa bilang ng mga pumanaw sa COVID-19 dahilan para umabot na sa 1,871 ang total deaths sa bansa.

Ayon kay Vergeire, ang dahilan kaya tumaas ang reported deaths ito ay mula sa Region 7 na ngayon lamang nai-report o naipasok sa DOH.

Sa nasabing karagdagang kaso ngayon ang fatality rate ay nasa 2.5 percent.

Sa 26 mga deaths o 93 percent ay nangyari ngayong Hulyo, isa ang nangyari noong Mayo, habang 1 rin noong Abril.

Nasa 21 galing sa Region 7 at pito naman galing sa NCR.

Batay sa datos, ang age range nang mga pumanaw ay nasa 20-anyos hanggang 88-anyos.

Ang 14 deaths o 50 percent sa mga pumanaw ay nasa edad 60 pataas. **Jocelyn Tabancgura-Domenden**

Scholarship sa doctor nasaan at the number you're
calling is not yet in service

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SCHOLARSHIP SA DOCTOR NASAAN AT THE NUMBER YOU'RE CALLING IS NOT YET IN SERVICE

July 23, 2020 @ 12:31 PM 18 hours ago

Wala na tayong marinig ngayon mula sa mga ospital, lalo na sa Metro Manila, kundi punuan na sila.

Nangyayari ito sa mga pribadong ospital at lalo na sa mga pampublikong ospital.

Pambansa man o panlungsod ang mga pampublikong ospital.

At kung kumontak ka naman sa mga numerong makikita mo sa internet, lalo na sa mga pampublikong ospital, manginginig ka sa nerbiyos, lalo na kung may idudulog kang pasyente sa kanila na biktima ng coronavirus disease-19.

Ang karaniwang sagot, mga Bro, ay heto: The number you dialed is not yet in service o the number you dialed cannot be reached o the number you dialed is out of coverage area o the number you dialed is incomplete.

Bakit kumokontak tayo sa telepono bago tayo tumuloy upang magdala ng pasyente?

Dahil hindi ka na basta makapagpapasok ng pasyente sa COVID-19 kahit emergency dahil pununan na nga ang mga ospital.

Mauubos ang oras mo sa kalsada sa kahahanap ng mga ospital na pagdadalhan mo ng pasyente.

Lalo na kung hindi sakay sa ambulansya ang pasyente at pribadong sasakyan lang ang gamit mo.

ANG CONSUELO

Pero hindi naman ganyang kadesperado ang sitwasyon.

Sinubukan ng ating Uzi ang magsagawa ng kontak sa mga personal na numero ng mga doktor at hotline ng Department of Health.

Kinontak nito ang ibinigay na numero sa Amang Rodriguez Hospital sa Marikina City na pinamumunuan ni Dr. Imee Mateo at ibinigay ang contact number ni Dr. Karen Fresco, head ng Emergency Room.

Sakto, mabilis na nakontak at klaro ang mga mensahe ni Dr. Karen kung ano-ano ang mga gagawin.

Naging matagumpay rin ang DOH hotline na 1555.

May problema nga lang na maaaring maituturing na malaki o maliit sa DOH hotline.

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Ang mga tumatanggap pala ng tawag dito ay hindi katulad ng mga traffic enforcer ni Mayor Abby Binay na alam ang lahat ng kalsada at gusali sa lungsod.

Kaya kapag naliligaw ka at magtanong sa mga traffic enforcer na ito, tiyak makapupunta ka sa gusali na gusto mong puntahan.

Ang mga tinatawag na agent ng DOH hotline ay medyo kapos sa kaalaman kung saan matatagpuan ang mga ospital na posibleng pagdalhan ng isang pasyente.

Sa ibang salita, hindi memoryado ng agent ang mga magkakalapit na ospital o cluster ng mga ospital sa isang lugar.

Kaya uubos ka ng oras sa kahihintay ng sasabihin ng agent ukol sa ospital na pwede mong pagdalhan ng iyong pasyente.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, pwede bang pukpukin nang husto ang mga agent sa DOH hotline para magkaroon ng malawak na kaalaman ukol sa mga ospital at lokasyon ng mga ito at kung paano sila mabilis na magdesisyon upang umayuda sa mga pasyente ng COVID-19?

KULANG SA KAMA

Lumilitaw na kulang na kulang na ang mga kama at espasyo sa ating mga ospital lalo't libo na araw-araw ang dinadapuan ng COVID-19 na dapat maipasok sa mga ospital para magamot kahit wala pang masasabing bakuna para rito.

Ang patakarang 30 porsyento para sa infectious diseases ay nais na mismo ng ating pamahalaan na maging 70 porsyento upang matanggap ang lahat ng maysakit na positibo sa sakit, lalo na ang may COVID-19.

