



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Climate High-Level Champion Calls for Stronger Global Climate Delivery Ahead of COP31](#)**

COP31 (UN Climate Conference) Climate High-Level Champion and President of the Zero Waste Foundation Samed Ağırbaş visited Baku from 12–14 March to participate in the Global Baku Forum, bringing together political leaders, policymakers and civil society to discuss the next phase of global climate action.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Tuesday called for stronger integration of climate governance across government planning, stressing the need for closer interagency coordination and policy alignment.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**CNN**

[Extraordinary, climate change-fueled heat wave envelops the West with mounting consequences](#)

By: Andrew Freedman

Meteorologists are reaching for superlatives to describe an oncoming heat wave so intense and rare for this time of year that it could leave some locations shattering their all-time temperature records for April before that month has even begun.

This extreme event, made far worse by human-caused climate change, will bring summerlike temperatures during March to locations from California to Texas, northward all the way to Montana. Extreme heat warnings and other heat alerts are in effect for millions from San Francisco to Phoenix and are likely to expand with time.

The event is just getting underway. Before it ends later next week, it will have scorched nearly the entire Western part of the country and parts of the Plains states, toppling dozens of daily and monthly temperature records by unusually large margins.

In Phoenix, for example, the all-time March high temperature record is 100 degrees, but during this heat wave the temperature is forecast to climb to at least 106 degrees and remain above the century mark for multiple days.

“Many locations are likely to set both all-time high temperatures for the month of March and their earliest 100-degree temperature on record,” the National Weather Service stated, predicting high temperatures of up to 30 degrees above average for this time of year.

This extreme heat event may be comparable in its intensity and rarity to the 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave, which killed hundreds and sent temperatures soaring into the 120s Fahrenheit in Oregon and Washington State during June. Temperatures won't be nearly that hot over the next two weeks (it is still March, after all) but both events stemmed from the same place: record-strong heat domes parked over a particular region of the country for extended periods of time — plus a healthy dose of climate change.

A heat dome is a sprawling and strong area of high pressure extending thousands of feet into the atmosphere. That pressure pushes down on the air underneath it, compressing and heating it. This also squelches any storm activity, and heat domes can act like detour signs in the atmosphere, rerouting storms around them. This one is likely to set records for its strength relative to the time of year and could even rival or beat previous intense heat domes that existed during the summer months, such as the 2021 event.

Its intensity is important because meteorologists use such measurements, in addition to surface temperatures, to compare heat waves throughout history and conduct studies of climate change's influence.

Studies showed that 2021 heat wave would have been virtually impossible in the absence of climate change from the burning of fossil fuels. As the planet warms, studies have repeatedly shown that heat waves are becoming more likely, longer lasting and more severe. Since that earlier extreme heat event, multiple heat waves elsewhere in the world have been found to be possible only with the human contribution of planet-warming pollution.

Russ Schumacher, a meteorologist and Colorado's state climatologist, called the heat dome "astonishing" for its intensity in March. Other meteorologists have described the strength of the heat dome as "genuinely startling" and "mind-boggling" via social media.

"With warming, you expect the warm conditions to be more likely and happen more frequently," Schumacher said. "When you get a heat wave, you expect it to be warmer or lasting longer." "But it also just takes a really unusual weather pattern to set something like this up, and that's what we're going to be seeing this week, as well," he said.

The heat wave also constitutes a significant public health threat.

Extreme heat is typically the number one weather-related killer in the US each year, and an early season heat wave poses especially acute public health dangers since western residents won't yet be accustomed to temperatures in the upper 80s to low 100s, depending on the location. Compounding the threat is the lack of air conditioning in parts of the affected regions.

The health threat is multifaceted, too. During the summer months, people can escape to rivers and lakes for relief, but because it is only March, hypothermia is a serious risk for anyone venturing into the water to try to cool down.

The early heat could reverberate for months and have other deadly consequences, including causing the region's already low snowpack to melt out at least a month ahead of schedule. This raises water supply concerns and wildfire worries for the upcoming dry season.

