



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### ABS CBN

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By: Rapahael Bosano

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### BUSINESS WORLD

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### DAILY TRIBUNE

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## **MANILA BULLETIN**

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### **[\[Opinion\]World Wildlife Day: Protect PH natural treasures](#)**

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## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[How to stay safe during extreme heat? Here's what health experts say.](#)**

By: Dominique Nicole Flores

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**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **PAGASA: Warm and dry season possible by mid-March to April**

By: Rapahael Bosano

Following heavy downpours and cool weather in recent weeks, state weather bureau PAGASA said Monday that the country should start preparing for warmer and drier months ahead.

Speaking to ABS-CBN News, PAGASA Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section Chief Ana Liza Solis said the end of the northeast monsoon was imminent. This, following the release of a heat index forecast which prompted some local governments in Metro Manila to suspend classes.

“Kung titignan ang historical record at base sa monitoring ng DOST-PAGASA, usually mid-March to third week of March, yun yung usual termination ng northeast monsoon at simula ng warmer and dry season months,” she said.

(Based on historical data and monitoring by DOST-PAGASA, the northeast monsoon is usually terminated by mid or third week of March. This is followed by months of warm and dry weather.)

Historically, Solis said that the earliest termination of the northeast monsoon happened in the first week of March 2016, which also happened to be a time when a strong El Niño phenomenon was in place.

PAGASA noted that 2024 was the hottest year in the Philippines, a year when a strong El Niño and record temperatures were recorded by experts. Solis said she does not see the same level of intense heat this year.

“Sa ngayon, hindi natin nakikita yung ganon katindi kumpara noong isang taon. Pero ang ating tag-init ay mainit pa rin. Ngayon, may amihan pa so marami pang cloudiness. Marami pang convective activities so may pag-uulan dahil nakataas pa rin yung La Niña alert ng PAGASA. So ibig sabihin may mataas pa rin na possibility ng mahinang pag-ulan.”

(Right now, we don't see it being as hot this year compared to last year. But since it is warm and dry, it will still be hot. There is still the presence of the northeast monsoon. There are also convective activities that will bring rain, and the La Niña alert remains in place. This means there are still chances of light rain.)

She added that April and May were projected to be the warmest months, with maximum temperatures forecast at 39 degrees in Northern Luzon. In Metro Manila, maximum temperatures by April and May were forecast at 37 degrees.

Health experts reminded the public to exercise caution yet again. Warning signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke should not be ignored, according to the Department of Health.

Should individuals experience heat exhaustion or heat stroke, it would be best to direct the individual towards a shaded area, rehydrate and cool parts of the body like the face, neck, head and arms with a damp cloth.

The DOH advised the public to avoid direct and prolonged exposure to sunlight from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Philippine gov't crafting contingency plan amid extreme heat, says palace](#)**

By: John Victor D. Ordonez, Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza and Chloe Mari A. Hufana

The Presidential palace on Monday said it is working with the Department of Health and state weather bureau to craft an action plan for heatwaves that could reach as high as 49°C in the coming days.

“We are still collating other actions plans regarding this,” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Clarissa A. Castro told a news briefing in Manila. “It’s just starting now (extreme heat). The government will always be prepared for how it will affect our economy.”

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in an advisory said Metro Manila was projected to experience a “danger level” heat index of up to 46°C for two days until Tuesday.

Many local governments in the capital region suspended classes at all levels on Monday due to the expected heatwave.

Last year, a heatwave hit the capital and other regions in April and May, as well as the bigger Southeast Asian region, leading to almost daily suspensions of in-person classes.

Based on data from the Department of Education (DepEd), Metro Manila has more than 2.8 million students.

In December last year, DepEd released an order that included extreme heat and poor air quality as grounds to suspend work and classes.

The United Nations Children’s Fund said in January that extreme weather disrupted classes of about 242 million children in 85 countries last year, including the Philippines.

Extreme heat or heatwaves, which can last for several days, can strain health, emergency, energy and transportation services and eventually lead to food and power shortages, according to the World Health Organization website.

In a statement, Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian called on schools to ensure learning outcomes are met through online or alternative learning setups despite disruptions to in-person learning due to extreme heat.

