

COMMENTARY

Water at the heart of climate action

By: [Kim Jensen](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

04:10 AM March 22, 2020

The threat of climate change continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. Research warns that many of the Philippines' coastal areas could be submerged in about three decades as a result of rising sea levels and heavy rainfall. On the other extreme, the Manila water crisis last year, aggravated by the El Niño dry spell, reminded us that the country is not immune to water scarcity either. Climate change often manifests itself through changes in the water cycle. On one hand, we are seeing floods, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and intense storms, affecting entire nations and the livelihood of millions. On the other, climate change is also responsible for driving the world's water scarcity issue, depleting a resource critical not only for survival but also for the smooth functioning of nearly all industries and sectors.

The inextricable link between the climate and water crisis means that we cannot look at these two issues in silos. Beyond working toward reducing our overall carbon footprint to mitigate climate change, we must adopt a holistic approach that considers how the two entities of water and climate play into each other — be it building our resilience to water-related disasters or tackling water scarcity aggravated by climate change.

Reducing the carbon footprint of water to mitigate climate change. Climate mitigation strategies are driven by the global movement to reduce carbon emissions, with the aim of reducing the rate of climate change. One way to reduce carbon emissions is by driving greater energy efficiency across sectors.

A key area is in water itself. Water processes consume large amounts of energy, from supplying drinking water, to irrigation, to industrial processes such as wastewater and chemical treatment, to heating, cooling, and air-conditioning in buildings. Pumps — which underpin water movement and treatment throughout these processes — contribute as much as 10 percent of the global electricity consumption. With fossil fuels being the source of most of the energy produced today, water processes are indirectly responsible for producing large amounts of greenhouse gases.

Technology has been a key enabler of energy efficiency, and with the advent of the digital era, we are now equipped with capabilities to achieve considerable efficiencies in water processes. For instance, digital technology can enable pumps to be more intuitive and responsive to fluctuating demand, adjusting water flow through real-time monitoring. This, in turn, keeps energy use efficient and will go a long way in reducing our carbon footprint.

Managing water smartly to adapt to climate change. Alongside climate mitigation, it is also crucial that we have effective climate adaptation strategies in place. One way is by using our scarce water resources more efficiently, which calls for all stakeholders — from governments to businesses to communities — to incorporate water stewardship in their activities.

While conscientiousness is key to water stewardship, there is often an intention-action gap arising from a lack of either awareness or ability to manage water resources. We can address these issues by leveraging technological advancements.

Today, which is World Water Day, reminds us of the interconnected nature of the climate and water crisis. While this presents a complex challenge, it also serves as an opportunity for us to address the two biggest threats we face today by adopting a holistic approach. While nations' efforts are increasingly reflecting an understanding of the interdependencies of water and climate, it is important to remember that collective action will be key to managing these global issues.

Source: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/128224/water-at-the-heart-of-climate-action#ixzz6HMaYvjt1>

Climate push loses momentum as the world fights coronavirus

By

[BusinessMirror](#)

-March 22, 2020

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde once spent more time talking about climate change than inflation. It happened during a news conference [in Frankfurt](#) less than two months ago, but already feels like something from another century—or planet.

In the days since, the [novel coronavirus](#) and an [oil price war](#) between Saudi Arabia and Russia have rocked financial markets and brought the world to the brink of an economic crisis.

Understandably, these two extraordinary events have grabbed global attention. Yet, the trickle of concerning climate news has not slowed.

A new study published last week in *Nature Communications* suggested [tipping points](#)—irreversible changes that could reshape ecosystems, such as forests and coral reefs—may happen sooner than previously thought.

The World Meteorological Organization [also warned](#) that about 22 million people were displaced by extreme weather in 2019, up from 17.2 million the year before.

The United Nations won't hold any face-to-face climate-change talks until at least the end of April, as part of the effort to contain the coronavirus, according to [Climate Change News](#).

An EU-China climate summit due to take place at the end of the month has also been [postponed](#).

Such events are essential for governments to draft agreements in advance of the UN's next global climate meeting, scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) is particularly critical, as all signatories are supposed to present even more ambitious plans to cut greenhouse-gas emissions than called for under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

So far, only the Marshall Islands, Suriname, Norway and Moldova have presented such plans, according to the [World Resources Institute](#).

