

10 September 2023 Sunday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## ASEAN-BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL AND ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY SIGN PACT TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY

# Integrating business, biodiversity in Asean

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

**T**HE Asean-Business Advisory Council (Asean-BAC) and the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) have forged a partnership to boost business and biodiversity integration initiatives in the region.

They signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in Jakarta on September 2 at the Asean Climate Forum 2023, during the Asean-BAC Business and Investment Summit Week.

Asean-BAC Chairman and Executive Director M. Arsjad Rasjid P. Mangkuningrat and ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim signed the agreement.

According to ACB, the pioneering partnership aims to further boost biodiversity and sustainability mainstreaming in business operations across Southeast Asia, particularly in the carbon trading market and adoption of nature-based solutions to climate change.

The collaboration also aims to provide a platform for the Asean business sectors or groups to actively promote and exchange knowledge and practices on their emerging sustainability efforts in order to create a strong network of nature-positive business alliances among the Asean member states.

### Sustainable development: A priority agenda

AS Asean-BAC chairman for 2023, Indonesia decided to promote sustainable development as a priority agenda of the regional group.

"This is not because of Indonesia's interests; this is a global concern that has become of regional

importance," M. Arsjad Rasjid P.M said in his opening speech.

He said Asean countries have tremendous potential to mitigate climate change and achieve net zero.

He added that it is inspiring to see progress on how Asean countries may inclusively collaborate and collectively push the climate action agenda for the greater benefit of society.

### Climate strategies

"RECOGNISING the challenges of climate change and sustainability on communities and societies in the region, under the chairmanship of Indonesia, the Asean-BAC has committed to launching significant legacy programs which are the Asean Net Zero Hub and the Asean Carbon Center of Excellence," he said.

M. Arsjad Rasjid explained that the projects were developed based on two observations.

First, Asean countries are committed to net zero that requires a strong understanding of the regional pathway, and synchronizing the efforts together is key.

Second, companies in Asean are increasingly looking to develop climate strategies and solutions to improve their performance across their value chains and share long-term access to finance.

### Step forward

FOR her part, Lim expressed excitement to have the opportunity to engage with the Asean business community through the Asean Business Advisory Council.

She added that it would help to ensure that the road to net zero in

encourage more investments in biodiversity mainstreaming and nature-based solutions through targeted communication, education, and public awareness-raising campaigns, sharing best practices and demonstrating the benefits of incorporating biodiversity in business plans and processes, using natural capital accounting, risk analysis, impact assessment, ecosystem valuation, and other science-based methodologies.



ASEAN-BAC and ACB forged their partnership for a greener, sustainable Asean. (From left): Oliver Agencillo, Biodiversity Mainstreaming director, Programmes Department, ACB; ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim; Asean-BAC Chairman and Executive Director M. Arsjad Rasjid P. Mangkuningrat; and Dharsono Hartono, Legacy Lead, Asean Net Zero Hub and Carbon Center of Excellence of Asean-BAC. ACB PHOTO

the Asean incorporates the contribution of nature-based solutions, including biodiversity conservation and benefits for climate change mitigation and resilience.

Lim pointed out: "The ACB as the centre of excellence for regional cooperation in addressing biodiversity loss, is very much committed to mainstreaming biodiversity in the development agenda. This partnership is a step forward in promoting biodiversity conservation as a viable investment."

### Asean Business and Biodiversity Initiative

THE ACB and Asean-BAC collaboration is expected to lead to the establishment of an Asean Business and Biodiversity Initiative (ABBI) as the regional platform for the joint implementation of activities through the Asean-BAC Working Group on Sustainable Development.

ACB explained that the ABBI is designed to actively contribute to the transitioning to a greener and sustainable future for Asean through the mainstreaming of biodiversity and nature-based solutions in the strategic priorities of the business sector in the region.

The Asean-BAC will be taking the lead to ensure continuity and maximize the reach of business networks and implementing nature-positive systems and processes in the business strategies of its members.

At the same time, the ACB will facilitate in proposing collaborative actions and activities, or joint programs among relevant stakeholders in the region on cutting-edge technologies and policy frameworks relevant to mainstreaming biodiversity in business and finance.

The partnership will ensure regional representation of each Asean member state (AMS).

### ABBI objectives

INTERVIEWED BY BUSINESSMIRROR via Messenger on August 21, Lim outlined the objectives of the ABBI.

"[ABBI's objective] is to facilitate cooperation to enhance the role of the business sector in advancing Asean's climate goals and green and blue economy through nature-based solutions and mainstreaming biodiversity," Lim said.