Kung hindi natin magagawa ang mga gusali sa loob lang ng 6-10 araw na kumpleto ng kagamitan at para sa 2,500-3,000 pasyente gaya ng ginawa ng China sa Wuhan City na naging sentro ng COVID-19, ano-ano ba ang mga gagawin upang makamit, lalo na ng mga pampublikong ospital, ang 70% bed capacity?

May mga nagpapahiram ng kanilang mga gusali o nagpapaupa, nasaan ang mga ito upang gawing hospital style na kumpleto ng mga kagamitan at espasyo para sa mga pasyente, doktor at iba pang mga taong kailangan?

ISKOLAR NG BAYAN NA DOKTOR NASAAN?

Binuksan ng COVID-19 ang katotohanang kulang na kulang tayo ng mga doktor, lalo na ang mga espesyalista sa infectious diseases.

Ito'y sa kabila ng dami ng doktor na meron tayo.

Mahigpit na panukala natin sa mga kinauukulan, lalo na ang mga nasa DOH at Commission on Higher Education, pagtuunan nila ng pansin ang pagpaparami ng mga doktor na maglilingkod sa pamahalaan at sa bayan.

Ang scholarship para sa mga gustong maging doktor ang nais nating kumustahin.

Minsang tiningnan ng ating Uzi ang mga kwalipikasyon ng mga tatanggaping maging iskolar ng bayan na maging doktor.

Scholarship sa doctor nasaan at the number you're
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Halos sumuka ang ating Uzi sa kanyang nakita.

Tila mas marami ang diskwalipikasyon kaysa kwalipikasyon na nagiging harang o sagabal, lalo na sa mga mahihirap, na gustong maging doktor.

Hindi ba pupwedeng bigyan ng daan na maluwag ang mga gustong maging iskolar ng bayan na kukuha ng pagkadoktor?

PASADONG NURSES

Napakaraming nurse, babae at lalaki, na pasado na sa board examinations, hindi ba pupwedeng itulak ang mga ito na maging doktor ng bayan?

Hindi mauubusan ng magagaling na doktor ang Pinas kung ipupursige lang ng pamahalaan ang pagtulong sa mga nagnanais na maging doktor.

Pupwede ngang ipasok ang mga ito na police o military doctor, gaya ng ginagawa ng bansang China, na dahilan ng pagkakaroon ng makabayan at nakatuon sa serbisyong bayan na ibinuhos sa giyera sa COVID-19 sa Wuhan City at sa buong China na dahilan ng mabilis na paglaho ng nasabing sakit.

Sa ngayon, nakababahala na libo-libo nang doktor, nurse at iba pang medical professional ang tinamanaan ng COVID-19 na dahilan na rin ng pagpapasara ng mga ospital o bahagi ng mga ospital na tinatamaan ng sakit na ito.

'Yun bang === halos walang pamalit sa kanila.

Kung seryoso lang ang DOH at CHED sa pagpaparami ng mga doktor, kasama na ang iba pang medical professional, hindi tayo mauubusan ng suplay ng mga ito at bawat matamaan ng pandemya, na kauri ng mga ito, meron at merong ipapalit sa kanila para sa kapakanan ng taumbayan sa giyera sa COVID-19 at iba pang darating na infectious diseases.

We look forward to the President's SONA

Published July 23, 2020, 10:31 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



In these times of uncertainty, when so many institutions, celebrations, and occasions for which we are known as a nation have been upended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is good to know that President Duterte will carry on the tradition of personally appearing before Congress in joint session on Monday, July 27, to deliver his annual State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The President could have chosen to deliver his SONA via television from the safety of Malacañang on the bank of the Pasig River in Manila, lest he somehow catch the virus on the way to the Batasan in Quezon City or right in the halls of the Batasan itself.

Security is bound to be tight and health measures are bound to be thorough, but the COVID-19 virus, despite the best efforts of the world's top scientists and health experts, has managed to spread around the globe these last seven months, infecting such world leaders as the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Brazil's President Jair Messias Bolsonaro. There is so much that is not known about this virus, that it is best to avoid any situation, any gathering of people, where it might somehow find a way to reach a new victim.

The arrangements for the President's appearance at the Batasan have been carefully planned. Only 50 people will be in the vast assembly hall of the House of Representatives, which would normally have over 300 congressmen, 24 senators, their staffs, and hundreds of people in the gallery for the SONA.

The 50 on the floor on Monday, seated with considerable spaces between them, will be 13 congressmen, 12 senators, and 25 members of the executive department. All will be subjected to rapid coronavirus tests before being allowed entry into the Batasan. All will be wearing face masks.

