



NEWS ROUNDUP

05 MARCH 2026 | 08:00 am

- 'It's too warm': Greenland's fishermen are under threat from climate change
- PH urges Asean to tackle 'wicked problems' threatening communities
- DENR urges expansion of women-led climate initiatives
- Philippine Red Cross Partners with Plan International for Climate Resilience
- Sea Levels Are Already Higher Than Many Scientists Think, New Study Shows

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Nueva Ecija is 1st in Southeast Asia to generate carbon credits with biochar; pushes for carbon removal, climate-smart agri
- Community-based climate action: CCC, Cebu youth, farmers, fisherfolk underscore importance of tree planting and growing for resilience and sustainability

MANILA BULLETIN

['It's too warm': Greenland's fishermen are under threat from climate change](#)

Fisherman Helgi Áargil no longer knows what to expect on Greenland's fjords, where he spends up to five days at a time on his boat with his dog, Molly, and the ever-changing northern lights in the sky as company.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[PH urges Asean to tackle 'wicked problems' threatening communities](#)

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Wednesday urged Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member states to collaborate on solutions to the "wicked problems" facing the region, stressing the need for resilient and people-centered communities.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DENR urges expansion of women-led climate initiatives](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has emphasized the key role of women in building resilient communities and sustainable livelihoods, urging government agencies, community leaders, and program partners to expand women-led climate adaptation initiatives.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Philippine Red Cross Partners with Plan International for Climate Resilience](#)

By Allen Limos

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) on Wednesday called for stronger climate collaboration to enhance resilience in vulnerable communities.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

[Sea Levels Are Already Higher Than Many Scientists Think, New Study Shows](#)

By: Sachi Kitajima Mulkey and Mira Rojanasakul

New research has found that scientists studying sea-level rise have been using methods that underestimate how high the water already is. One result is that hundreds of millions more people worldwide are already living dangerously close to the rising ocean than Western scientists had previously estimated.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Nueva Ecija is 1st in Southeast Asia to generate carbon credits with biochar; pushes for carbon removal, climate-smart agri](#)

By: Tristan Lozano

In Nueva Ecija, a carbon sequestration project called “Project NuevaChar,” launched in 2022 and initiated by Gov. Aurelio “Oyie” Matias Umali, is solidifying its position as a pioneer in sustainable agriculture, in partnership with Alcom Carbon Markets Philippines.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Community-based climate action: CCC, Cebu youth, farmers, fisherfolk underscore importance of tree planting and growing for resilience and sustainability](#)

Santa Fe, Cebu youth leaders, students, farmers, and fisherfolk underscored the importance of planting and caring for trees for resilience and sustainability in the Climate Change Commission (CCC) tree-growing activity for promoting ecosystem-based adaptation.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[PH urges Asean to tackle 'wicked problems' threatening communities](#)

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Wednesday urged Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member states to collaborate on solutions to the “wicked problems” facing the region, stressing the need for resilient and people-centered communities.

Gatchalian, who serves as chairperson of the Asean Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), made the remarks during the high-level ASCC council forum, which brought together ministers responsible for education, family, rural and social development, youth, culture, and tourism.

He noted that while improving people’s quality of life remains central to Asean’s economic policies, the region faces a “complex crossroads” with multifaceted challenges that threaten citizens’ rights. Gatchalian highlighted that climate change, weather-related hazards, and water-related risks could exacerbate poverty, displacement, and food insecurity.

“The issues we face are not merely complex. They are what experts call ‘wicked problems,’” Gatchalian said in his keynote address.

“Wicked problems are deeply interconnected, constantly evolving, and resistant to single-sector or short-term solutions. Each of these challenges reinforces the other,” Gatchalian added.

Gatchalian then said that these problems cannot be solved by member states alone. He added that the issues should serve as a reminder of Asean’s role in strengthening collaboration “towards a resilient and people-centered community.”

“Thus, in today’s forum, we shall navigate together complex and multi-faceted issues and know how member states explore potential solutions to address the most pressing problems we constantly grapple with,” he said.

He also added that the forum shall serve as a platform to answer difficult efforts, highlight Asean efforts, and share experiences and expertise, emphasizing that discussions “are a testament of our commitment to foster social inclusion, protect vulnerable groups, and promote a sense of shared identity and community.”

