



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### ECO BUSINESS

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By: Ayesha Tandon

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## **GMA NEWS**

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By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is providing PHP45 million (USD780,000) to help fund agriculture-related livelihood and climate resilience programs in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

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## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

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By: Marita Moaje

The Philippines highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability, and collaboration in addressing climate challenges across social and national boundaries during a high-level meeting in Manila.

**SUNSTAR**

**[Climate adaptation for LGUs: One size does not fit all](#)**

By: Rachel Anne Herrera, Climate Change Commission Commissioner

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**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **LMP to tackle best practices in governance amid climate change, economic shifts**

By: Job Manahan

The League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) mounted its general assembly geared towards discussing best practices in governance, it said on Tuesday.

Based on its primer, 1,400 mayors were expected to attend the 4-day general assembly for this year.

“This assembly is about empowering our mayors with innovative solutions, strategic partnerships, and governance best practices,” said La Paz, Abra Mayor Joseph Bernos, national president of LMP.

“The assembly serves as a crucial platform to align local strategies with national development goals,” the statement added.

Local officials will also discuss building and maintaining resilient and progressive municipalities in the face of climate change and economic shifts, based on the statement.

These discussions, LMP said, sought to foster collaboration with local leaders and partnerships with the private sector.

“The LMP General Assembly 2025 continues the organization’s mission to equip local executives with the tools and policies needed to drive long-term, community-driven development,” the statement read.

The general assembly will happen between Feb. 10 to 13.

Based on the primer, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. will give a message for the event on Feb. 12.

## 'Won't affect a shark': Trump signs order against paper straws

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday pushing for a return to plastic drinking straws, saying their impact on marine life was limited and that paper ones favored by environmentalists "explode."

Republican Trump's order reverses a target set by his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden to eliminate single-use plastic utensils like straws across government agencies by 2035.

"We're going back to plastic straws," Trump told reporters as he signed the order in the Oval Office.

"These things don't work, I've had them many times, and on occasion, they break, they explode. If something's hot, they don't last very long, like a matter of minutes, sometimes a matter of seconds. It's a ridiculous situation," Trump said.

Environmentalists have long campaigned for an end to the use of plastic straws and other utensils, saying they pollute marine environments in particular.

But Trump -- who has long appeared vexed by paper straws -- rejected their concerns.

"I don't think that plastic is going to affect a shark as they're eating, as they're munching their way through the ocean," said Trump.

Presenting the document for Trump to sign, White House staff secretary Will Scharf said the environmental impact was "entirely debatable" and that American consumers were "wildly dissatisfied with their straws."

Trump, who has called climate change a "scam," has issued a series of orders on the environment since returning to the White House for a second term.

He pulled out of the Paris climate change agreement soon after his inauguration on January 20 and has pledged to "drill, baby, drill" for oil.

## ECO BUSINESS

### [Mapped: How 'natural' world heritage sites are threatened by climate extremes](#)

By: Ayesha Tandon

The study, published in Communications Earth & Environment, assesses the impacts of extreme heat, rainfall and drought on 250 natural world heritage sites, under different emissions scenarios.

Natural world heritage sites are areas recognised by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) for their “natural beauty or outstanding biodiversity, ecosystem and geological values”.

The authors find that, under a low-emissions scenario, 33 of the 250 heritage sites will face at least one “climate pressure” by the end of the century. Under a moderate scenario, this number rises to 188 sites, they find.

Under the highest emissions scenarios, the authors find that nearly all sites will experience extreme heat exposure, with many also facing the compounding impacts of drought or extreme rainfall.

The study warns that sites located at mid-latitudes and in tropical regions, which are often important hotspots for biodiversity, are likely to face the greatest climate risk as the planet warms.

#### Heat, rain and drought

Recognised internationally as the most important ecosystems on Earth, natural world heritage sites are legally protected under the World Heritage Convention, an international conservation treaty.

But, as the climate warms, natural world heritage sites are facing increasing threats from extreme weather events. In this study, the authors focus on extreme heat, drought and rainfall at 250 of the 266 Unesco natural world heritage sites.