The President's speech will be aired on radio and television over the government network Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) and the social media accounts of the Presidential Communications Office and Radio Television Malacañang. Private media may hook up with RTVM.

Over the years, the delivery of the President's SONA on the first day of the new regular session of Congress has been met by protest marches along the road to the Batasan. This year, because of the pandemic, mass gatherings of any kind are discouraged but with proper distancing, protesters should be able to stage their traditional demonstrations for their various causes.

Through all the safety precautions on Monday, the nation should be able to hear the President's State of the Nation Address in the safety of their homes around the country. There is much that the President is expected to say, including on such issues as the recently enacted Anti-Terror Law, the country's relations with the United States, China, and other nations, the national budget and other national issues, but we expect that this year's SONA will focus on the pandemic, its deadly toll in the lives and health of Filipinos, the impact on the nation's economy, and plans for national recovery.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/23/we-look-forward-to-the-presidents-sona/>

Shift to MECQ is suicidal

posted July 24, 2020 at 12:35 am

Bringing back Metro Manila and some parts of the CALABARZON region to stricter quarantine rules, or modified enhanced community quarantine, from ECQ is destructive and not foolproof that COVID-19 cases will slow down.

Curbing the rise of the pandemic in the capital region can be done through the no-nonsense implementation of health protocols, while allowing businesses to reopen fast and restoring the jobs of Filipino workers. Authorities down to the barangay level should enforce the health and safety rules laid down by the Inter-Agency task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases in containing the virus spread while the economy is reopening.

The Federation of Philippine Industries, the umbrella organization of over 100 manufacturing companies, has backed the call of the Department of Finance to ease the quarantine measures in Metro Manila and other major urban centers to accelerate the reopening of the economy after a long lockdown period.

Mobility restrictions, or the lack of transportation, have been hampering the full reopening of the economy. The business group, in a letter to the task force, supported looser quarantine restrictions in Metro Manila, CALABARZON, comprising the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, and other urban areas as soon as possible to reopen the economy, "with the precaution that those factories and barangays with COVID-19 cases be dealt with more strictly."

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III earlier noted that while the people's health and safety remained the government's top priority, Filipinos cannot be retreating from the virus at the cost of their livelihoods, especially in Metro Manila and Calabarzon, which collectively account for 67 percent of the domestic economy.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the country's largest business organization, also called on the government to allow businesses to resume full operations. Nearly five months of lockdown have restricted business operations and put more companies at greater danger of permanent closures.

Business closures, meanwhile, will translate into reduced tax collections and put the sustainability of public finances and the ability to fund public services, including health and education, at risk.

The rest of Europe and Asian countries like Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan and South Korea have reopened their economies while practicing social distancing. These nations at the same time implemented widespread testing and contact tracing to limit the virus transmission, which the Philippines can do.

A responsible government should not withhold the jobs of those who want to feed their family. Hunger will eventually catch up with the unemployed.

Water access in a pandemic

By: [Hyacinth Tagupa](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:15 AM July 24, 2020

Face mask: check. Physical distancing: check. Handwashing: Um, with what water?"

This is now a common grievance in many Philippine towns, as water shortages persist in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. It's absurd that something as simple as handwashing—a practical, affordable way to curtail the spread of the coronavirus—is not even doable in a country surrounded by water. Our communities are pretty much left on their own to withstand the lack of lifesaving essentials such as hygiene and sanitation.

Study upon study has pointed out that Filipinos' access to clean water is mismanaged. One such study, published in the Philippine Journal of Science, concluded that

“[i]nappropriate water governance at various levels contributes to ‘artificial scarcity’.”

Water scarcity being “artificial” doesn't mean that our water resources don't get depleted, or that low water levels are a hoax. What it refers to is the mismatch between water supply and demand, which is largely due to water administration weaknesses.

There are numerous points along the water supply system that need improvement. Some issues often cited: The water governance sector is fragmented, making it difficult to adopt and implement policies; watersheds are mismanaged and underprotected; freshwater ecosystems are polluted; the infrastructure of service providers is sorely deficient in quality (pipe leaks and power outages at wells are especially common).

These weaknesses also amplify inequities in water access—why some communities experience water stress much more sharply or frequently than others do. It's no secret that while wealthy neighborhoods rarely worry about water supply, those of us in rural and congested urban communities have to contend with rotating water interruptions and waterless spells.

A joint report by the World Health Organization and Unicef confirms that access to basic water services is 99 percent among the one-fifth richest households in the Philippines, but only 80 percent among the poorest quintile.

Poor water governance is sadly not new to us, and it should have been given more serious consideration ages ago. We have yet to see how this pressing need is prioritized by the government now that we are faced with a health crisis.