The ASCC council meeting and related meetings that the Philippines is hosting this week are anchored on the theme RISE, which stand for (R) Resilient and Empowered Families, (I) Inclusive Development, (S) Smart Youth and Innovation, and (E) Environmentally-sustainable and Food Secure Future.

MANILA BULLETIN

['It's too warm': Greenland's fishermen are under threat from climate change](#)

Fisherman Helgi Áargil no longer knows what to expect on Greenland's fjords, where he spends up to five days at a time on his boat with his dog, Molly, and the ever-changing northern lights in the sky as company.

Last year, his boat got stuck in ice that broke off the nearby glacier. This year, it's been very wet instead. His income is just as unpredictable. An outing could bring him around 100,000 Danish kroner (about \$15,700), or nothing at all.

The Arctic's rapidly changing climate is bringing more questions for Greenland, the semiautonomous territory of Denmark that's been shaken by U.S. President Donald Trump's interest in owning it.

While Trump's approach to Greenland has shifted, the world has been unable to slow the effects of climate change. The Arctic is warming faster than any other region in the world, driven by the burning of oil, gas and coal.

What that means for the fishing industry that largely drives Greenland's economy is unknown. Fishing accounts for up to 95% of exports, many to the territory's biggest market, China, along with the United States, Japan and Europe.

Disappearing sea ice

Wrapped in a wool sweater against the freezing wind, Áargil explained how he fishes for halibut and cod. Other top catches are shrimp and snow crab, which including legs can reach more than a meter (3 feet) in length.

Traditional ice fishermen who make up half the local industry are seeing the most dramatic changes to the way they fish.

"My father was fishing from the sea ice" one and a half meters (almost 5 feet) thick, recalled Karl Sandgreen, head of the Icefjord Center that documents climate change in the region and is based in the town of Ilulissat.

That sea ice started disappearing around 1997, Sandgreen said, and fishermen who drilled through the ice to fish increasingly started to fish by boat instead. The use of boats allows fishermen to reach larger areas, but that can come with extra costs and pollution that that accelerates warming.

Fishing has shaped Greenland's communities. The harbor where fishermen return to sell their catch is at the heart of every town or village. Before heading out, some fishermen pick up boxes

from the island's fishing companies to pack their catch which, in the capital of Nuuk, is winched from the boat to the fish factory.

Toke Binzer, the chief executive of the island's single biggest employer, Royal Greenland, said he is increasingly worried about a future with greatly diminished sea ice. That could push traditional fishermen toward larger communities and into the ranks of commercial fishing. The challenge now is how to support traditional fishermen when there is sometimes "too much ice to sail, too little to go out on," Binzer said. Already, that unpredictability has caused a "huge" problem.

Royal Greenland already loans fishermen money to buy a boat, which they repay from selling their catch, Binzer said.

If everyone turns to fishing from boats, that could help economically but lead to overfishing, said Boris Worm, an expert in marine biodiversity at Dalhousie University in Canada.

In Greenland, there are already signs of too much fishing close to shore as halibut are getting smaller, Binzer said. Worm agreed, calling it a classic sign of overfishing as the bigger fish are caught and the smaller, younger ones are left.

That problem could worsen as the retreating ice makes fish more accessible. Fish stocks could rise as the warmer weather causes increased rain and melting ice to bring more nutrients for plankton, which the fish feed on, Worm said.

He warned, however, that the fish may not behave as "predictably," as in the past, perhaps by seeking new food sources if they can no longer feed on the algae which grows under the sea ice.

Few options beyond fishing

On his boat near Nuuk, Áargil considered another challenge: Warm weather is making some fish harder to catch as they go deeper in search of colder waters.

"It's too warm," he said, looking at the hills around the fjord. "I don't know where the fish is going, but there's not so much."

Options beyond fishing remain few in Greenland. Tourism is increasing but far from making up a significant part of the economy.

Tradition, too, is at the heart of worries about climate change. Already, dog sleds have been confined to land when there is no sea ice.

"It's really important for many Greenlanders to have the ability to go out and sail," said Ken Jakobsen, the manager at Royal Greenland's factory in Nuuk. Fishing is the "most important" thing.

In the capital alone, he said, there are more than 1,000 boats in the harbor during summer — in a territory where the total population is little over 50,000.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DENR urges expansion of women-led climate initiatives](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has emphasized the key role of women in building resilient communities and sustainable livelihoods, urging government agencies, community leaders, and program partners to expand women-led climate adaptation initiatives.