The West entered this heat wave on the heels of its hottest winter on record. Colorado had its thinnest snowpack since 1981, according to Schumacher. "March is when typically we would be seeing more snow storms and continuing to build up that snowpack in the mountains," he said. "And it looks like we're going to be going in completely the opposite direction this week."

In California's Sierra Nevada Mountains, where snowfall was closer to average this winter, the heat wave will cause the remaining snowpack to rapidly vanish, perhaps completely, about five weeks earlier than normal.

Schumacher said understanding why this winter was so warm in the West, as well as studying the heat wave, is crucial to better anticipating what's ahead in the West. "These kinds of warm months and seasons are probably going to become more likely with future warming," he said.

## **ECO BUSINESS**

[Taiwan misses 2025 renewable target as coal power remains above goal](#)

By [Taejun Kang](#)

Taiwan's coal-fired and renewable power generation both reached record highs in 2025, but renewable energy remained well below the government's transition targets, according to official energy statistics.

Data from the Ministry of Economic Affairs' latest monthly energy report showed natural gas accounted for 47.8 per cent of electricity generation in 2025, coal 35.4 per cent and renewables 13.1 per cent. Nuclear power made up just 1.1 per cent after the island's last reactor shut down in May.

Coal-fired plants generated 102.2 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity last year, while renewable sources produced 37.8 billion kWh, both record highs.

Taiwan's energy transition strategy had aimed for a "50-30-20" power mix by 2025 – 50 per cent natural gas, 30 per cent coal and 20 per cent renewables.

It had initially set 2025 as the year to reach 20 per cent renewable electricity. The government revised the deadline in 2024 to November 2026, but economy minister Kung Ming-hsin said last month the target may still not be met this year.

Installed renewable energy capacity also fell short of expectations.

By the end of 2025, Taiwan had installed 15.5 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity, well below the 20GW target. Offshore wind capacity reached 3.6GW compared with a goal of 5.7GW, while geothermal power stood at just 7 megawatts (MW) against a 20MW target.

Chao said ground-mounted solar power remains the biggest bottleneck. Taiwan had aimed to install 12GW of such capacity by 2025 but has achieved only about half of that so far.

If regulatory and land-use hurdles for solar projects combined with aquaculture can be resolved, the gap between current capacity and policy targets could narrow, he said, adding that the agriculture ministry would play a critical role.

One proposal discussed by the presidential climate change committee involves encouraging farmers to replace betel nut plantations – widely criticised for their environmental and health impacts – with solar installations.

As Taiwan prepares for local government elections at the end of 2026, Chao urged mayoral candidates to adopt responsible green electricity policies.

Local governments are competing to attract major industrial investments, but supporting the energy transition is essential to maintaining renewable power supply chains demanded by large corporations, he said.

"Rather than obstructing green energy development, candidates should present responsible policies for expanding renewable power," he added.

Chao also called on large corporations to play a more active role in developing the renewable energy market.

About two-thirds of the renewable electricity used by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the world's largest contract chipmaker, currently comes from overseas sources, he said, while companies such as Intel rely largely on domestic renewable energy procurement in the United States.

"If companies only focus on bargaining for lower prices, the renewable market will struggle to grow," Chao said. "But if they participate in building the system, more green power can enter the market."

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Where have all our mangroves gone?](#)**

By Henrylito D. Tacio

Deforestation does not happen only in the uplands but also in the lowlands. Mangroves, specialized trees and shrubs that thrive in coastal intertidal zones, have seen a significant reduction over the last century.

In 1920, the country had approximately 450,000 hectares of mangrove forests. This dwindled to 317,500 hectares by 1990 and further declined to 311,400 hectares, according to the latest data.

Those remaining mangroves are no longer enough to protect against typhoons. We really need to come up with a strategic restoration program,” said Dr. Severino Salmo III, associate professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman Institute of Biology.

The Philippines experiences an average of 18 to 20 typhoons annually. “Between 2005 and 2015, 56 percent of property damage in the Philippines was due to typhoons and storms, and another 29 percent due to floods,” wrote World Bank researchers Michael Beck and Glenn-Marie Lange.

Dr. Elmer Mercado, a former official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), agrees with Dr. Salmo’s observation.