Last year, one of the priority bills enumerated in the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) was the creation of the Department of Water Resources. This Cabinet department is aimed to streamline the administration of our water, a task currently spread across dozens of government agencies whose functions are fragmented and sometimes overlapping.

The creation of an integrated water department is hoped to minimize inefficiencies that plague water administration. It should also mean a more solid regulatory structure to oversee water service providers, and subsequently, should give us customers better service. (Theoretically.)

As of this writing, the bill establishing this department is still awaiting comments from the House committee on ways and means and committee on appropriations. Will it get renewed attention in the upcoming Sona, and will it remain a priority in the following months?

Reforms in water governance are something we should be watching closely and talking about more. We've become so used to rotating interruptions and adapting our daily routines to supply schedules that we forget how water is a basic utility we should be expecting in our towns and cities. Isn't it awful that a country so proud of its modernity and globalization still has its citizens rely on imbak (water fetching and storing)? This practice should have become unnecessary by now, especially as we've had plenty of opportunities to improve from the shortages of the 1990s and the droughts of recent years.

On top of being a basic utility, water is a most essential human right. Not just a service to wait for (like, say, transportation or internet coverage), but an actual need for our well-being. We are entitled to water. We are not supposed to tolerate being deprived of it, especially not in a time when clean water can spell the difference between health and grave illness.

hyacinthjt@gmail.com

Maynilad to extend bill payment period—spokesman

posted July 23, 2020 at 11:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

West zone water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. is extending the bill payment period for millions of its customers until Sept. 30.

“We have a payment extension, and this is up to Sept. 30,” said Maynilad spokesperson Zmel Grabillo.

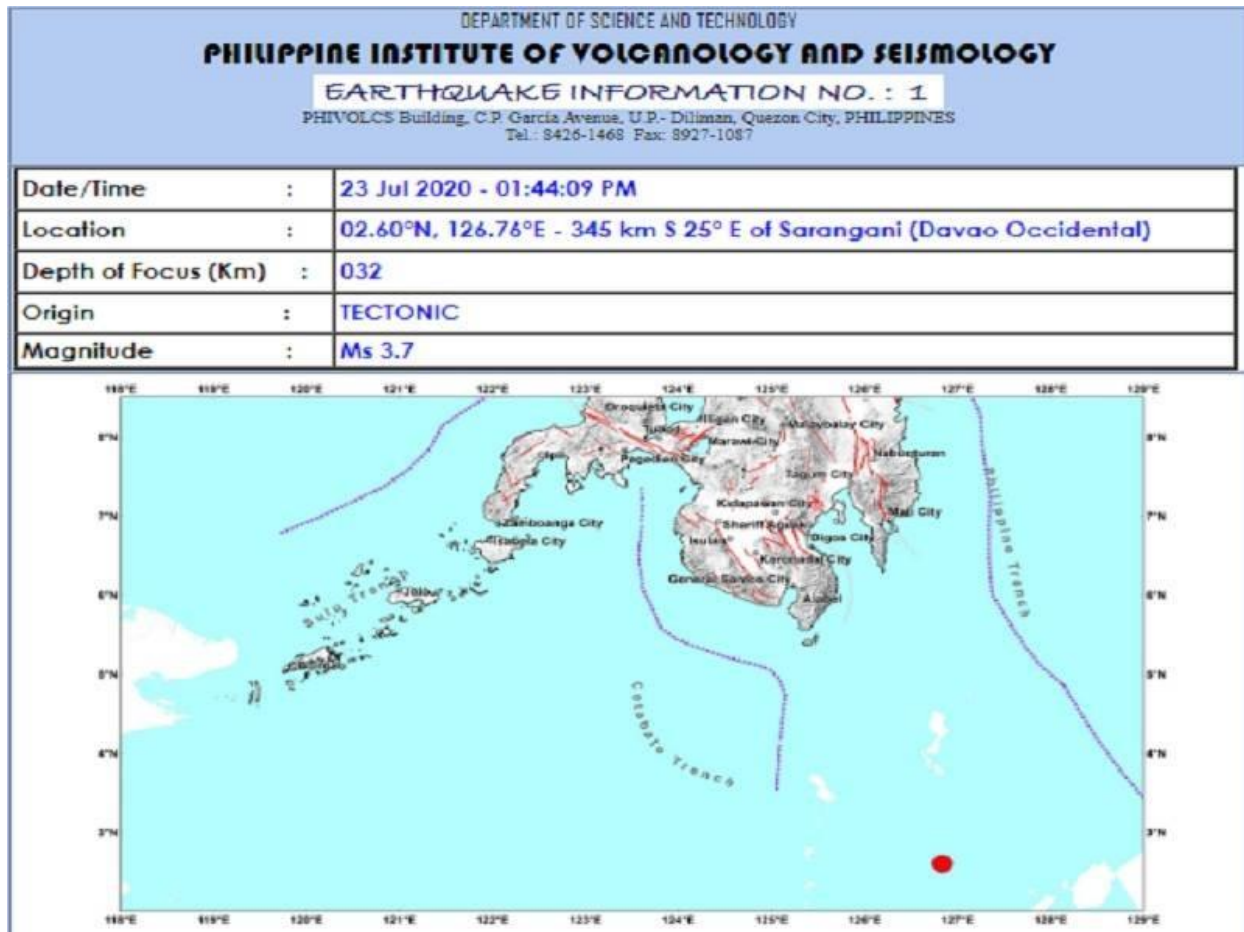
He said customers may settle their unpaid bills on an installment basis in any amount through online payment or payment centers.