During the opening of the 2026 National Women's Month celebrations at the DENR in Quezon City on March 2, Environment Secretary Raphael Lotilla said resilience is not gender-neutral.

"Adaptation that ignores women's voices is adaptation that fails," he said.

Lotilla said recognizing women's significant role in climate change adaptation should also translate into action.

"Invest in women-led projects, amplify their voices in policy and decision-making, and ensure that the adaptation measures we implement truly reflect the priorities of those most affected," he told stakeholders.

Highlighting women's contributions across coastal, upland, and indigenous communities, including the protection of mangroves, managing watersheds, preserving seed diversity, and sustaining local livelihoods, Lotilla noted that DENR programs have consistently integrated gender-responsive approaches.

The DENR, he said, engages women in community-based adaptation planning and partnering with grassroots and indigenous organizations.

Citing the ongoing DENR exhibit "Resilient Roots: Scaling Adaptation Through Women's Leadership" featuring local innovations by women climate leaders, he stressed that supporting women's leadership strengthens communities, protects natural resources, and reduces vulnerability to climate risks.

He said the DENR, through these initiatives, hopes to foster a more inclusive, climate-resilient future.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Philippine Red Cross Partners with Plan International for Climate Resilience](#)

By Allen Limos

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) on Wednesday called for stronger climate collaboration to enhance resilience in vulnerable communities.

“Climate resilience requires systems coordination. Coordination is the key, but it remains a challenge. It requires policy alignment. It requires trust across institutions. And it requires sustained dialogue that moves us beyond silos,” PRC Secretary General Gwendolyn Pang said in her keynote address at the Climate Resilience Multi-Stakeholder Forum in Pasig.

Pang highlighted the increasing unpredictability of weather systems and the intensifying effects of climate hazards, noting these have far-reaching impacts on public health, livelihoods and infrastructure.

During the forum, the PRC, along with Plan International Pilipinas and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Philippine country office, signed the country coordination mechanism aimed at strengthening community capacity through partnerships with the public and private sectors.

Pang said the initiative with the Z Zurich Foundation initially focused on flood resilience programs but has since expanded to address rising heat levels.

“Since there are more risks that we are experiencing, especially, for example, with the rise of the heat that we have experienced from recent years, we have shifted that to include climate resilience, climate in general, and a specific focus also on heat. So then, the goal here is to really help the communities with the mitigation and adaptation to climate risk and climate change,” Pang told The Manila Times.

She stressed the need for communities in disaster-prone areas to understand the early warning signs.

“They have to actually be the lead on the ground in terms of their own safety, their own preparedness,” she said.

“For small enterprises, like small sari-sari stores, we can help them also to move to a safer place. The roofing of the house — we can also teach them and help them to reinforce that before they are devastated. It’s really about empowering the community, making them own it. Not just informing them, but really giving them the tools, giving them the capability to also help them address [it],” Pang added.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

[Sea Levels Are Already Higher Than Many Scientists Think, New Study Shows](#)

By: Sachi Kitajima Mulkey and Mira Rojanasakul

New research has found that scientists studying sea-level rise have been using methods that underestimate how high the water already is. One result is that hundreds of millions more people worldwide are already living dangerously close to the rising ocean than Western scientists had previously estimated.

The new study, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, has found that the vast majority of scientific studies have made this mistake. Coastal sea levels are, on average, eight inches to a foot higher than many maps and models of the world's coastlines indicate, the research found.

The discrepancies are much bigger in certain regions, like Southeast Asia and Pacific nations, where ocean dynamics are more complex. There, coastal sea levels are up to several meters higher than commonly estimated.

The new findings don't mean that these studies are wrong in their broader conclusions about the rate of sea-level rise or the damage it might cause. Coastal sea levels are rising as the world warms. What the new findings mean is that scientists have often been working from the wrong starting point when calculating what land and populations might be affected in the future.

In the simplest of terms, they were underestimating where coastal sea levels already are.

That matters as governments and policymakers turn to science to understand how much land — and how many people — may be affected as the world warms and oceans rise, said Katharina Seeger, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Padova, who led the study while working toward her Ph.D. at the University of Cologne. "I didn't expect the discrepancy to be so immense," she said.