The climate policy push is at risk of stalling on a national level as well. The UK scaled back plans to put environment at the center of its budget last week.

Spain, which has made climate change a central part of its political agenda, halted all legislative activity for at least two weeks and declared a state of emergency over the weekend.

Despite the temporary setbacks, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said last week that the European Union remains committed to its Green Deal, a moonshot plan to make the bloc carbon neutral by 2050.

“Clearly we cannot ignore what’s going on globally,” said EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius on Bloomberg TV. The global “climate emergency didn’t go anywhere.”

But transforming the economy is a titanic effort, requiring all the pieces to move in perfect coordination over an extended period of time.

Until now, public policy and private investment have pushed each other to advance climate goals. Whether all the stakeholders involved can deal with the immediate shocks while keeping long-term goals in sight remains to be seen.

“Now we have coronavirus and every three or four years there will be a significant shock that governments will need to focus on over the short term,” said John Ferguson, director of macroeconomics at the Economist Intelligence Unit. “It’s no one’s fault, but that can throw certain countries off course. Let’s remember this is a goal about 2050.” **Bloomberg News**

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/03/22/climate-push-loses-momentum-as-the-world-fights-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR1HaVrYPPIFyGTXNDfOPYaUgXVLTNtAaFQVSj2KFdIWs8uDODXJ7kvB-5I>

Asean training on biodiversity info-sharing tool turns online

By [BusinessMirror](#)

-March 22, 2020

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) will conduct a three-day online training on the use of the Bioland tool, an online platform designed to help parties to the CBD in the curation and sharing of biodiversity data.

The webinar, which will run from March 25 to 27, serves as a preliminary activity to the “Regional Workshop for the Asia on National Clearing-House Mechanisms.” It was originally slated from March 8 to 12 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, but was postponed due to growing concerns on the spread of the coronavirus disease or Covid-19.

In the two-step webinar, the SCBD oriented the Biodiversity Information Management staff of the ACB on how to use the platform from March 11 to 13. The ACB team will then train the information technology and technical staff from each Asean member-state (AMS).

The training was designed to address technical barriers faced by the AMS in effectively establishing their respective national Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) web sites, which would be part of the global network with the CBD web site serving as a central node.

The CHM of the CBD was established to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation and sharing of biodiversity information among governments, toward the successful implementation of national biodiversity strategies and plans, which will eventually contribute to the achievement of global biodiversity targets.

“As parties to the CBD, the AMS are encouraged to establish and maintain their national CHMs that will serve as a rich biodiversity information resource in their respective countries,” said Dr. Sheila G. Vergara, director of the Biodiversity Information Management unit of the ACB.

The Bioland tool, which the parties to the CBD and its secretariat have developed, is a user-friendly portal that provides templates for uploading various content to a national CHM. It is customizable to meet its user’s specific needs.

“In the region, we have the Asean CHM, which provides a wide range of services, information, capacity-building guides, and tools to support the AMS in conservation planning, monitoring and science-based decision-making,” Vergara said

Some of Asean CHM's features are the species database, invasive alien species database, information on the Asean Heritage Parks and an e-library.

She said the ACB is working with the Scientific Advisory Committee of ACB to develop a roster of biodiversity experts. This database will make it easier to locate and identify individuals and institutions sharing a common interest in biodiversity conservation, as well as scientists, researchers and biodiversity experts in the Asean region.

Alexandre Rafalovitch, information systems officer of the Secretariat of the CBD, will serve as the main resource speaker of the training with support from the biodiversity information management team of the ACB.

The ACB was established in 2005 by the AMS as a response to biodiversity loss in the region. It supports and coordinates activities in the Asean, leading to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for the benefit of the region and the AMS.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/03/22/asean-training-on-biodiversity-info-sharing-tool-turns-online/?fbclid=IwAR3EbFkTpzBUNhkK75J8-KeQLIB5irRuAPJ32gwU_YNkSsdek1f9LPTg1Ic

Virus jolts China to curb animal trade before hosting UN summit

By **BusinessMirror**

-March 22, 2020



Geese sit wrapped in bags outside a market in the Luohu district of Shenzhen, China, on December 20, 2013.

The deadly coronavirus that has infected more than 80,000 people in China could push the government to boost protection for animals and plants before it hosts the United Nations' biennial conference on global biodiversity in October.