To assess exposure to climate extremes over the coming century, the authors use climate models from the sixth Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6). They use four different Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs), listed below.

- SSP1-2.6: A “low” emissions pathway in which global temperatures stay below 2°C warming with implied net-zero emissions in the second half of the century.
- SSP2-4.5: An “intermediate” emissions pathway roughly in line with the upper end of combined pledges under the Paris Agreement, which results in around 2.7°C warming by the end of the 21st century.
- SSP3-7.0: A “high” emissions pathway, which assumes no additional climate policy, with “particularly high non-CO2 emissions, including high aerosols emissions”.
- SSP5-8.5: A “very high” emissions pathway with no additional climate policy.

The authors use the highest daily maximum temperature in a year to measure changes in extreme heat and the annual maximum one-day precipitation to track rainfall. For drought, they use an indicator that calculates the difference between rainfall and evapotranspiration (the transfer of water from the ground into the air through a combination of evaporation and transpiration).

The authors define a site as “being exposed to a climate extreme” when heat, rainfall or drought intensity exceeds a defined threshold by 2100, under any emissions pathways explored.

The researchers established the “threshold value” for extreme heat, precipitation or drought based on the first 10 years of simulated data under SSP2-4.5 – a modest mitigation pathway where emissions remain close to current levels.

Dr Guolong Chen is a researcher at Peking University and lead author on the report. He tells Carbon Brief that the authors chose the intermediate SSP pathway to set the threshold because it “is a more balanced and realistic representation” of the climate than the other pathway. He adds that they decided to take a 10-year average “to reduce the fluctuations in model simulations”.

## Mapped

The maps below shows which natural world heritage sites will face climate impacts under different emissions pathways. The dots are coloured red if the site will face climate impacts from heat, drought or extreme rainfall by the year 2100 under low (top left), intermediate (top right), high (bottom left) and very high (bottom right) emissions pathway.

The maps show that under the low emissions pathway, the thresholds for extreme heat, drought or rainfall will only be crossed in 33 of the 150 sites. Many of these are clustered in Southeast Asia. The thresholds are not crossed for any of the sites in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa under the low emissions scenario.

However, under the two highest-emissions pathways, almost all of the 250 sites are expected to be threatened by climate extremes.

The authors also find that a significant portion of natural heritage sites are already experiencing extreme heat, posing challenges to conservation.

The study shows that over 2000-15, 45 per cent of sites faced extreme heat, according to the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA5 temperature dataset.

If global warming is kept in line with the low emissions pathway, this number of sites experiencing extreme heat will decrease to 2 per cent by the end of the century,

according to the research. However, under all other pathways it would rise, reaching 69 per cent under the intermediate pathway and 98 per cent under the high pathway.

#### Compound extreme climate events

The study finds that drought and extreme rainfall will be a less widespread threat to natural heritage sites than extreme heat.

However, the authors warn that the combined influence of temperature and either rainfall or drought extremes could be severe. The percentage of natural world heritage sites exposed to compound extreme climate events rises from 17 per cent under the intermediate emissions pathway to 31 per cent under the high emissions pathway.

Chen tells Carbon Brief that the study only calculates exposure, and does not “fully consider the varying vulnerability levels across different sites”. As a result, the analysis may not capture the worsening impacts of climate change for sites that are already under threat, he says.

Prof Jim Perry is a professor at the University of Minnesota’s department of fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology, and was not involved in the study. He tells Carbon Brief that this study is the most recent and “comprehensive” review of the impacts of climate change on natural world heritage sites.

#### Biodiversity threat

Natural world heritage sites make up less than 1 per cent of the Earth’s surface, but are home to more than 20 per cent of mapped global species richness.

As a secondary part of their analysis, the authors focus on threats to biodiversity in the most vulnerable natural world heritage sites.

Chen tells Carbon Brief that the authors chose to focus on forests for this part of the analysis because they are “highly vulnerable to heat, drought and heavy rainfall due to their dependence on water”.