Lim, who advocates the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the region, said the Asean-BAC-ACB initiative also aims to contribute toward building sustainable supply and value chains by supporting capacity-development programs for micro-, small-, medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region. Thus, this will encourage the adoption of biodiversity-friendly and climate-smart practices and operations.

She added that it also aims to

### Nature-based solutions, sustainability tool kit

ACB said the initial possible joint programs or activities being explored include the following: the conduct of studies on nature-based solutions; creation of sustainability tool kit for MSMEs to help them move toward net zero carbon targets; stocktaking of lessons and good practices on business and biodiversity engagements; biodiversity mapping of Asean Heritage Parks.

The activities also include support to AMS in producing communication, education and public awareness materials and knowledge products on improving the policy environment and programs that support business and biodiversity efforts, among others.

The ACB serves as the chairman in the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity from 2022 to 2024. Mainstreaming biodiversity is one of the priority programs of the ACB in key sectors, such as business and investments, in recognition of their significant role in biodiversity conservation and in ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources in the region.



## GEO THERMICA, PH EAGLE, DIES IN SINGAPORE

THE Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) on Saturday mourned the death of Philippine Eagle "Geothermica," whom they credited for bringing international attention to the species' plight.

In a Facebook post, the organization said Geothermica, a 19-year-old male eagle, died on Thursday, Sept. 7, in a Singapore zoo.

"Sambisig," a female Philippine eagle, and Geothermica were on a breeding loan program under a Wildlife Loan Agreement between the Philippines and Mandai Wildlife Group in Singapore, the foundation said.

"They are the first eagle couple placed under an international cooperation in 2019 to save this Philippine national bird from extinction," the PEF said.

The Philippine Eagle is listed as critically endangered — "considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild" — by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

There are an estimated 392 pairs of Philippine Eagles left, PEF said on its website. The species is threatened by deforestation, which forces them away from their hunting grounds and closer to the risk of being shot by people.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



SEP 10 2011

TITLE:

PAGE:

DATE



BEGONIA AKAW



BEGONIA MASILIG

## 2 new Begonia species discovered in Sierra Madre Mountain Range

By RAAB BUSTAMANTE

Two new Begonia species have been discovered in the province of Aurora.

These are the Begonia masilig, found growing on the cliffs beside a

river with fast-flowing water, hence the name "masilig"—the Tagalog-Baler word for rapids; and Begonia akaw, "akaw" being the Tagalog-Baler word used to convey surprise, an allusion to its surprising discovery. ►10

## 2 new Begonia species discovered in Sierra Madre Mountain Range 1◀

These two species have been documented on multiple occasions and were assumed to be described species until further examination by PTI researchers, which led to the conclusion that these species are new to science.

Both Begonia species are endemic to Aurora Memorial National Park in Luzon, located at the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. The discovery was made by researchers from the Philippine Taxonomic Initiative, and published in Phytotaxa,

a botany-focused scientific journal.

The discovery of Begonia masilig and Begonia akaw is significant because it highlights the rich biodiversity of the Philippines.

The researchers noted that the discovery emphasizes the importance of protected areas in the Philippines as a refuge of the country's remaining wildlife, thus safeguarding species and habitats.

Each species is a product of millions of years of evolution and

contributes to a complex chain of relationships within its habitat and a loss of one species can disrupt the whole habitat.

The Sierra Madre Mountain Range acts as a formidable shield against tropical cyclones from the Pacific Ocean toward eastern Luzon.

Storms passing this range are slowed down, extending the period of rainfall dispersion. The reduced pace of passing storms affords meteorologists and disaster risk reduction

organizations the opportunity to detect and alert regions requiring evacuation.

Additionally, this storm-moderating influence, as well as the abundant water reserves that comes from the lush forests of the range, contributes significantly to the economic prosperity of the covered provinces, particularly in terms of agricultural development and stable water supply, giving the country a practical reason and an ethical

responsibility in protecting these species along with their habitats.

This discovery adds to the more than 160 species currently known in the country, making Begonia the 4th largest plant genus in the Philippines and accounting for seven percent of the world's total Begonia species.

A thorough review and comparison of all known Philippine Begonia species was carried out as part of this research, and the findings were submitted to the peer-reviewed journal.



## BATAAN EXPANDS TIES WITH LA UNION FOR PAWIKAN PRESERVATION

ANOTHER successful venture to preserve the majestic sea turtle species in Bataan concluded on August 25, 2023, as the Provincial Government of Bataan partnered with the Provincial Government of La Union through the sponsorship of GNPowder Dinginin Ltd. Co. (GNPD) to capture La Union PG-ENRO's best practices in preserving their pawikans, including their ordinances and notable statistics about the species.