It's hard to imagine not being able to trust a map in an age where GPS and satellite imagery is so prevalent. But the new study has identified a far-reaching problem in the method that researchers often use to understand coastlines and how they might change in a warming climate.

The study checked 385 other peer-reviewed papers and found that less than 1 percent had correctly assessed where sea levels are today. The problem starts with a decades-old method that compares satellite-based measurements of land elevation to something scientists know as a "geoid model," which is a technique for estimating average sea level based on Earth's gravitational field.

This method was once considered "state-of-the-art" and commonly taught in graduate school, said Philip Minderhoud, the senior author of the paper and an associate professor who studies

land subsidence and sea level rise at Wageningen University & Research and Deltares, a scientific institute in the Netherlands.

However, other satellites and instruments can measure real sea level and reveal local differences from factors like currents, winds and tides, which can also influence sea levels but are not included in the gravitational-field model. Scientists can most accurately estimate sea level when both pieces of the puzzle are combined correctly.

But largely, the new study found, that hasn't been the case. Some 90 percent of the studies that Dr. Minderhoud and Ms. Seeger checked relied only on the method of mapping sea levels with Earth's gravitational field. Another 9 percent of studies, most of which are relatively recent, did use both kinds of data, but seemingly failed to combine them correctly.

Robert Kopp, a climate and sea level scientist at Rutgers University who was not involved with the study, said the work addresses a technical issue that will matter far more to scientists than to decision makers at local levels. "In general, people who are exposed to high-tide flooding know where the ocean is," Dr. Kopp said. Scientists have long said sea level rise will affect many people, and the new study doesn't change that, he said.

However, from a global perspective, the findings indicate that hundreds of millions more people — particularly in Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, the Maldives and other Southeast Asian and Pacific nations — are living closer to sea level than widely assumed by Western experts and policymakers.

It was 10 years ago, on the shores of the Mekong delta in Southern Vietnam, where Dr. Minderhoud said he first realized there may be a discrepancy. He was doing research on the delta's sinking land, so he was familiar with maps of the region, and he noticed that the water looked "much higher" than it was supposed to be.

It was his first indication of a "widespread mismatch," Dr. Minderhoud said, between scientific understanding and reality in the region, and ultimately led to the study published this week. He said the study shows that methods of studying sea level rise that seemed to work relatively well for coastlines in Europe or the U.S. led to bigger discrepancies in other parts of the world.

Torbjorn Tornqvist, a geology professor at Tulane University in Louisiana who was not involved with the study, said the findings were a real "wake up call," with wide implications. "We finally have a really full blown, robust effort to sort this out and the result, it's somewhat dramatic," Dr. Tornqvist said. "It turns out we've been comparing apples to oranges nearly all the time."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Nueva Ecija is 1st in Southeast Asia to generate carbon credits with biochar; pushes for carbon removal, climate-smart agri](#)

By: Tristan Lozano

In Nueva Ecija, a carbon sequestration project called “Project NuevaChar,” launched in 2022 and initiated by Gov. Aurelio “Oyie” Matias Umali, is solidifying its position as a pioneer in sustainable agriculture, in partnership with Alcom Carbon Markets Philippines.

The facility combined green heat and biochar production and is considered the first of its kind not only in the Philippines but also in Southeast Asia.

It converted rice husks into soil enhancer and generated carbon credits to improve soil quality and support “climate-smart” agriculture, according to Umali.

The project has become operational across the Philippines, including Metro Manila, Oriental Mindoro, Davao, Isabela, Benguet, Baguio City, Mountain Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Bulacan, and Negros Occidental.

In its first large-scale rollout, 363 metric tons of rice husk biochar were distributed to farmers across 32 cities and municipalities, which covered around 181 hectares of rice fields and other crops.

The distribution formed part of a “techno-farm trial,” which included farmer training and monitoring of soil performance in coordination with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist to measure the effectiveness of the project.

Umali said the province is continuing to anchor the project on “evidence-based” climate interventions to ensure measurable agricultural and environmental outcomes.

In 2023, the facility received an audit and validation by Puro.earth, a B2B market for carbon removal, to confirm its net carbon dioxide removal. The verification enabled the issuance of certified carbon credits linked to the project’s biochar production, which was first in Southeast Asia.