To assess the damage to biodiversity in forested natural world heritage sites to date, the authors use a metric called the “biodiversity intactness index”. This measures the average proportion of natural biodiversity remaining in local ecosystems. The authors class regions with an index of less than 0.7 to be “severely vulnerable”, and those with an index between 0.7 and 0.8 as “vulnerable”.

The authors identify 14 forested natural world heritage sites in the tropics with indices under 0.8 – mainly located in South America, the mainland in Africa, and on various coasts and islands. These include Brazil’s Pantanal conservation complex, Mount Kenya’s national park and Australia’s Ningaloo Coast.



The study finds that the mid-latitudes and tropical regions are likely to face the greatest climate risk as the planet warms. Lead author Chen explains:

“Tropical regions are home to rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems, including vital natural land types such as forests. There is a more consistent consensus that temperature increases in tropical areas will have a negative impact on biodiversity, threatening the stability of these ecosystems.”

Prof Martin Falk is a professor at the University of South-Eastern Norway who has conducted research on world heritage sites, but was not involved in this study. He tells Carbon Brief that there are challenges to data collection for research on world heritage sites, noting that site managers typically “underreport climate change risks”. He adds:

“Another issue is that the natural world heritage sites in the Western world are over-researched. There is too little on the sites in developing countries.”

## GMA NEWS

### [World may have entered era of 1.5°C warming, scientists say](#)

By: Kelly Macnamara

Last year's record-breaking temperatures could be a sign that the world is entering a new era above 1.5°C of global warming, scientists say, one never before faced by modern humans.

The Paris Agreement threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels is a small-sounding number with big implications for people and nature.

It is a marker of risk, with more warming from planet-heating emissions linked to worsening floods, heatwaves and storms, as well as gradual effects like sea level rise and species extinctions.

"Every fraction of a degree beyond this level translates into more extreme weather, biodiversity loss, and human suffering," said William Ripple, Professor at Oregon State University.

That is the focus of two studies published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Scientists sought to square the long-term Paris goals with the extraordinary heat seen in 2024, the first full calendar year above 1.5°C, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

A single year above the limit does not mark a breach of the Paris deal, which is measured as a rolling average over 20 or 30 years, to smooth out year-on-year temperature variability.

By that measure the world has so far warmed roughly 1.3°C, warmer than it has been for the last 125,000 years, scientists say.

'Call to action'

One team based in Germany and Austria used observational data and computer modelling to assess whether crossing 1.5°C over one year might represent an "early warning" that the long-term limit at risk.

They found that historical patterns suggested the first single year that crosses a particular temperature threshold tends to fall within the longer-term 20-year period where that global warming level is reached.

"The calendar year of 2024 was announced as the first above 1.5°C warming and, therefore, it signals that most probably Earth has already entered a 20-year period at 1.5°C warming," the authors said.

An official breach of the Paris goal would happen at the mid-point of the period -- so within the next 10 years -- unless "stringent" efforts are made to slash greenhouse gas emissions, they said.

"A year above 1.5°C is not the time for despair, but a call to action," the authors said.

In the second study, Alex Cannon of the Canadian Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change used a slightly different methodology, but reached a similar conclusion.

Under a middle of the road scenario, a short term crossing of 1.5°C in 2024 would suggest "long-term crossing would probably occur before 2029", he said, but stressed that real-world factors in the coming years would play an important role in the timing.

The UN's IPCC climate experts have said that there is a 50/50 chance of passing 1.5°C warming in the early 2030s.

'New era'

The new research comes as most countries missed a deadline to submit emissions-cutting plans for the decade ahead that align with 1.5°C.

Containing global warming to 1.5°C rather than "well below" 2°C -- the less ambitious Paris goal -- would significantly limit its most catastrophic consequences, the IPCC says.

Last year was the first taste of a 1.5°C world, with soaring temperatures unleashing deadly and costly storms, floods and fires.

Reinsurance giant Swiss Re estimated natural disasters caused \$310 billion in damage in 2024.

This year, the damage and economic loss from fires in Los Angeles alone could top \$250 billion, according to estimates by private meteorological firm AccuWeather.

And the heat shows no sign of abating.