The group, consisting of representatives from Bataan's Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO), Provincial Tourism Office, Provincial Veterinary Office, Bataan Peninsula State University, Sitio Fuerte Sagip Pawikan Association, and GNPD's Community Relations Department, were welcomed by La Union Gov. Ruffy Ortega-David.

Gov. Ortega shared how the province is keen on putting the environment before tourism. "*Naniniwala kami na walang*



The partnership between Bataan and La Union LGUs emphasizes the relevance of enriching all kinds of lifeform.

tourism *kung hindi maayos ang ating environment dito sa La Union.*"

Arcel Madrid, GNPD AVP for Community Relations, said, "We value our commitment to our environment and allotted 60 percent of the department's budget to environment-related projects to foster our corporate social responsibility."

To further introduce the Bataenos to their pawikan conservation efforts, the team proceeded to meet and discuss with Carlos Tamayo, President of Coastal Underwater Resource Management Actions (CURMA) for methods in rehabilitating injured pawikans and inspiring volunteerism in the province. CURMA, one of La Union's flagship associations in preserving marine life, is currently restoring a malnourished sea turtle in its facility. La Union is passionate about saving pawikans and aims to enrich all kinds of life, as introduced by Toby Tamayo of Beekeeper's La Union Farm. Amidst the tall bamboo trees and vivid

forests of the farm were innovative practices on how bamboo species that may not survive in Philippine weather can thrive in the right hands.

After a very productive visit at CURMA, the team was awed by the sprawling corals of Immuki Island and the mangroves of Bauang Bakawan Eco-tourism Park, which furthers the province's environmental ties with GNPD. The group had a chance to witness the corals and mangroves in the area, which are also part of GNPD's prospects back home in Bataan.

The benchmarking program concluded with the message of Bauang Mayor Eulogio Clarence Martin P. de Guzman III, who shared his enthusiasm for the partnership between the LGUs.





TITLE:

PAGE

## 'Impact assessment crucial in sustainable development'

IMPACT assessment has a critical role in the field of science and technology (S&T) as a key element in the innovation ecosystem.

This was recognized by local and international research and development communities during the first Science and Technology Impact Assessment Conference in Pasay City.

Participants agreed that it allows S&T interventions to be more effective in stimulating national socioeconomic growth and development.

Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebor, executive director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD), said in his message that as one of the pioneers of impact assessment in the government, DOST-PCAARRD attributes it in creating lasting changes in agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources (AANR) sectors.

According to Ebor, impact assessment allows institutions to make the most out of

limited resources through smarter decision making.

He shared that information from impact assessments help in prioritizing public funds for programs and projects that generate optimum benefits for Filipinos.

For his part, Science Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., in his keynote speech, highlighted the role of impact assessment in ensuring that government investments in R&D initiatives contribute to progress and innovation.

With increasingly scarce resources, Solidum expressed the significance of impact assessments in ensuring the returns on investment on R&D to the government.

"It is our duty to ensure that results from scientific and technological efforts are geared and utilized in areas of maximum economic and social benefits for the people," Solidum pointed out.

### Going beyond institutional R&D

DR. Ernesto O. Brown, DOST-PCAARRD's Socio

Economic Research Division (SERD) director, discussed the Council's impact assessment initiative.

Brown said, "PCAARRD's impact assessment efforts for R&D and technology transfer in AANR were established to determine and quantify the socioeconomic contribution of the funded programs and projects to the growth and development of the sector."

Impact assessment has been an integral part of DOST-PCAARRD's banner programs.

Upon recognizing the need for an intensive monitoring and evaluation system, SERD reinvented the Council's approach to conducting impact assessment to cater to different perspectives of development.

Since the 1980s, it has been the Council's practice to enact impact assessment studies in forecasting and evaluating major S&T initiatives of DOST-PCAARRD on R&D, technology transfer, capacity building, and policy making.

The outcomes of such initiatives then



**DR. Ernesto O. Brown, director of DOST-PCAARRD's SERD, talks about the Council's history and various initiatives on impact assessment for the agriculture, aquatic and natural resources sector.** DOST-PCAARRD

played a crucial role in accounting for S&T investments, program conceptualization and development, resource allocation, and direction setting.

With the goal of socioeconomic development, DOST-PCAARRD's initiative has brought a deeper understanding of the role of R&D in nation-building. As such, the Council ensures that generated knowledge



**DOST-PCAARRD Executive Director Reynaldo V. Ebor points out in his message at the first Science and Technology Impact Assessment Conference the importance of doing impact assessment in research and development in order to optimize the benefits of R&D to stakeholders.** DOST-PCAARRD

is shared with the public.