“Given the threats posed by climate change in the Philippines, particularly storm surges, tsunamis, and severe typhoons, mangroves represent the most suitable and cost-effective adaptation strategy for protecting our coastal communities,” he said.

Frequently undervalued, mangroves are essential for shielding communities and properties from the devastation caused by typhoons. This importance was emphasized by Dr. Moises Neil V. Serifio, then an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Visayas State University, after conducting a study with his colleagues on the effects of Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) in 2013.

“Our study shows that mangrove vegetation reduced the number of deaths and damaged houses during the Yolanda incident,” Dr. Serifio said. “The property- and life-saving effects of mangroves are robust. Mangroves can protect our lives, livelihoods, and properties from the damaging effects of typhoons.”

Dr. Salmo III believes that mangroves can protect coastal communities from typhoons.

“But it is not as straightforward as that,” he pointed out. “The types of mangroves, their length and extent, and their structural complexity matter more than their simple presence.”

To put it simply, Dr. Salmo explained: “If you restore a mangrove today, and a typhoon comes tomorrow, do not expect it to protect the coast compared to more mature mangroves. Alternatively, even if you have 30-year-old mangroves, but they are too sparse and not diverse, the protection will be practically none.”

Some climatologists have speculated that, as a consequence of climate change, typhoons are likely to become more intense and destructive. Given that the Philippines comprises more than 7,000 islands, it is essential to focus on the often-overlooked mangrove forests. Restoring mangrove ecosystems and expanding mangrove planting in coastal regions is therefore imperative.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has emphasized the importance of protecting mangrove forests. “The sturdy root systems of mangrove trees help form a natural barrier against violent storm surges and floods,” it noted.

Aside from protecting coastal communities from typhoons, mangroves are also considered carbon sinks. “Coastal forests help the fight against global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, most of which is stored within the plant,” the WEF said. “When mangrove tree roots, branches, and leaves die, they are usually covered by soil that is then submerged under tidal water, slowing the breakdown of materials and boosting carbon storage.”

According to several studies, coastal mangroves perform better than most other forests in their ability to store carbon. An analysis of 25 mangrove forests in the Indo-Pacific region revealed that they contain up to four times as much carbon per hectare as other tropical rainforests.

Like forests, mangroves also provide livelihoods. Mangrove trees are a reliable source of wood for construction and fuel, prized for their resistance to rotting and insects. However, in some areas, the wood has been harvested commercially for pulp, wood chips, and charcoal, raising concerns about sustainability.

More importantly, mangrove forests provide local fishermen with a rich supply of fish, crabs, and shellfish for income. Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, an academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, describes mangroves as “fish factories.” More than 3,000 fish species are found in mangrove ecosystems.

“They serve as nursery grounds for fishes by providing their fry with food such as zooplankton,” Dr. Guerrero said. “They also serve as breeding or spawning grounds for fishes, shrimps, and mollusks.”

The muddy waters around mangroves are rich in nutrients from decaying leaves and organic matter produced by the mangroves themselves, as well as sediments trapped around the roots. Fish, like rice, is a staple food of Filipinos. That is why experts are urging people to protect these mangrove forests.

“Local leaders must act to preserve mangrove forests and the ecosystem services that benefit all Filipinos,” said a policy brief produced by the Washington, D.C.-based Population Reference Bureau (PRB) under the Research Technical Assistance Center.

Across the country, mangroves are cut indiscriminately for various reasons. A global Landsat imaging analysis conducted from 1990 to 2010 estimated the country's mangrove coverage at 256,185 hectares in 2000. The study, published in the Journal of Coastal Research, found that 66 out of 82 provinces have substantial mangrove areas.

Palawan, the country's "last frontier", topped the list with 22.2 percent of the total national mangrove area. Many others on the list are in Mindanao, including Sulu (8 percent); Zamboanga del Norte and del Sur (9.8 percent); Surigao del Norte and del Sur (6.8 percent); Tawi-Tawi (4.4 percent); and Basilan (2.97 percent).