Europe's Copernicus monitor has said last month was the hottest January on record, surprising climate scientists who had expected cooler La Nina conditions to ease the warm-streak.

In a world that has warmed 1.5°C, coral reefs are projected to decline 70 to 90 percent, the IPCC says, while some 14 percent of terrestrial species will face an extinction risk.

Warming between 1.5°C and 2°C could push Arctic sea ice, methane-laden permafrost, and ice sheets with enough frozen water to lift oceans by a dozen metres beyond points of no return.

"Unless rapid action is taken, 2024 will be remembered not as an anomaly, but as the beginning of a new climate era -- one defined by escalating risks," said Ripple.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Comelec Albay urges bets: Use eco-friendly campaign materials](#)

By: Connie Calipay

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Albay is encouraging candidates for the national and local elections to utilize eco-friendly and recyclable campaign materials to help preserve natural resources.

In an interview, Comelec-Albay election supervisor Ma. Aurea Bo-Bunao said the commission prohibits the use of single-use plastics, which are considered illegal campaign paraphernalia.

"We hope that our candidates will join us in protecting the environment by using sustainable and environmentally friendly materials for their campaign posters," she said.

"Climate change is a real issue that affects our environment, and we are asking our candidates to cooperate with this initiative."

Bo-Bunao reminded candidates that election propaganda, including posters or standees that are not made of cloth, cardboard, or other recyclable materials, will not be permitted.

"Single-use plastics, as well as styrofoam, flex materials, non-biodegradable substances, and hazardous materials, are also prohibited. Additionally, election propaganda is not allowed on government properties, public transportation, or in schools," she said.

Comelec-Albay has already launched "Oplan Baklas," which involves the removal of illegal campaign materials as part of the 90-day campaign period for national positions.

The campaign period for local candidates will begin on March 28 and run until May 10.

"We will remove posters or standing displays exceeding the dimensions of 2'x3', streamers larger than 3'x8', and any campaign materials located outside designated poster areas," she said.

Bo-Bunao said campaign materials are not allowed on streets, bridges, public structures, buildings, trees, electric posts or wires, schools, shrines, or main thoroughfares.

Placing campaign materials on planted or growing trees, flowering plants, shrubs, or any plants of scenic value along public roads is also prohibited.

Bo-Bunao said candidates are not permitted to campaign on Maundy Thursday (April 17), Good Friday (April 18), the eve of election day (May 11), and on election day (May 12).

## [Spain gives P45-M for BARMM livelihood, climate resilience programs](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is providing PHP45 million (USD780,000) to help fund agriculture-related livelihood and climate resilience programs in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

The projects, to be implemented by the World Food Programme, target to benefit 28,000 people in the region, especially the indigenous women.

“Despite significant progress at the global level, no country in the world has achieved gender equality. That is the reason why Spanish Cooperation aims to not only boost but also accelerate the progress of women's participation and leadership at all decision-making levels,” Violeta Dominguez Acosta, head of Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines, said in a statement Tuesday.

“If we are talking about climate resilience in a country most at risk of extreme climate, we must put indigenous women and their communities at the center of the action.”

Based on a WFP study conducted in 2024, barriers such as climate-related risks hinder rural and indigenous women from accessing resources and decision-making processes, resulting in the loss of livelihood opportunities and poverty.

The WFP said rural and indigenous women will undergo training in climate-resilient agriculture and leadership skills.

The AECID-funded project will also strengthen women cooperatives by linking their agricultural production to reliable markets, it said.

In addition, the activities will incorporate social behavior change to improve local food and nutrition practices.

“WFP thanks AECID for their important contribution to enhancing resilience in BARMM. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate emergencies in the Philippines, women are especially vulnerable,” WFP Philippines Representative and Country Director Regis Chapman said.

“It is urgent that we strengthen their capacities and so that they can withstand shocks better.”

The initiative is part of the WFP’s continuing support to the Philippines’ efforts to promote resilience-building activities and strengthen food and social protection systems.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

#### [PH pushes for transparency, collaboration in climate governance](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Philippines highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability, and collaboration in addressing climate challenges across social and national boundaries during a high-level meeting in Manila.