Currently, the Council has released multiple publications on the impact assessment of various DOST-PCAARRD-funded projects through the Impact "Assessment Bulletin." All of which are available at the DOST-PCAARRD eLibrary.



**Science Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr. recognizes the role of impact assessment in governance and accountability.** DOST-PCAARRD

Moving forward, DOST-PCAARRD aims to widen the reach of its impact assessment initiatives.

The Council is also open to providing assistance to other institutions in setting their own impact assessment activities. It is within the Council's vision to institutionalize the initiative in order to help create long-lasting change for the country.

**Karl Vincent S. Mendez/S&T Media Service**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## House bill seeks to identify maritime features in WPS

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez is pushing for a law that would identify all the maritime features of the West Philippine Sea that the country is claiming to be within its sovereignty and jurisdiction.

In filing House Bill 8934, Rodriguez underscored the importance of identifying the features "specifically by law and by baselines of their territorial seas (TS) and contiguous zone (CZ) pursuant to the rules of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea."

The CZ covers that part of the sea extending for 12 nautical miles from the limits of the TS, or 24 nautical miles from the baseline. Within this zone, a state may ex-

ercise protective jurisdiction like customs enforcement as well as fiscal, immigration and sanitary rules.

"Without clearly established baselines, we cannot ensure full enjoyment of sovereign rights in the waters within our maritime domains. The rule is that the CZ is automatically made part of the EEZ when the latter zone is claimed and established by a coastal state," the measure reads.

Rodriguez noted in HB 8934 that seven years have "come and gone since the landmark Arbitral Award" and "yet the country remained unable to translate (these) gains into an unimpregnable national reality."

He added that the proposed law seeks to "implement in con-

crete ways the Philippine triumph over China in the South China Sea arbitral proceedings."

"Since there are features in the Kalayaan Island Group claimed by the Philippines that are outside the Philippine EEZ, it is essential that the TS and CZ of these features lying outside the Philippine EEZ are immediately and already drawn using the appropriate base-points," the bill also read in part.

HB 8934 listed 54 Philippine maritime features, along with their respective coordinates, and stressed that the "Philippines must press its sovereign claims over them by identifying them as Philippine-claimed or occupied features and drawing the appropriate baselines for the territorial seas around them."



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Trusted Since 1938

The Manila Times

BS  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

SEP 10 2023

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Mystery 'golden egg' found on ocean floor

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** A golden egg, or an alien, on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean?

American scientists have discovered a mysterious dome-shaped specimen deep on the Alaskan seafloor, but nobody knows for sure what it is.

Ocean researchers using a remotely operated survey vehicle were amazed last week when they spotted the strange item on a rock about 3,300 meters (two miles) deep in the Gulf of Alaska.

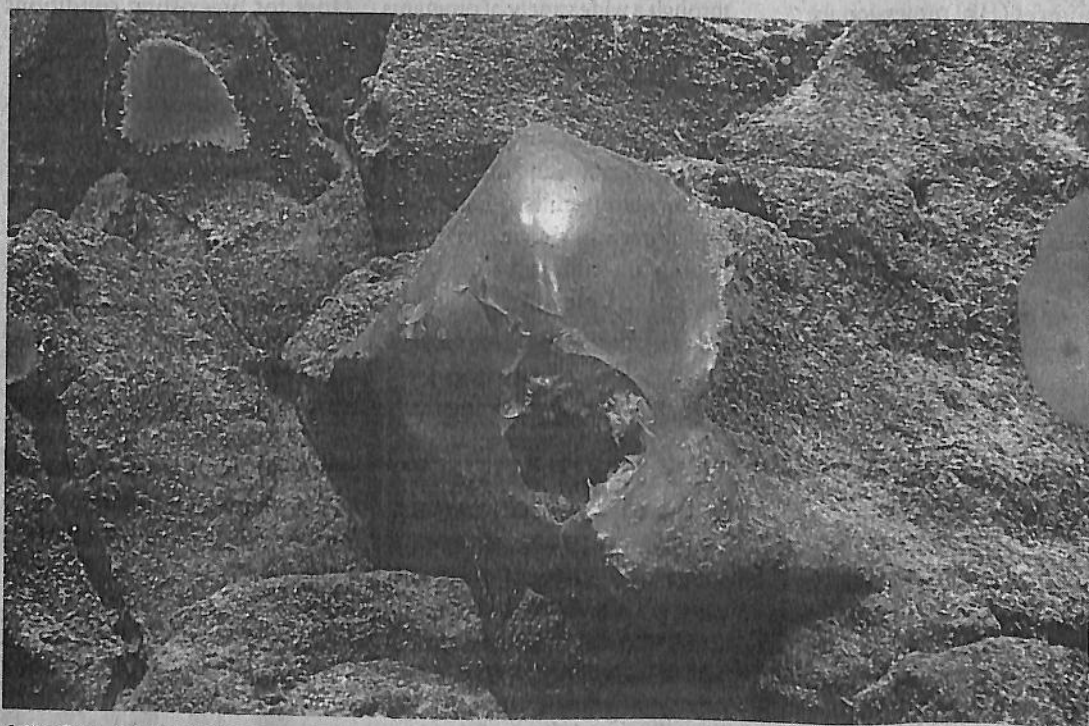
It is over 10 centimeters (4 inches) in diameter and had a small tear near its base.