Grabillo said Maynilad has a mechanism of tracking the staggered payments of its clients.

“They can pay little by little. In fact, they can pay any amount, which they can afford to pay while trying to recover from their situation,” he said.

Sarangani, Davao Occidental niyanig ng magnitude 3.7 na lindol

By Mary Rose Cabrales July 23, 2020 - 03:10 PM



Niyanig ng magnitude 3.7 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Zambales.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 345 kilometers southeast ng bayan ng Sarangani, ala-1:44 hapon ng Huwebes (July 23).

May lalim na 32 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng pagyanig.

Mt. Bulusan shows signs of potential eruption: Phivolcs

By Mar Serrano July 23, 2020, 4:14 pm



Mt. Bulusan in Sorsogon (PNA file photo by Nonie Enolva)

LEGAZPI CITY – The series of tremors that have been rocking Mt. Bulusan in Sorsogon and the bulging at its edifice are apparent signs that the volcano's state of restlessness is rising.

April Dominguiano, resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in the province, in an interview on Thursday, said volcanic quakes, and the cycle of inflation and deflation events are precursors that could lead to an eruption.

She likened Mt. Bulusan's condition to a "pregnant woman waiting to give birth."

Dominguiano compared the tremors and bulging exhibited lately by the volcano to the "birth pains" felt by expectant mothers.

She said close monitoring of the parameters that might trigger an eruptive event is needed at this point.

Seismic instruments and ground deformation instruments detect movements beneath the volcano's vent and edifice that may be caused by hydrothermal and magmatic intrusion activity, she said.

These volcanic precursors could lead to a "phreatic or steam driven" eruptions, which according to Dominguiano, could happen without warning.

Historically, Mt. Bulusan had phreatic eruptions under an Alert Level 1 state of unrest.

Phivolcs monitoring network recorded 10 volcanic earthquakes during the past 24-hour observation period, bringing to 315 the total volcanic tremors recorded since July 6.

Alert Level 1 (Abnormal) status remains hoisted over the volcano.

Under this status, Dominguiano strongly advised residents to always be on alert and to keep out of the designated four-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) and the two-kilometer extended danger zone (EDZ) as sudden and hazardous phreatic eruptions might occur. **(PNA)**

After 40 years, researchers finally see Earth's climate
destiny more clearly

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Clouds aren't expected to dampen global warming—one reason why the planet is likely to respond sharply to carbon emissions. ISS EXPEDITION 7 CREW/EOL/NASA

After 40 years, researchers finally see Earth's climate destiny more clearly

By [Paul Voosen](#) Jul. 22, 2020 , 10:00 AM

It seems like such a simple question: How hot is Earth going to get? Yet for 40 years, climate scientists have repeated the same unsatisfying answer: If humans double atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) from preindustrial levels, the planet will eventually warm between 1.5°C and 4.5°C—a temperature range that encompasses everything from a merely troubling rise to a catastrophic one.

Now, in a landmark effort, a team of 25 scientists has [significantly narrowed the bounds on this critical factor](#), known as climate sensitivity. The assessment, conducted under the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and publishing this week in *Reviews of Geophysics*, relies on three strands of evidence: trends indicated by contemporary warming, the latest understanding of the feedback effects that can slow or accelerate climate change, and lessons from ancient climates. They support a likely warming range of between 2.6°C and 3.9°C, says Steven Sherwood, one of the study's lead authors and a climate scientist at the University of New South Wales. "This is the number that really controls how bad global warming is going to be."

The new study is the payoff of decades of advances in climate science, says James Hansen, the famed retired NASA climate scientist who helped craft the first sensitivity range in 1979. "It is an impressive, comprehensive study, and I am not just saying that because I agree with the result. Whoever shepherded this deserves our gratitude."