China is scheduled to hold the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in the southwest city of Kunming against a background of a global epidemic that probably originated from bats and was transmitted to humans via wild animals.

The outbreak has sparked public criticism over loopholes in laws designed to preserve the nation's wildlife, with environment groups, government institutions, university professors and even state media demanding tougher restrictions on the widespread trade in wild animals.

As the number of infections from the coronavirus exploded in January and February in the city of Wuhan, the outbreak was linked to a meat, fish and vegetable market in the city that sold everything from peacocks to hedgehogs.

A third of the early 2019 novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases were later found to have no traceable connection to the market, but scientists and officials believe the virus did jump to humans from animals, and the consumption of wild meat remains the No. 1 culprit for the public health crisis.

The government took drastic measures as thousands quickly sickened in the province, bringing large sections of the economy and transportation networks almost to a halt to slow the spread of the disease.

The crisis could slash economic growth to as low as 3.4 percent this year, the slowest since 1990, according to the Shanghai Advanced Institute of Finance.

While the government's priority is to contain the epidemic and get the country back on its feet, it will face increasing criticism over the trade in exotic meats that have been known to pose health risks since the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2002.

In an online survey in February of 100,000 people in China, about 12 percent said they had consumed wild-animal products and almost all of those said they will no longer do it.

Nine out of 10 said China should ban exhibiting wild animals in public except in zoos. Many said they had never paid attention to wildlife issues until the coronavirus.

"The virus has made people realize that their health and well-being are closely related to the well-being of wild animals and the health of biodiversity," said Prof. Jiang Jinsong at Tsinghua University's department of History of Science. "Economic loss and health damage touch everybody."

China is 1 of 17 "megadiverse countries," according to Conservation International and the UN, harboring nearly 10 percent of all plant species and 14 percent of animals. But decades of urbanization and development have tainted the land and eroded habitats.

Some 90 percent of China's grasslands and 40 percent of its major wetlands are being degraded, according to the Environment Ministry. About 11 percent of the nation's major flora and 21 percent of its vertebrates are threatened.

The 1988 Wildlife Protection Law protects animals—such as pandas and snow leopards—that have value to "ecology, science and society."

While it was amended in 2016 to provide extra protection for some habitats and other issues, more than a third of China's mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles still aren't covered, according to Beijing-based Shan Shui Conservation Centre.

Among them are the nation's 130 types of bats.

For decades the government prioritized growth and the environment took a back seat. That began to change in the past few years as the cost to health of years of rampant pollution began to take its toll.

President Xi Jinping called for an "ecological civilization," but Environment Minister Li Ganjie said last year that, while some progress has been made, "conflicts between biodiversity protection and economic development exist," and the outlook is not optimistic.

Farming of "wild" animals is now big business. More than 14 million people were employed in 2016 in the industry, which had 520 billion yuan (\$74 billion) in sales.

The Chinese Academy of Engineering described it in a 2017 report as "one of China's most vibrant industries."

The coronavirus may change that.

In late February, the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, announced a ban on eating all terrestrial wild animals, wild-caught or farmed.

It's a first step toward eradicating the trade altogether but may not be enough to get a total ban included in the Wildlife Protection Law, which the NPC is due to begin revising this year.

“It doesn't touch the more complicated issues of how to regulate use of animals for medicine, fashion and entertainment,” said Li Shuo, policy adviser at Greenpeace China.

Traditional Chinese Medicine widely uses exotic animal parts—such as pangolin scales and deer antlers—that are considered to have unique benefits.

And many people believe that wild meat provides advantages for health and vitality that are absent in farmed animals.

Even the definition of “wild” is complicated. Local authorities often provide special licenses for farmers to breed animals for sale that are normally only found in the wild. That allows unscrupulous traders to pass off wild-caught game as farm-bred in markets.

Nine conservation institutions and organizations jointly submitted suggested amendments to the Wildlife Protection Law to the NPC, including a fundamental change to the language of the legislation.

“For a long time, wild animals have been seen as a resource to use, so different protection categories are made depending on their economic value,” the groups wrote. “This way of thinking no longer suits today's ecology protection principles.”