“Since weather events are expected to intensify because of our vulnerability to climate-related hazards, the education sector should adapt and bolster resilience,” the lawmaker, who heads the Senate basic education committee, said.

“We should prioritize investments in climate-resilient schools, including better ventilation and cooling systems,” he added.

High heat indexes were also expected at Clark Airport in Pampanga and Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on Tuesday.

The weather bureau said heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely at the danger level, while heat stroke is probable with continued exposure.

Rising heat index signals the imminent arrival of the warm dry season, according to PAGASA, which is expected to officially declare the start of the dry season within the first or second week of March.

The agency earlier said the weather patterns in the coming weeks would be driven by the weakening of the northeast monsoon or amihan and the increasing influence of easterlies or warm and humid winds from the Pacific Ocean.

Global average temperatures briefly surpassed the critical 1.5°C warming threshold last year, according to the United Nations.

Also on Monday, green group Oceana flagged warmer seas that lead to widespread coral bleaching and threaten marine habitat and fisheries.

A Nature Climate Change study released on Monday said human-caused climate change and El Niño conditions combined to create record-breaking marine heatwaves, which contributed to the strengthening of Typhoon Doksuri, which hit China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Vietnam and affected more than two million people and killed about 200 people in 2023.

There were nearly 3.5 times the number of marine heatwave days in both 2023 and 2024 compared with any other years on record, it said.

“As a nation dependent on a healthy and productive ocean, especially for poor artisanal fisherfolk and their families in coastal communities for food and livelihood, it is vital that stronger protection measures are in place,” Oceana Acting Vice-President Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio said in a statement.

“As warmer seas lead to widespread coral bleaching, threatening marine habitat and sustainable fisheries, national and local governments should be held accountable for the safety and survival of the people,” she added.

“The government should effectively implement mitigation and adaptation measures that will result in a resilient marine ecosystem.”

## WORKPLACE INSPECTIONS

Meanwhile, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) called for immediate protective measures for workers.

In a statement, the group sought mandatory heat breaks, a buddy system and heat stress orientation sessions to prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths.

“As temperatures continue to spike across Metro Manila and nearby provinces, no worker should suffer from heat exhaustion, collapse from dehydration, or worse, die on the job due to preventable heat stress,” TUCP President and House Deputy Speaker Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza said.

“Protecting workers from extreme heat is not optional but a shared moral and legal obligation of labor, employers, government and all stakeholders,” he added.

As temperatures rise, so do the risks of dehydration and heatstroke, particularly for campaign staff and volunteers engaging in outdoor activities for extended periods, Federation of Free Workers President Jose Sonny G. Matula said in a Viber message.

“With national and local election campaigns in full swing, candidates must also remind their campaign staff and volunteers to take necessary precautions — staying hydrated, wearing protective clothing, taking breaks in shaded areas and adjusting schedules to avoid peak heat hours,” he added.

He called on the government to institutionalize hazard pay for workers exposed to extreme heat and consider incorporating “heat leaves” into the emergency leave provisions of collective bargaining agreements.

While these deals provide leave benefits for calamities such as typhoons, floods, fires and earthquakes, Mr. Matula cited a critical gap when it comes to heat waves.

Mr. Matula also urged the Labor department to conduct workplace inspections to ensure compliance with occupational health and safety standards.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [DoF, UK fast-track single climate finance plan](#)

By: Kathryn Jose

The government is carrying out and speeding up several measures to increase investments in sustainability projects, including those from the United Kingdom, Department of Finance (DoF) Undersecretary Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco said.

“The UK is helping us right now to finalize our climate finance action,” Tiuseco said in a forum organized by the British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (BCCP) last Thursday.

Tiuseco said the DoF and the UK are now accelerating efforts for enhancing skills of local officials in designing climate finance projects and strategies.

In November 2024, the Philippines and the UK’s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office agreed to consolidate all of the former’s climate finance solutions.

While Tiuseco did not mention a specific date to complete the consolidated climate finance plan, the Philippines expects to mobilize up to 8 billion pounds the UK promised to provide this year.

The funds are part of the Philippines’ Sustainable Finance Roadmap which was launched in 2021 and the British Investment Partnerships which was introduced in 2023.

“The government is beefing up the manpower of the Department of Trade and Industry to make the process easier for all permits,” Tiuseco added.