"As cameras zoomed in, scientists were stumped as to its identification, with initial thoughts ranging from a dead sponge attachment, to coral, to an egg casing," the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said in a statement.

"Invoking almost fairytale-like imagery, the specimen has since been dubbed a 'golden orb' and even a 'golden egg,'" the agency added.

"Isn't the deep sea so delightfully strange?" wondered Sam Candio, a NOAA Ocean Exploration coordinator.

As theories swirled on social



**'GOLDEN' FIND?** An unidentified specimen on a rocky outcropping is seen at a depth of about 3,300 meters (2 miles) in the Gulf of Alaska on Aug. 30, 2023. NOAA OCEAN EXPLORATION, SEASCAPE ALASKA, HANDOUT PHOTO VIA AFP

media, including that of it being an alien egg, scientists extracted their August 30 discovery from the ocean floor to analyze it in a laboratory setting.

"While we were able to collect the 'golden orb' and bring it onto the ship, we still are not able to identify it beyond the fact

that it is biological in origin," the NOAA said.

It remains unclear if the golden dome is associated with a known species, a new species or represents an unknown life stage of an existing one, Candio said.

"While somewhat humbling to be stumped by this finding,

it serves as a reminder of how little we know about our own planet and how much is left to learn and appreciate about our ocean," he added.

The dive was part of an expedition in the Gulf of Alaska to explore deepwater habitats.

AFP





## Invasive species' damage to economies, food supply, health cost \$423B yearly

**M**ORE than 3,500 harmful invasive alien species are seriously threatening nature's contributions to people, becoming a significant challenge in all regions and in every country, that mainly caused the extinction of 60 percent of plants and animals globally.

According to a new report by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) that was released a few days ago, the global economic cost of invasive alien species exceeded \$423 billion annually in 2019, with costs having at least quadrupled every decade since 1970.

The IPBES report, "Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control," finds that alongside dramatic changes to biodiversity and ecosystems, invasive alien species are one of the five most important direct drivers of biodiversity loss—alongside changes in land- and sea-use, direct exploitation of species, climate change and pollution.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by the BUSINESSMIRROR, was produced by 86 experts from 49 countries, working for more than four and a half years. It was based on more than 13,000 references, including contributions from Indigenous peoples and local communities.

"Invasive alien species are a major threat to biodiversity and can cause irreversible damage to nature, including local and global species extinctions, and also threaten human wellbeing," said Professor Helen Roy (United Kingdom), co-chair of the assessment with Prof. Anibal Pauchard (Chile)

and Prof. Peter Stoett (Canada).

The authors of the report emphasized that not all alien species become invasive. Invasive alien species are the subset of alien species that become established and spread, which cause negative impacts on nature and often also on people.

The 3,500 invasive alien species are among the more than 37,000 alien species that have been introduced by many human activities to regions and biomes around the world.

"About 6 percent of alien plants; 22 percent of alien invertebrates; 14 percent of alien vertebrates; and 11 percent of alien microbes are known to be invasive, posing major risks to nature and to people," the report said.

Indigenous peoples and local communities, or the people with the greatest direct dependence on nature, are found to be at even greater risk.

More than 2,300 invasive alien species are found on lands under the stewardship of Indigenous peoples, threatening their quality of life and even cultural identities, IPBES said.

### Negatives surpass positive impacts

While many alien species were "historically introduced... for their perceived benefits to people," the report finds that the negative impacts of those that do become invasive are enormous for nature and people.

"Invasive alien species have been a major factor in 60 percent and the only driver in 16 percent of global animal and plant extinctions that we have recorded," Pauchard said.