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/03/22/virus-jolts-china-to-curb-animal-trade-before-hosting-un-summit/>



CHINA DAILY

Twin pandas Fu Wa, a 17-year-old panda at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan province, gives birth to twin male pandas.

Transforming lives by making water accessible



By [The Manila Times](#)

March 22, 2020

WATER is one of the most basic of human necessities. It sustains all lifeforms on earth, and the United Nations even recognizes access to clean water and sanitation as a human right.



Sitio Sampaloc in Tanay, Rizal is the latest community to have access to clean water through the help of Mercury Drug Foundation Inc.'s (MDFI) Operation Pa-Tubig.

But in many places around the world, especially in some underserved areas here in the Philippines, access to water is still a problem that severely impacts the quality of life of many people.

Recognizing the important role of water in the health and well-being of underprivileged communities around the country, Mercury Drug Foundation Inc. (MDFI) has been undertaking Operation Pa-Tubig since 2001.

One of the most recent communities that benefited from the said program is Sitio Sampaloc, Brgy. Tandang Kutyo, Tanay, Rizal. For more than five decades, Sitio Sampaloc has not had access to clean and potable water for their various needs. Residents needed to walk more than 1.5 km to Daranak Falls to fetch water for their families. And this trek to and from their nearest water source is made much more difficult by the fact that the residents need to go down and climb a steep slope.

“By providing water to the residents of Sitio Sampaloc, we are helping uplift their living condition and address their need for health and sanitation, all while improving their quality of life,” Alice Lumanog, member of MDFI’s Board of Trustees, said.

Since Operation Pa-Tubig’s inception in 2001, MDFI has been able to help 25 communities and more than 23,000 people around the Philippines without direct access to water.

For more information, visit <https://www.mercurydrugfoundation.org/operation-pa-tubig.html>.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/22/public-square/transforming-lives-by-making-water-accessible/704771/?fbclid=IwARzVklqZaZwVuAcI_rIw4oDSepwswxDal-3mPoiZauuaPjbVku4ILILPMhY

Transforming lives by making water accessible



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By **TDT**



Sitio Sampaloc in Tanay, Rizal is the latest community to have access to clean water through the help of Mercury Drug Foundation Inc.'s Operation Pa-Tubig. The community has had no access to water for over 50 years, and they had to walk 1.5 Km to fetch water from Daranak Falls.

Water is one of the most basic of human necessities. It sustains all life forms on earth and the United Nations even recognizes access to clean water and sanitation as a human right.

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Residents needed to walk more than 1.5 Km to Daranak Falls to fetch water for their families. And this trek to and from their nearest water source is made much more difficult by the fact that the residents need to go down and climb a steep slope.

“When we’re fetching water if there’s a carabao we can ride on, we do that. But when that’s unavailable, we need to carry the containers of water and that can really make your shoulders hurt,” said local Purok Leader Rogelio Ribano.

Now, through MDFI’s Operation Pa-Tubig, what was once a chore that took several hours to complete is now a relatively effortless process, with 15 taps made available to meet all the needs of the residents of Sitio Sampaloc.

“By providing water to the residents of Sitio Sampaloc, we are helping uplift their living condition and address their need for health and sanitation, all while improving their quality of life,” said Alice Lumanog, member of MDFI’s Board of Trustees.

Lumanog also added that the project also directly benefits the children of Sitio Sampaloc who are most often tasked with fetching water. Through the project, kids who used to fetch water need not strain their backs, miss school, and walk through treacherous terrain just for clean water.

“We’re so thankful because our community was chosen. For such a long time we didn’t have water, now we don’t need to walk far for water,” said Ribano.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/03/22/transforming-lives-by-making-water-accessible/>

The coronavirus pandemic; a 'Trillion Trees' program

Published March 22, 2020, 12:15 AM

By **FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE C. DE VENECIA JR.**



Jose C. De Venecia Jr.

"These are the times that try men's souls," wrote American philosopher and political theorist Thomas Paine in 1776. Meant for different circumstances, his words fittingly describe the current situation of our country and the world, in the midst of the raging coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Indeed, we are living in uncertain times. This global plague has altered the course of our lives. We continue to storm heaven with prayers that this scourge will be contained soonest, if not completely eradicated, to prevent further loss of precious human lives, on top of the massive loss of employment and colossal damage to the economy.