She said many of the workers will be assigned to the Green Lanes Division of the Board of Investments (BoI), a DTI affiliated agency that certifies certain foreign investments as a priority.

As of 18 February 2025, BoI reported renewable energy (RE) projects increased to 149. They consisted of a total foreign equity of P1.3 billion.

Tiuseco said foreign investments for the RE sector should increase through the implementation of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act. This was signed into law by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in November last year.

CREATE MORE offers a lower corporate income tax of 20 percent from 25 percent to registered business enterprises.

“We have a whole set of incentives if firms come into the Philippines,” she said.



Foreign investments in other industries like manufacturing should entice energy firms to also expand in the Philippines.

“Just a week ago, we approved the first investor under the CREATE MORE. It’s a big manufacturing corporation,” Tiuseco said.

“We will announce but the moment you learn who it is, it will be a signal to the world that companies are trying to invest in the Philippines,” she added.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Collaboration between Sweden and the Philippines expands in infrastructure and private-public partnership](#)

From Feb. 25 to 27, Sweden's State Secretary to the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Diana Janse, and Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Jakob Granit, visited the Philippines with a delegation.

The Philippines is a priority partner for Sweden, and the purpose of the officials' visit was to further deepen partnerships. During their visit, the Swedish officials engaged with key counterparts from the Departments of Finance, National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Transport, and Information and Communications Technology, as well as the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) in Clark, focusing on ongoing initiatives. The state secretary also attended the signing of a new grant to support public transportation development, provided by Swedfund (the Swedish Development Finance Institution), at the Department of Transportation.

In Clark, Swedish officials met with representatives from the DICT, World Food Programme (WFP), and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation to discuss collaboration in disaster resilience and how Swedish expertise, innovation, and technology can contribute to enhancing the Philippines' preparedness and response capacity for natural disasters. Ericsson Response, the disaster relief program of the leading Swedish provider of mobile connectivity solutions Ericsson, together with the DICT and WFP, presented their work and one of the specialized Government Emergency Communications Service-Mobile Operations Vehicles (GECS-MOVE). Ten of these vehicles, provided by Ericsson, are deployed in strategic locations around the country to ensure a fast and effective response. Trusted connectivity is critical for a country's safety.

Swedish officials also met with BCDA to express support for the Subic-Clark-Manila-Batangas Freight Railway Project and were shown its plans and progress. Sweden is supporting the DOTr in the project development phase, providing technical assistance through Swedfund.

"We are determined to continue building a deep and long-lasting partnership with the Philippines. In addition, Swedish companies are investing in the country, contributing to job creation and technology transfer," said State Secretary Diana Janse during her visit to the Swedish consumer electronics and engineered soft goods company OSM Group in Clark. The company chose to expand its industrial footprint in the Philippines, thanks to the availability of competitive skills in the country. OSM Group plans to expand operations and investments in 2025.

Sweden is one of the top global leaders in high-tech, innovative, and sustainable solutions in security and defense, connectivity, health, sustainable mining, and

infrastructure. The country spends around 3.5 percent of its GDP on research and development, combining government and private sector efforts.

During the top officials' visit, Sweden, through Sida, also signed a guarantee agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for \$200 million. The guarantee will allow the ADB to increase investments to address climate change in the Southeast Asia region, including the Philippines.

This visit underscores Sweden's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth and resilience through knowledge-sharing and innovation-driven partnerships.

## [\[Opinion\]World Wildlife Day: Protect PH natural treasures](#)

Every March 3, the global community comes together to celebrate World Wildlife Day, a crucial occasion to reflect on the importance of protecting the world's biodiversity. For the Philippines—an archipelago renowned for its rich ecosystems and endemic species—this observance underlines the urgent need to safeguard our natural heritage from the growing threats of habitat destruction, climate change, and human encroachment.

Member-countries of the United Nations are called upon to participate in achieving the Strategic Vision of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework.

Considering that more than half of global gross domestic product (GDP) is nature-based, it is imperative that sustainability of biodiversity becomes a priority concern of governments. Further decimation of biodiversity translates into threats to livelihood at the grassroots and financial stability of nations.

According to latest studies, more than one million species of Philippine wildlife are threatened with extinction; thus, the urgency of innovative finance for wildlife conservation cannot be overemphasized.