At least 218 invasive alien species have been responsible for more than 1,200 local extinctions. In fact, 85 percent of the impacts of biological invasions on native species are negative, he added.

IPBES added that nearly 80 percent of the documented impacts of invasive alien species on nature's contributions to people—especially through damage to food supplies.

Similarly, 85 percent of impacts on people's health, including diseases, such as malaria, Zika and West Nile fever, were spread by invasive alien mosquito species like *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegyptii*.

Livelihoods were damaged, such as in Lake Victoria, where fisheries, due to the depletion of tilapia as a result of the spread of water hyacinth (*Pontederia crassipes*), which is the world's most widespread terrestrial invasive alien species.

The report shows that 34 percent of the impacts of biological invasions were reported from the Americas, 31 percent from Europe and Central Asia, 25 percent from Asia and the Pacific, and about 7 percent from Africa.

Most negative impacts were reported on land (about 75 percent)—especially in forests, woodlands and cultivated areas—with considerably fewer reported in freshwater (14 percent) and marine (10 percent) habitats.

Meanwhile, invasive alien species are most damaging on islands, with numbers of alien plants now exceeding the number of native plants on more than 25 percent of all islands.

### Business-as-usual is unlikely

"37 percent of the 37,000 alien species known today have been reported since 1970—largely caused by rising levels of global trade and human travel. Under 'business-as-usual' conditions, we project that total numbers of alien species will continue to increase in this way."

"But business-as-usual is actually unlikely," Roy continued.

She explained that with many major drivers of change predicted to worsen, it is expected that the increase of invasive alien species and their negative impacts, are likely to be significantly greater.

She noted the accelerating global economy, intensified and expanded land- and sea-use change, as well as demographic changes are likely to lead to increases in invasive alien species worldwide.

### Climate change

ROY explained: "Even without the introduction of new alien species, already established alien species will continue to expand their ranges and spread to new countries and regions. Climate change will make the situation even worse."

The report underscored that interactions between invasive alien species and other drivers of change will be likely to amplify their impacts.

It pointed out that invasive alien plants can interact with climate change, often resulting in more intense and frequent fires, such as some of the devastating wildfires experienced recently around the world, releasing even more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The IPBES experts point to the generally insufficient measures

in place to tackle the challenges.

While 80 percent of countries have targets related to managing invasive alien species in their national biodiversity plans, only 17 percent have national laws or regulations specifically addressing these issues, and 45 percent of all countries do not invest in the management of biological invasions.

### Prevention

ON a positive note, the report highlighted that in future biological invasions, invasive alien species and their impacts can be prevented through effective management and more integrated approaches.

"The good news is that, for almost every context and situation, there are management tools, governance options and targeted actions that really work," Pauchard said.

"Prevention is absolutely the best, most cost-effective option—but eradication, containment and control are also effective in specific contexts," he said.

Prevention measures—such as border biosecurity and strictly enforced import controls—were identified as having worked in many instances.

Also mentioned was that preparedness, early detection and rapid response were shown to be effective at reducing rates of alien species establishment, and to be especially critical for marine and connected water systems.

Eradication has been successful and cost-effective for some invasive alien species, especially when their populations are small and slow-spreading, in isolated ecosystems such as islands.

When eradication is not possible for different reasons, invasive alien species can often be contained and controlled—especially in land-based and closed water systems, as well as in aquaculture.

Successful containment can be physical, chemical or biological—although the appropriateness and effectiveness of each option is dependent on local context.

"One of the most important messages from the report is that ambitious progress in tackling invasive alien species is achievable," Stoett said.

"What is needed is a context-specific integrated approach, across and within countries and the various sectors involved in providing biosecurity, including trade and transportation; human and plant health; economic development and more. This will have far-reaching benefits for nature and people," she added.

The options explored in the report, include considering coherent policies and codes of conduct across sectors and scales; commitment and resourcing; public awareness and engagement, such as citizen science campaigns like those promoting "check, clean and dry"; open and interoperable information systems; filling knowledge gaps; as well as inclusive and fair governance.

IPBES Executive Secretary Dr. Anne Larigauderie pointed out that world governments agreed in December last year, as part of the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to reduce the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species by at least 50 percent by 2030. *Lyn Resurreccion*



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# Manila archdiocese divests from 'coal, other destructive businesses'

**T**HE Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila announced it has divested from fossil fuels, the largest contributor to climate change, and what it called "other destructive businesses."

In his message for the ongoing "Season of Creation," Cardinal Jose Advincula said the move was made "years ago" in response to the calls of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si'."