When this coronavirus scourge is surmounted, the next gigantic challenge for country and the international community is how to rebuild lives and communities. In the meantime, let us contribute our share in fighting this pandemic and in helping our fellowmen, especially our fellow Filipinos, in whatever way we can.

Although, rightfully, our attention and efforts are focused on stamping out this coronavirus pandemic, let us not negate other threats of nature that have been besetting our country and the world for many years now and for which we have been warned about.

One of these is environmental degradation which, sadly, most of us have been taking for granted, if not completely ignored. While this columnist is not an environmental expert, we believe this clear and present danger will explode in the near future.

This global threat is becoming more and more serious that the World Economic Forum last January, 2020, launched a program to "grow, restore, and conserve one trillion trees around the world and in a bid to restore biodiversity and help fight climate change."

As we mentioned in our column much earlier, we were elated by this initiative by the World Economic Forum as we have been advocating a "Trillion Trees Program" in the international community since our earlier years as speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives and as founding chairman of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) as well as in the various international organizations which we are privileged to serve.



We believe reforestation and tree farming, on the scale and intensity the planet needs, can and must become a significant jobs-creating economic stimulus for developing countries, if not all countries, that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the China-led AIIB, the regional banks, parliaments, political parties, and civil society should champion.

Massive tree planting can become a virtuous circle—of planting, cultivating, harvesting, processing timber and replanting, a forever cycle—that can generate tens of millions of jobs worldwide for poor young men and young women in the emerging countries, apart from addressing food shortage and expanding upland agriculture, and especially, perhaps more importantly, contributing in a most significant and in a most major way in the battle against climate change and environmental degradation.

For just as valuable, these new forests control mountain erosion, prevent the silting of streams and rivers, save human life from destructive floods that overflow the rivers, destroying crops, fish farms, livestock, cities, townships, villages, and hard-won economic gains.

We have proposed that programs be organized through what we may call “Billions of Trees Foundations” managed by civil-society groupings, and supported by governments, parliaments, and the political parties, or perhaps, even better, undertaken by governments themselves, and actively supported, even managed, by the private sector.

In 1933, during the Great Depression, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt formed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), composed of 6 million young jobless Americans, mostly from the East, which, in less than 10 years, built more than 800 parks and planted 3 billion trees nationwide.

Roosevelt put the then young Douglas MacArthur, before he became the legendary World War II hero, in charge of the CCC—Civilian Conservation Corps—or Roosevelt’s Tree Army.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/03/22/the-coronavirus-pandemic-a-trillion-trees-program/>

Nearly extinct rhino population finally increased

Anna Gabrielle Cerezo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 21 2020 01:55 PM



IUCN handout photo

Good news! After nearing extinction, the numbers of the African black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) are finally increasing.

Due to persistent conservation efforts, the number of these critically endangered species grew across Africa from 4,845 in 2012 to 5,630 in 2018 — and is expected to further increase in the next five years.

“These developments for African rhinos show the changes that can be achieved through committed conservation action,” Dr. Jane Smart, global director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Biodiversity Conservation Group, said in a statement.

While a 2.5-percent annual increase may not seem large, Dr. Andrew Terry, director of conservation and policy at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), lauded it as “a great achievement, given the scale of the challenge.”

Figures show that saving a species from extinction is no easy feat.

According to Save the Rhino Foundation, in the last decade alone, over 8,000 rhinos have been poached. In 2015, the deaths peaked with a minimum of 1,349 rhinos killed — or an average of 3.7 rhinos daily.

In 2018, however, the fatalities declined to about 892 rhinos. While the number of rhinos continues to fall, Save the Rhino Foundation still estimates one rhino dying at the hands of a poacher every 10 hours.

“A key lesson of the gradually improving status of African rhinos is that conservation works. We know what needs to be done, and must expand conservation action worldwide to continue to reverse the decline to these and other threatened species,” Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez, chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, said.

According to IUCN, conservation efforts include successful population management measures, such as arduously moving selected rhinos from established populations to new locations to keep populations productive and increase the species’ range.

“The recent Red List assessment of the status of rhinos reveals the degree to which we have had to isolate them in order to conserve them. Movement is restricted to increasingly smaller enclaves, often under near militarized conditions. We intensively manage all aspects of their biology,” said Dr. Thomas E. Lacher, Jr., a professor of Ecology and Conservation Biology at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Richard Emslie, Red List authority coordinator for the IUCN Species Survival Commission’s African Rhino Specialist Group, also attributed the downward trend to the strict law enforcement implemented by some states.