Humanity has already emitted enough CO₂ to be halfway to the doubling point of 560 parts per million, and many emissions scenarios have the planet reaching that threshold by 2060. The report underscores the risks of that course: It rules out the milder levels of warming sometimes invoked by those who would avoid emissions cuts. "For folks hoping for something better, those hopes are less grounded in reality," says David Victor, a climate policy researcher at the University of California, San Diego, who was not part of the study.

The WCRP sensitivity estimate is designed to be used by the United Nations's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) when it publishes its next major report in 2021 or 2022. The estimate will also inform projections for sea-level rise, economic damage, and much else. A clearer picture of those consequences could do much to spur local governments to cut emissions and adapt to warming, says Diana Reckien, a climate planning expert at the University of Twente. "The decreasing uncertainty could potentially motivate more jurisdictions to act."

The study dispels uncertainty introduced by the latest climate models. Models have historically been used to estimate sensitivity, beginning in 1979, with the world's first comprehensive assessment of CO₂-driven climate change. That summer, at a meeting in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, led by Jule Charney, [scientists produced a paper](#), known ever since as the Charney report, that predicted between 1.5°C and 4.5°C warming for a CO₂ doubling. Those numbers—based in part on a model Hansen had developed—stuck around far longer than anyone imagined: [The latest IPCC report](#), from 2013, gave the same range.

After 40 years, researchers finally see Earth's climate destiny more clearly

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Recent models suggest the range might even go higher. They run hot, [some predicting warming of more than 5°C](#) for a CO₂ doubling, apparently because of [the way they render clouds](#), especially over the Southern Ocean. Yet these high-end models [struggle to accurately recreate the climate of the 20th century](#), undermining their credibility. Such models play only a supporting role in the new assessment, says Robert Kopp, a climate scientist at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, who was not involved in the effort. “We now have enough independent lines of evidence that we don’t need to use the climate models as their own line.”

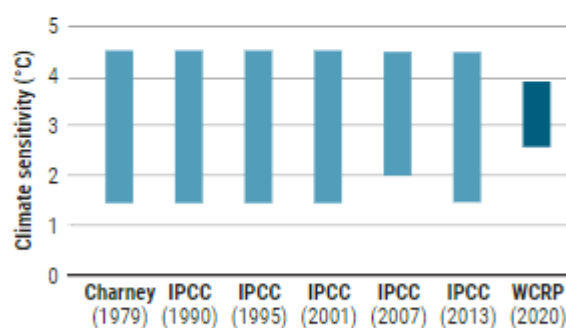
The WCRP study arose out of a [2015 workshop at Schloss Ringberg](#), a castle in the Bavarian Alps. Many participants were dissatisfied with the IPCC process and [wanted to look at how physical mechanisms](#) might set the boundaries of the sensitivity range. “Work on the ends, rather than on the middle,” says Bjorn Stevens, a cloud scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, who edited the WCRP report with Sandrine Bony of the Pierre Simon Laplace Institute. Sherwood and Mark Webb, a climate scientist at the United Kingdom’s Met Office, agreed to lead the effort.

The first line of evidence they considered was modern-day warming. Since record keeping began in the 1800s, [average surface temperatures have risen](#) by 1.1°C. Continuing that trend into the future would lead to warming on the lower end of the range. But recent observations have shown [the planet is not warming uniformly](#); in particular, warming has barely touched parts of the eastern Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean, where cold, deep waters well up and absorb heat. Eventually, [models and paleoclimate records](#) suggest, these waters will warm—not only eliminating a heat sink, but also spurring the formation of clouds above them that will trap more heat. Adjusting the temperature projections for this fact rules out low-sensitivity estimates, says Kate Marvel, a climate scientist at NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Second, the team probed individual climate feedbacks. Some of these, like the warming effect of water vapor, are well known. But clouds, which can cool or warm the planet depending on how they reflect sunlight and trap heat, have long been a wild card. In particular, climate scientists want to understand the decks of stratocumulus clouds that form off coastlines. If they grow more extensive in response to warming, as some suspect, they could have a cooling effect.

A hot number

Bounds on Earth’s climate sensitivity—how far temperatures will eventually rise for a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide—did not narrow for 40 years. Using new lines of evidence, a major study now says substantial warming is likely.



(GRAPHIC) C. BICKEL/SCIENCE; (DATA) MEEHL ET AL., *SCI. ADV.*, 6, EABA1981 (2020)

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Several years ago, [a suite of high-resolution cloud models](#) identified two feedbacks that would have the opposite effect, thinning clouds and making warming worse. In the models, higher temperatures allowed more dry air to penetrate thin clouds from above, preventing them from thickening. At the same time, higher CO₂ levels trapped heat near the clouds' tops, subduing turbulence that drives the formation of more clouds. Satellites [have since observed](#) these dynamics in warmer-than-average parts of the atmosphere. "There's a growing consensus that the [cloud] feedback is positive, but not super large," says Thorsten Mauritsen, a climate scientist at Stockholm University.