In a news release on Tuesday, Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje reiterated the country's commitment to open and inclusive climate governance, emphasizing its role in strengthening climate resilience and sustainable development at the Open Government Partnership Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting held on Feb. 7.

"Governments must not work in silos. Meaningful participation leads to stronger policies, better implementation, and greater public trust," he said.

"Our commitment to open governance means breaking down barriers and equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to take action so we can build a culture of appreciation for open climate governance mechanisms that drive real, lasting resilience across the Asia-Pacific."

Underscoring the need for a strong governance framework to effectively address climate challenges, Borje cited the Philippines National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) as prime examples of collaborative policymaking under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration.

He said that under the current leadership, climate action has been prioritized through clear governance structures that encourage broad stakeholder participation.

"The NAP was completed in under 10 months, and the NDCIP in just five months, demonstrating that when governance frameworks are in place and stakeholders are actively engaged, we can achieve both strong outputs and impactful outcomes," Borje said.

A key focus of the discussion at the meeting was climate finance transparency, as Borje highlighted the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) mechanism.

He explained that the CCET system tracks the allocation of climate-related funds, allowing the public to monitor financial flows and ensuring that investments translate into meaningful and measurable outcomes.



Meanwhile, Borje also proposed the creation of an ASEAN-wide open governance framework for climate finance and carbon markets to foster regional cooperation.

He also emphasized the need to balance high-quality deliberation with high-quality investment, citing the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) 2020-2040, which outlines the country's transition to renewable energy while ensuring financial transparency and public trust.

Borje also called on civil society organizations, research institutions, and advocacy groups to play an active role in monitoring climate finance and shaping policies.

The event brought together government officials, civil society leaders, and policy experts to explore how open governance can accelerate sustainable development in the region.

Experts from Australia, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka tackled pressing issues, such as artificial intelligence governance, anti-corruption efforts, misinformation, and public finance reforms.

The CCC, meanwhile, affirmed its commitment to integrating open governance principles into climate policies, ensuring that adaptation and mitigation efforts align with national and global goals while fostering transparency and public engagement.

## SUNSTAR

### Climate adaptation for LGUs: One size does not fit all

By: Rachel Anne Herrera, Climate Change Commission Commissioner

While national climate resilience efforts require a whole-of-country and whole-of-society approach, they must be tailored to meet the specific needs of individual communities.

We must build the capacity of local government units to effectively apply countrywide measures addressing the effects of climate change onto communities. It is vital that we enhance our ability to adapt national strategies at the local level.

The Climate Change Commission participated in the session to discuss the localization of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050, focusing on capacity-building for vulnerable areas in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The NAP is the foundational framework for building climate resilience in the Philippines, focused on minimizing climate-related losses and damage, fostering adaptive capacity, and promoting sustainable socioeconomic development by 2050.

The NAP development undertook an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to ensure voices are presented onto priority adaptation outcomes and consequent strategies. For a science-based, fit-for-purpose, and country-driven NAP, we brought together our diverse range of knowledge and expertise on advancing climate resilience in pursuit of sustainable development.

A universal, one-size-fits-all approach could potentially undermine measures and weaken efforts to address the distinct vulnerabilities and challenges encountered by various localities. Aside from the need for tailored solutions, we would like to stress the importance of incorporating localized knowledge and specialized expertise into the planning process to ensure contextually appropriate and sustainable strategies.

The NAP has identified that addressing climate-induced human mobility through the lens of cultural heritage preservation is crucial when planning for adaptation measures for the Philippines. We must consider how climate impacts intersect with social, economic and environmental factors to develop holistic adaptation measures.

A stable and well-managed population can enhance a community's adaptive capabilities, demonstrating the ability to absorb shocks and recover from climate-related events, and work on transformational sustainable resilience pathways for the long term. NAP

recognizes the influence and interplay between population dynamics and climate change impacts.

By involving local communities in decision-making processes and strengthening their capacity to carry out climate adaptation strategies, resilience-building efforts can be more responsive to the needs and priorities of Filipinos most vulnerable to climate change.

**=END=**