"This is to inform everyone that the Archdiocese of Manila has divested all our investments from coal and other destructive businesses since years ago," Advincula said.

The decision, according to him, was also "in consonance with our faith and the earlier social teachings of the Church."

"We commit to relentlessly support all initiatives that will protect, preserve, nurture, and respect God's creation," he said.

In 2019, the country's Catholic bishops agreed to divest from "dirty energy" sources, such as coal-fired power plants.

While only a few dioceses used

to have investments in coal, the bishops emphasized the need for collective action to address the climate crisis.

In its February 2022 pastoral letter, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) called for unity among churches to urgently respond to the problem.

The Season of Creation is a global and ecumenical celebration that runs from September 1 to October 4, coinciding with the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

In the Philippines, the dioceses extend the observance to the second Sunday of October, known as Indigenous Peoples' Sunday.

The cardinal added that the archdiocese is committed to responding to the goals of Laudato Si' "by mobilizing various institutions to become part of the Laudato Si' Action Platform to achieve integral ecology."



CARDINAL Jose Advincula, archbishop of Manila RCAM-ADC

## Albay bishop laments environmental challenges

MEANWHILE, a Catholic bishop has used his message for the annual "Season of Creation" to criticize environmental issues besetting the province of Albay.

Bishop Joel Baylon of Legazpi condemned, among others, irresponsible quarrying, deforestation, ever-expanding fish pens and potential mining-related pollution.

"Here in our province, we have strayed from the path of stewardship," Baylon said in a pastoral letter, "An Agrangay kan Kapalibotan asin an Agrangay kan mga Dukha," released on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The bishop called on the faithful to "stand together" and protest environmental abuses and "become genuine stewards of the earth."

"May our actions not be driven by short-term benefits only, but by concern for an environment where every person—now and in the future—can joyfully live and flourish," he said.

He also urged the government authorities not to let greed rule their actions, decisions and policies.

"Let not greed, power, or personal gain blind us. Instead, consider what legacy we leave behind for our descendants," Baylon said.

The pastoral letter discusses the interconnected issues of environmental degradation and the plight of the poor.

Albay province is grappling with environmental challenges like irresponsible quarrying, deforestation, ever-expanding fish pens, and potential mining-related pollution.

The "throwaway culture" is also criticized, and the community is called to embrace "ecological conversion" through sustainable practices.

Both the general public and those in authority are encouraged to be responsible stewards of creation. *CBCP News*



TITLE :

PAGE

SEP 10 2023  
DATE

## 'World falling dangerously short of climate goals'

**PARIS:** A world facing catastrophic climate change is perilously off course in meeting goals for slashing carbon pollution and boosting finance for the developing world, according to the UN's first official progress report out on Friday.

The 2015 Paris treaty has successfully driven climate action, but "much more is needed now on all fronts," said the report, which will underpin a crucial climate summit in Dubai at the end of the year.

"The world is not on track to meet the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement," including capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels, the report said.

Global greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025 and drop sharply thereafter to keep the 1.5 C target in view, the so-called stocktake said, drawing from a major scientific assessment by the UN's IPCC science advisory panel.

Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 — another Paris goal — will also require phasing out the burning of all fossil fuels whose emissions cannot be captured or compensated.

How quickly to purge the global economy of oil, gas and coal will be hotly contested in December at the two-week

COP28 talks in Dubai starting in late November, with nearly 200 nations taking part.

"We need to triple renewable energy by 2030, commercialize other zero carbon solutions like hydrogen, and scale up the energy system free of all unabated fossil fuels," said COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber, head of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company Adnoc.

The stocktake report also says that clean power must be dramatically ramped up, according to the first UN scorecard of the world's progress in meeting Paris Agreement climate goals.

"Scaling up renewable energy and phasing out all unabated fossil fuels are indispensable elements of just energy transitions to net zero emissions," it said.

"Unabated" refers to the absence of any technology that removes carbon emissions, either at the source or from the atmosphere.

Emissions have already peaked in developed and a few developing countries but are continuing to rise in many of the world's largest economies.

### G20's burden

With the exception of a dip in 2020

when the global economy slowed due to the Covid pandemic, CO2 emissions have hovered at about 40 billion tons a year since 2019.

"We know that the burden of response sits with 20 countries," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said, referring to the G20 nations — holding a summit this weekend in Delhi — that account for about 80 percent of global emissions.

"The [G20] communiques are woefully inadequate," he added.

China, the United States, the European Union and India alone contribute more than half of total emissions.

"The global stocktake report is a call for radical and immediate action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement," commented Tom Evans, a policy analyst at climate think tanks E3G.