Finally, the team looked at records from two past climates—20,000 years ago, at the peak of the last ice age, and a warm period 3 million years ago, the last time atmospheric CO₂ levels were similar to today's. Recent work suggests climate sensitivity is not a fixed property of the planet, but changes over time. During warm periods, for instance, the absence of ice sheets probably raised sensitivity. Records of ancient temperatures and CO₂ levels enabled the team to pin down sensitivities of 2.5°C and 3.2°C for the cold and warm periods, respectively. "It's really comprehensive," says Jessica Tierney, a paleoclimatologist at the University of Arizona, who was not part of the report. Even for the coldest climate state, she says, the possibility of a sensitivity below 2°C seems negligible.

Assembling the three lines of evidence was a huge task. But wiring them together for a unified prediction was even tougher, Marvel says. The team used Bayesian statistics to churn through its assembled data, which allowed the researchers to test how their assumptions influence the results. "The real advantage" of Bayesian statistics, Tierney says, is how it allows uncertainties at each stage to feed into a final result. Co-authors often butted heads, Marvel says. "It was such a long and painful process." The final range represents a 66% confidence interval, matching IPCC's traditional "likely" range. The WCRP team also calculated a 90% confidence interval, which ranges from 2.3°C to 4.7°C, leaving a slight chance of a warming above 5°C.

Either way, the report has a simple takeaway, Sherwood says: A doubling of CO₂ all but guarantees warming of more than 2°C. "Three major lines of evidence are all very difficult to reconcile with the lower end of climate sensitivity."

In recent years, another uncertainty in the climate future has also narrowed: Global emissions [seem unlikely to reach the worst-case scenarios](#) IPCC helped craft 15 years ago, ruling out some forecasts of extreme warming. "We're light-years ahead of where we were in 1979," says Reto Knutti, a co-author and climate scientist at ETH Zurich.

Unfortunately, the years of work needed to attain that certainty came with a cost: 4 decades of additional emissions and global warming, unabated.

Reef tales: candid cams reveal shark populations in decline

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Reef tales: candid cams reveal shark populations in decline

Published July 23, 2020, 6:56 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

An unprecedented global survey has revealed a shocking decline in the number of reef sharks, with the predators “functionally extinct” on nearly 20 percent of sites studied.



Destructive fishing practices are the most likely culprit for the losses, according to the study (AFP Photo/-)

The four-year study used more than 15,000 baited and remotely operated cameras — so-called “chum cams” — to obtain the first comprehensive picture of where reef sharks are thriving and where they are virtually non-existent.

The results, from over 370 reefs in nearly 60 countries, are alarming, said lead author Aaron MacNeil.

“We expect... that there should be sharks on every reef in the world and to find 20 percent of the reefs we surveyed didn’t have any sharks on is very concerning,” he told a press briefing.

At reefs surveyed in eight countries, including Qatar, India, Vietnam and Kenya, no sharks were detected at all.

The findings do not mean sharks do not exist in the waters of these countries, but are evidence that their numbers on reefs are now critically low.

“These nations are places where we’re saying that reef sharks... play no role in the ecosystem there and they’re functionally extinct,” MacNeil, an associate professor at Dalhousie University said.

– ‘Transformational’ –

The study, published Wednesday in the journal Nature, says destructive fishing practices are the most likely culprit for the losses.

“The use of gillnets and longlines had the strongest negative influence on the relative abundance of reef sharks,” the study says.

Gillnets use a wall of netting, while longline fishing involves a single line strung with multiple baited hooks. Both methods have been criticised for high levels of bycatch — snaring marine life indiscriminately, including endangered animals.

The study backed by the Global FinPrint project was motivated by the dearth of big-picture information about shark populations in areas near coastlines.

In the past, researchers relied either on examining catch records, or underwater visual surveys by divers, both of which have shortcomings and produce results that are difficult to compare, MacNeil told AFP.

The new study relied on more than 15,000 hours of video from the underwater cams, analysed by a team of volunteers and researchers.

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That method has given the team “a baseline against which we can both predict and gauge the success of future conservation actions for reef sharks,” he added.

“It is transformational.”

And while the results might appear disheartening, the researchers said there are were some bright spots.

– ‘Reservoirs of hope’ –

“There are reservoirs of hope,” said Mike Heithaus, co-author of the study and dean of the College of Arts, Sciences and Education at Florida International University.