“This audit confirmed NuevaChar’s pioneering role in sustainable agriculture, biochar innovation, and regional carbon removal leadership,” the provincial government said.

The provincial government also conducted its first-ever Biochar study tour, attended by the agro-industry leaders, government officials, and carbon technology specialists. It showcased the innovations in the project through biochar, low-carbon cultivation, and circular agriculture.

A learning discussion was shared during the event with the scientific insights from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), University of the Philippines-Los Banos, and Central Luzon State University (CLSU).

On July 14, 2025, Umali formally received carbon revenue derived from the verified credits during a ceremony at the Provincial Capitol. The turnover marked the first carbon revenue remittance to a local government unit from biochar-based carbon credits.

Provincial officials cited the development as a milestone in linking “agricultural waste” management with “climate finance.” The revenue was generated through structured carbon credit verification and issuance. The province also launched a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program on “climate-smart biochar applications” in partnership with Bulacan Agricultural State College and the Global Green Growth Institute. The program provided training on biochar production, soil application, and carbon accounting.

“Through practical field exercises, lab demonstrations, and real-world project modules, participants learn to convert agricultural residues into sustainable biochar solutions that improve soil health, increase crop yields, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” the province said.

In July 2025, the Climate Change Commission formally (CCC) recognized Project NuevaChar during activities held in Nueva Ecija, including facility visits and discussions on renewable energy integration and carbon removal initiatives.

Projet NuevaChar also collaborated with national and international institutions CCC, IRRI, Global Green Growth Institute, Puro.earth, Board of Investments-Philippines, National Development Company, Philippine Carabao Center, East West Seeds, CLSU, and Technological University of the Philippines.

“Under Umali’s decisive leadership, these partnerships have transformed NuevaChar into a globally benchmarked model of subnational climate action,” the provincial government said.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Community-based climate action: CCC, Cebu youth, farmers, fisherfolk underscore importance of tree planting and growing for resilience and sustainability](#)

Santa Fe, Cebu youth leaders, students, farmers, and fisherfolk underscored the importance of planting and caring for trees for resilience and sustainability in the Climate Change Commission (CCC) tree-growing activity for promoting ecosystem-based adaptation.

The activity planted a total of 33 Molave saplings, a native tree species that aids to advance community-driven, nature-based solutions in localizing climate action in vulnerable island towns like Santa Fe.

The initiative reflects continuing collaboration between the CCC and local government units in Cebu aimed at reducing vulnerability and localizing climate preparedness across island municipalities.

“This activity demonstrates how local action, especially with strong youth participation, can deliver tangible climate solutions on the ground,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje. “Beyond planting trees, we are planting the seeds of education and values formation that are building a generation of Filipinos with a keen sense of respect, responsibility, and stewardship for nature and ecology.”

“Climate resilience is ultimately built by people through informed communities, empowered youth, and leaders willing to act decisively,” Borje emphasized. “If we nurture both our ecosystems and our values today, we secure not only stronger landscapes but also a more climate-resilient nation for generations to come.

Highlighting the importance of community involvement in climate action, Tristan James N. Pacilan, a student leader from Supreme Secondary Learner Government of Santa Fe National High School, said that when small efforts bind together, these kinds of activities will make a big impact.

“As someone who has experienced the wrath of a disaster, it is important to realize that it is also us, the people at the community level, who are also one of the root causes of the problem. So now, with the Supreme Secondary Learner Government joining this small initiative of planting trees, we believe that our micro efforts will grow a macro effect,” Pacilan said.

Since 2022, the Commission has been actively involved in tree-growing activities and leading reforestation initiatives, such as the Net Zero Challenge. Currently, the Commission has planted approximately 6,000 trees, with the most recent efforts held in the provinces of Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat in Mindanao, as part of its commitment to localize climate action.

The initiative also supports the Philippine government’s broader climate and development agenda under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and aligns with the country’s National Adaptation Plan, which strengthens resilience through diverse strategies such as reforestation and tree planting activities amid climate change.

These activities form part of the support of the CCC in the provinces to mainstream climate change, strengthen stewardship education, and build leadership across generations.

The CCC continues to work closely with the local governments and communities to accelerate climate resilience, strengthen carbon sequestration efforts, and advance the country's transition toward a climate-smart and sustainable future.

For more information on the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit www.climate.gov.ph and www.facebook.com/CCCPhl.

=END=