The Philippines is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites that exemplify our country's unique and fragile biodiversity. Among them is the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, a marvel of nature that supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the endangered Palawan hornbill and the Philippine cockatoo. Another iconic site is the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, an underwater sanctuary teeming with marine life and serving as a vital breeding ground for various fish species, sea turtles, and sharks.

Equally significant are the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, a haven for rare species such as the Philippine eagle and the pygmy fruit bat, and the Ifugao Rice Terraces, which, beyond their cultural significance, sustain diverse ecosystems and traditional farming practices that promote environmental balance. These sites are more than just picturesque landscapes; they are vital ecological zones that support both wildlife and human communities.

These precious sites face mounting threats. Deforestation, often driven by illegal logging and agricultural expansion, continues to diminish crucial habitats. Pollution, particularly plastic waste and chemical runoff, endangers marine ecosystems and the species that depend on them. Climate change accelerates coral bleaching in Tubbataha and disrupts ecological cycles, while poaching and illegal wildlife trade further deplete already endangered species.

If left unaddressed, these threats could lead to irreversible biodiversity loss, undermining not only ecological balance but also local economies that depend on ecotourism and sustainable natural resources.

Protecting the Philippines' wildlife and natural heritage requires a collective effort from government agencies, local communities, private enterprises, and individuals. Strengthening environmental laws and enforcement is essential, particularly against illegal logging, mining, and wildlife trafficking. Investments in sustainable ecotourism can provide livelihood opportunities while promoting conservation.

Additionally, community engagement and education are key to fostering environmental stewardship. Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices should be integrated into conservation strategies to ensure that local communities become active partners in protecting their natural surroundings. Climate resilience measures, such as reforestation and coral reef restoration, must also be prioritized to mitigate the impacts of global warming.

As we mark World Wildlife Day 2025, let this be a clarion call for Filipinos to champion the protection of our UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the vast biodiversity they nurture. The responsibility to conserve our environment does not rest solely on policymakers or conservationists. It is a duty we all share.

## MANILA STANDARD

### Sustainable farming practices increase biodiversity in fields

Whether it's using indigenous seeds that are more resilient, combining coffee crops with banana plants or restoring pollinator populations, biodiversity is not an abstract concept tossed around by scientists and activists.

It is a whole range of concrete practices that farmers put into action in their daily work in a way which is crucial to food security and the environment.

Our agri-food systems rely on thousands of species of domesticated crops, livestock, fish and the varieties, breeds and strains that ensure their genetic diversity. In addition, at least 50 000 wild species are used globally for food, energy, medicine, materials and other purposes.

But biodiversity is declining worldwide, driven by changing land use, climate change, and over-exploitation, putting the future of food at risk.

In Luweero District, Uganda, coffee and banana farmer Jane Nakandi Sebyaala, also runs the Twezimbe Kassala Community Seed Bank. Its mission is to preserve indigenous seeds, a foundational element of keeping the range of biodiverse crops in fields.

According to Jane, indigenous seeds can be replanted up to ten times, unlike fortified seeds which need to be replaced annually, and can flourish without pesticides or large quantities of fertilizer.

Jane says it used to be hard to find indigenous seeds in the shops and markets. But after the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized a training for farmers on the benefits of these seeds, "we began to reach out to village elders to collect these indigenous seeds, and we started planting them."

Over time, Jane and her fellow farmers were able to grow significant quantities of crops such as indigenous varieties of maize and beans. "The advantage of these indigenous seeds is their resilience. They are disease resilient and less susceptible to pests compared to commercial crops," she says.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [How to stay safe during extreme heat? Here's what health experts say.](#)

By: Dominique Nicole Flores

In early March 2025, schools began canceling classes again as the scorching heat poses a risk for students and teachers. On days like these, how can you stay safe and cool?

The state weather bureau PAGASA forecasted temperatures ranging from 27°C to 46°C across most regions on Monday, March 3, with many areas reaching around 40°C.

With extreme heat, the public is urged to take precautions against fatigue, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Symptoms of these conditions include headaches, vomiting and muscle cramps.

The longer a person is exposed to extreme heat, the higher the risk of heat stroke — a life-threatening condition that health officials warn can cause loss of consciousness, confusion or seizures if left untreated.