“There are places where reef sharks are doing well that could repopulate and rebuild in these areas that are degraded,” he told a press briefing.

Banning harmful fishing practices, imposing catch limits, closing areas to fishing and creating shark sanctuaries could all help restore shark populations, the authors said.

But they emphasised the need for solutions that fit particular circumstances — for example where fishing communities rely on shark fishing to survive.

“They have no alternative... So we really need to figure out solutions that can work with those communities to still protect reef sharks effectively,” said co-author Demian Chapman, an associate professor at Florida International University.

The study also warns that policies focused on protecting reef sharks may not be enough, given the predators rely on a healthy reef and abundant prey to survive.

Modelling done by the team suggests “focusing on reef sharks alone can only restore about 35 percent of their abundance, relative to restoration of the wider ecosystem,” MacNeil told AFP.

“Results like these demonstrate that conservation of any group of animals must be embedded within a wider ecosystem.”

Dilaw na pagong, unang beses namataan sa India

ni [Thea Janica Teh](#) | July 23, 2020



Isang magsasaka mula India ang nakahuli ng yellow turtle na kung saan ay pinaghihinalaan ng mga eksperto na kabilang sa albinism.

Habang nagtatrabaho sa bukid sa Sujanpur sa Balasore District ng Odisha, nakita ni Basudev Mahapatra ang pagong at napagdesisyunang iuwi sa kanilang bahay.

Agad ding ibinigay ni Mahapatra ang pagong sa forest official para mapag-aralan.

Ayon kay Siddhartha Pati, executive director ng Association for Biodiversity Conservation, ito ang kauna-unahang pagkakataon na makakita siya ng ganitong uri ng pagong.

Kalimitang nakikita ang flapshell turtle sa Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh at Myanmar. Ang pagong na nahuli ay hinihinalang may 1 ½ o 2 taon na.

Bahagi ni Pati, kadalasan silang nagre-rescue ng mga pagong at alimango at pinakakawalan din sa tubig. Ngunit, ito ang unang pagkakataon na makahuli sila ng ganitong pagong sa Odisha.

Ipinaliwanag naman ni Pati na ang dahilan kung bakit ito dilaw ay dahil sa albinism. Ito ay isang disorder kung saan wala o kaunti ang tyrosine pigment nito. "Also, sometimes a mutation takes place in the gene sequence or there is a deficiency of tyrosine."

Sa ngayon ay pinakawalan na ng awtoridad ang pagong sa Balasore.

Earth's atmosphere more sensitive to CO2 emissions than thought, study finds

Published July 23, 2020 10:28pm

By NJUWA MAINA, Reuters

WASHINGTON — Hopes that the rise in average global temperatures by 2100 might be capped below 2.5°C can be all but ruled out if greenhouse gas emissions continue at the current rate, new research reassessing the atmosphere's sensitivity to CO2 suggests.

The study, under the Geneva-based World Climate Research Program, offers the first clear progress in decades toward narrowing the range of temperature rise caused by doubling of carbon dioxide levels since pre-industrial times.

Its findings show that doubling would trigger 2.6 to 4.1 degrees Celsius in average warming above pre-industrial levels, putting the lowest rise more than one degree above scientists' previous estimated range of 1.5°C–4.5°C.

"To put that in perspective, we're on track to double CO2 at our current rate of emissions by around 2080," said co-author Zeke Hausfather, a climate scientist at the Breakthrough Institute research center in Oakland, Calif.

"Climate change is about as bad as we thought it was."

The scientific consensus that the goal of capping the rise in average global temperatures at 1.5°C, as enshrined in the 2015 Paris climate accords, is almost certainly out of reach unless greenhouse gas emissions rates fall.

Known as the climate sensitivity parameter, a doubling of CO2 concentrations has been a mainstay of models for future global temperature since the late 1970s.

The study, published Wednesday in the journal *Reviews of Geophysics*, relied on computer simulations using satellite observations, historic temperature records, and evidence of prehistoric temperatures from sources such as tree rings.

It offers "a better sense of exactly how much the Earth will warm as CO2 rises in the atmosphere," Hausfather said.

It also confirms that the world is on course for extreme sea level rise and other severe climate impacts.

These effects are expected from a rise beyond 2°C. Already, the average global temperature has warmed by about 1.2°C.

Climate scientist Andrew Dessler at Texas A&M University said he hoped the findings would spur stronger action to reduce greenhouse gases.

"We actually can rapidly ratchet down emissions if we choose to do so," said Dessler, who was not involved in the study. Without that, "there's going to be a lot of suffering." — **Reuters**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/748237/earth-s-atmosphere-more-sensitive-to-co2-emissions-than-thought-study-finds/story/>