The stocktake also highlights the need to rapidly and radically scale up financial support to developing nations so they can adapt to climate-amplified weather disasters that are already eating away at their economies.

Many African nations, already mired in debt, are struggling to transition away from fossil fuels even as their coffers are drained by worsening droughts, floods, heat waves and storms.

The report said the global transition to an emission-free world would require trillions of dollars and the "need to transform the financial system" to align with climate priorities.

But it warned that currently hundreds of billions of dollars are still pouring in to prop up polluting activities.

It said some \$892 billion was invested in fossil fuels annually from 2019 to 2020, with a further \$450 billion in fossil fuel subsidies.

Meanwhile, finance for climate action reached \$803 billion in the same period, which the report said was around a third of what is needed to curb warming in line with the Paris goals.

The report lands amid growing calls for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to dramatically redesign their activities to meet the challenges of a warming world.

The first-ever global stocktake "is the moment that all countries say to themselves, 'We will mark our own homework,'" said Evans.

"The decisions and policies we take now will dictate whether we halve emissions this decade," he added. "Any later than this year or next means the window for 1.5 C is basically closed."

AFP



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

9  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

SEP 10 2023

TITLE:

PA:

DATE

# World falling dangerously short of climate goals – UN

**P**ARIS, France (AFP) — A world facing catastrophic climate change is perilously off course in meeting goals for slashing carbon pollution and boosting finance for the developing world, according to the UN's first official progress report out Friday.

The 2015 Paris treaty has successfully driven climate action, but "much more is needed now on all fronts," said the report, which will underpin a crucial climate summit in Dubai at the end of the year.

"The world is not on track to meet the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement," including capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels, the report said.

Global greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025 and drop sharply thereafter to keep the 1.5C target in view, the so-called stocktake said, drawing from a major scientific assessment by the UN's IPCC science advisory panel.

Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 -- another Paris goal -- will also require phasing out the burning of all fossil fuels whose emissions cannot be captured or compensated.

How quickly to purge the global economy of oil, gas and coal will be hotly contested in December at the two-week COP28 talks in Dubai starting in late November, with nearly 200 nations taking part.

"We need to triple renewable energy by 2030, commercialize other zero carbon solutions like hydrogen, and scale up the energy system free of all unabated fossil fuels," said COP28 president Sultan al-Jaber, head of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company ADNOC.

The stocktake report also says that clean power must be dramatically ramped up, according to the first UN scorecard of the world's progress in meeting Paris Agreement climate goals.

"Scaling up renewable energy and phasing out all unabated fossil fuels are

indispensable elements of just energy transitions to net zero emissions," it said.

"Unabated" refers to the absence of any technology that removes carbon emissions, either at the source or from the atmosphere.

Emissions have already peaked in developed and a few developing countries, but are continuing to rise in many of the world's largest economies.

## G20's burden

With the exception of a dip in 2020 when the global economy slowed due to the Covid pandemic, CO2 emissions have hovered at about 40 billion tons a year since 2019.

"We know that the burden of response sits with 20 countries," UN climate chief Simon Stiell, referring to the G20 nations — holding a summit this weekend in Delhi — that account for about 80 percent of global emissions.

"The (G20) communiqués are woefully inadequate," he added.

China, the United States, the European Union and India alone contribute more than half of total emissions.

"The global stocktake report is a call for radical and immediate action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement," commented Tom Evans, a policy analyst at climate think tanks E3G.

The stocktake also highlights the need to rapidly and radically scale up financial support to developing nations so they can adapt to climate amplified weather disasters that are already eating away at their economies.

Many African nations, already mired in debt, are struggling to transition away from fossil fuels even as their coffers are drained by worsening droughts, floods, heatwaves and storms.

The report said the global transition to an emission-free world would require trillions of dollars and the "need to transform the financial system" to align with climate priorities.

But it warned that currently hun-

dreds of billions of dollars are still pouring into prop up polluting activities.

It said some \$892 billion was invested in fossil fuels annually in 2019 to 2020, with a further \$450 billion in fossil fuel subsidies.

Meanwhile, finance for climate action reached \$803 billion in the same period, which the report said was around a third of what is needed to curb warming in line with the Paris goals.

The report lands amid growing calls for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to dramatically redesign their activities to meet the challenges of a warming world.

The first-ever global stocktake "is the moment that all countries say to themselves, 'We will mark our own homework,'" said Evans.

"The decisions and policies we take now will dictate whether we halve emissions this decade," he added. "Any later than this year or next means the window for 1.5C is basically closed."