For those experiencing these symptoms, the Department of Health (DOH) on Monday advised the following steps:

- Move the person to a shaded, well-ventilated area.
- Remove outer clothing.
- Apply a cold compress, ice packs, cool water, or a damp cloth to the head, face, neck, armpits, wrists, ankles, and groin.
- If the person is conscious, encourage them to take slow, frequent sips of cold water.
- Seek medical help immediately by contacting emergency services or bringing them to the nearest hospital.

To prevent heat-related illnesses, health officials recommend the following:

- Drink seven to eight glasses of water daily.
- Avoid iced tea, soda, coffee and alcohol.
- Opt for juice, which contains sugar and salt to help replenish electrolytes.
- Limit sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and stay in shaded areas whenever possible.
- Wear hats, caps, use umbrellas and apply sunblock.
- Choose light, loose-fitting clothing.

Work and school. In an interview with Teleradyo, Health Assistant Secretary Albert Domingo suggested that field workers, such as traffic enforcers, follow a rotation schedule every two hours and take breaks by walking in a shaded area for 30 minutes.

Heavy-duty tasks for field workers, typically performed during the day, can be scheduled in the early morning or late afternoon when temperatures are cooler.

To stay productive, schools and other institutions are advised to replace outdoor activities with indoor ones, or at least have physical activities under a covered area with proper ventilation and access to clean water.

Filipinos should also avoid moving directly from extreme heat to air-conditioned or very cold spaces, as the sudden temperature change may trigger asthma or bronchospasm, a condition where the airway muscles tighten.

Domingo also urged the public to drink water regularly instead of waiting until they feel tired or thirsty. He encouraged parents to help their children develop the habit of staying hydrated by also giving them a jug of water to bring to school.

Cooling homes and workspaces. At home, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends opening windows at night to cool the space. However, if outdoor temperatures are higher than indoors, it is best to keep windows closed and cover them with blinds or shutters during the day.

Climate change. While the amihan season, which brings cool winds, is not over yet, PAGASA stressed the importance of monitoring daily temperatures.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, 2024 was the hottest year on record, with temperatures exceeding the 1.5°C global warming threshold. Human-induced activities that increase greenhouse gas emissions continue to drive climate change, fueling more extreme weather events like high temperatures and stronger storms.



## [Nations fail to break deadlock on UN climate report timing](#)

Nations failed to break a deadlock over the timing of the UN's next blockbuster assessment of climate change science after a marathon meeting in China that US envoys skipped.

At issue was whether the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which informs policymakers, will deliver its next three-part assessment before a 2028 United Nations' "stocktake" of the global response to rising temperatures.

Many wealthy countries and developing nations exposed to climate impacts wanted an accelerated timetable, arguing the reports would allow countries to be guided by the most up-to-date science.

But they faced objections from some oil producers and major polluters with rising emissions, such as India and China.

The talks in Hangzhou ran over by more than a day, wrapping up late Saturday night with an agreement to allow work to proceed without a definitive deadline for delivery.

The outcome was a "bitter disappointment", said Zhe Yao, global policy advisor at Greenpeace East Asia.

The deadlock "only serves those who wish to hold back climate action, but climate vulnerable countries cannot wait", Yao said.

"It's a bitter disappointment every time when division leads to a decision being postponed or kicked down the road."

'Time is not on our side'

The meeting was overshadowed by a US decision to stay away, as President Donald Trump unpicks his predecessor's climate actions.

Experts warned the US absence from the world's leading scientific body on climate change would be hugely damaging.

"International scientific progress is key to prosperity, equity, and resilience -- for the US and all nations," said leading climate scientist Johan Rockstrom, of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

The meeting in Hangzhou came on the heels of the hottest year on record and rising alarm over the pace of warming.

UN officials sought to inject urgency into the largely closed-door proceedings when they opened on Monday.

"Time is not on our side," UN Environment Programme chief Inger Andersen warned, urging "ambitious" outcomes from the talks.

The UN's first stocktake, published in 2023, was a damning indictment of slow progress on tackling warming.

In response, the COP28 climate summit issued a groundbreaking call for the world to move away from fossil fuels.

The IPCC has warned the world is on course to cross the Paris climate deal's long-term warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in the early 2030s.

Recent studies have also suggested that milestone could be crossed before the end of this decade.

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