“With the involvement of transnational organized crime in poaching, rhino crimes are not just wildlife crimes. A number of range states are to be commended for their efforts, elevating rhino crimes to a higher level and taking a more ‘whole of government’ approach to combat the organised crime behind the poaching,” Emslie said.

Emslie, however, noted that “continued expenditure and efforts will be necessary” to maintain the progress.

“Even though black rhinos remain at high risk, it’s encouraging to see that their population has started to regrow,” Dr. M. Sanjayan, CEO of Conservation International, said in a statement.

The black rhino has three subspecies. After a significant increase in its population, the southwestern black rhino is now categorized as “near threatened” from “vulnerable.” Meanwhile, the other two surviving subspecies, the southeastern and eastern, both remain “critically endangered”

While all three subspecies are slowly increasing, recovery, however, remains dependent on the continued conservation efforts.

Sanjayan continued: “Now, we must double down on the critical conservation work that governments and local communities have undertaken in recent years. Together, we can stop the tragedy of wildlife poaching and bring black rhinos back from the brink of extinction.”

The hopeful news came exactly two years after the world bid farewell to Sudan, the planet’s very last male northern white rhino.

Sudan is survived by two females, Najin and Fatu — the last of their species in the planet. Both live under constant surveillance in Kenya and are guarded by rangers 24 hours a day.

The northern white rhino subspecies rapidly dwindled from over 2,000 in 1960 to only 15 by 1984. The population was largely wiped out by poachers participating in the illegal horn trade.

The population of the other white rhino subspecies, the southern white rhino, on the other hand, decreased by 15 percent. According to IUCN, the population dipped from an estimated 21,300 in 2012 to 18,000 in 2017.

“It is evident that there is no room for complacency as poaching and illegal trade remain acute threats,” Grethel Aguilar, acting director general of IUCN, said in a statement.

“It is essential that the ongoing anti-poaching measures and intensive, proactive population management continue, with support from national and international actors,” she added.

Unfortunately, the demand for the rhino horns remains insatiable in the black market, where they are heftily priced. Poaching remains to be the greatest threat of rhinoceroses.

According to IUCN, around half of white rhinos and close to 40% of black rhinos live in a privately or community managed land. Very few of the species are found outside national parks and reserves.

IUCN warned that the costs of keeping rhinos safe have risen greatly and live sale prices have significantly decreased over the last decade, reducing incentives for private landowners and communities to keep rhinos.

Experts are also concerned that the ceased global tourism amid the coronavirus crisis could impact the needed resources for the conservation operations of private, commercial and state national parks, and other wildlife reserves.

Sean T. O’Brien, president and CEO of Nature Serve, however, reminded that “protecting the planet’s precious biodiversity has never been more important. Every day, the obstacles to saving native species from extinction and preserving ecosystems are growing.”

“We must seek out opportunities to bring together data, science, and technology to help solve one of the scariest environmental challenges of our time, the mass extinction of untold numbers of species,” O’Brien said.



IUCN handout photo

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/03/21/20/nearly-extinct-rhino-population-finally-increased?fbclid=IwAR1ZgclcTblk_ir7RD-ZukhzK-nJRYsgXTsxkmwOR4qXqF-XP6sQIGZ-8lo



ABS-CBN News

20 hrs ·

TINGNAN: Halos 200 na e-trike ang maaaring sakyan ng mga health worker ng libre sa Maynila. Makakatanggap naman ng minimum wage kada araw ang bawat driver. | via Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News #COVID19 #LuzonLockdown



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10158116778110168/>



ABS-CBN News

11 hrs ·

TINGNAN: Ang tinaguriang "Boracay of the North" na dinarayo ng mga turista ay nagmistulang "ghost town" dahil sa ipinapatupad na #LuzonLockdown.

Ang mga trabahador sa mga hotel at resort sa Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte ay pinauwi na at tanging mga guwardiya na lamang ang nananatili rito. #COVID19 (📷: Vice Mayor Maja Sales) | via Dianne Dy, ABS-CBN News



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10158116778110168/>