Also on the list were Eastern and Western Samar (6.1 percent), Quezon (5.5 percent), and Bohol (3.69 percent). About 49,000 hectares, or 19 percent of the total national area, are under the protection of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature for long-term conservation purposes. The protected mangroves are located in Palawan, Siargao, Malampaya Sound, Biri Larosa, El Nido, Tanon Strait, Northern Sierra Madre, Dumanquilas Bay, Sibuyan Islands, and Calauit Island.

Ulrich Kronberg, a German national and president of the Davao-based Mama Earth Foundation, is working to reforest coastal communities in the Davao region.

Mati and Baganga, where Mama Earth is conducting extensive mangrove reforestation efforts, are located in Davao Oriental. In these municipalities, strong typhoon winds have uprooted numerous mature mangroves.

According to Kronberg, Baganga is home to more than 800 hectares of mangroves, a significant figure considering that the total area of the province is 94,500 hectares. At least one-third of the mangrove population requires urgent reforestation, while other sections require only partial planting of saplings to allow natural regeneration.

"Plastic and driftwood are the adversaries of our plantings," Kronberg lamented. "Plastic bags or debris, along with remnants of fishing nets that cling to the seedlings, can dislodge unrooted seedlings from the sediment during strong currents, creating a significant challenge, particularly in sandy soils."

The Philippines is home to 39 species of true mangroves belonging to 13 families. Conservation assessments indicate that some species are endangered. However, inconsistencies between local and international evaluations highlight variations in distribution and population trends.

#### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

#### **[Amihan to continue to bring light rains across Luzon](#)**

Several areas in Luzon, including Metro Manila, will continue to experience cloudy skies with isolated light rains due to the northeast monsoon or "amihan" on Wednesday, the weather bureau said.

In its 4 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said no low-pressure area is monitored for tropical cyclone formation.

The provinces of Cagayan, Batanes, and Isabela will have cloudy skies with light rains due to the amihan.

The same weather system will bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rains to Metro Manila, the Cordillera region, Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, and the rest of Cagayan Valley.

The rest of the country will see partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms.

## **SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST**

### **[Asean bets on new framework to remedy 'uneven' disaster response](#)**

The new 'ASPECT' initiative could help boost quicker collective regional responses during large-scale or evolving disasters, analysts say.

A framework proposed at an Asean ministers' meeting is set to propel disaster management to the top of the bloc's agenda, further easing cooperation and decision-making in a region facing nearly US\$18 trillion in disaster risk exposure.

Analysts say the proposal, if implemented, would strengthen anticipatory action – potentially enabling the bloc to act before a formal request from a member state is even made.

At the 35th Asean Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting in Manila on March 5, bloc chair the Philippines led talks on the Asean Strategic Protocol for Emergency and Comprehensive Transformation (ASPECT) Framework.

“This is a strategic initiative to strengthen Asean’s disaster response and enhance regional coordination,” said Philippine social welfare secretary, Rex Gatchalian. “It will also signal our commitment to One Asean, One Response to leaving no one behind, especially sectors in vulnerable situations.”

Southeast Asia is one of the world’s most disaster-prone regions and faces US\$17.9 trillion in disaster risk exposure – six times the size of its combined gross domestic product, according to Adelina Kamal, an independent policy consultant and former executive director of the Asean Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

Kamal said ASPECT was likely to complement the existing Asean Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), a legally binding treaty formulated in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that claimed more than 200,000 lives.

The implementation of AADMER – in effect since 2009 – led to the establishment of the AHA Centre, which coordinates the region’s aid and relief efforts in disaster-hit member states.

Kamal said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ disaster-cooperation framework was the most advanced in the Global South, but faced challenges from fast-evolving risks that “become more complex every year” due to climate change.

“Currently, the trigger mechanisms for activating regional response is a request for assistance or consent to offers of assistance from the affected country ... 90 per cent of annual disasters in the region are hydrometeorological disasters such as floods and tropical cyclones,” Kamal said. “These disasters can be predicted or anticipated. So there is a golden window where a country doesn’t have to declare a disaster and wait for it to get bigger for a collective national response as well as regional assistance.”

Ven Paolo Valenzuela, a research fellow at Singapore Management University’s College of Integrative Studies, said AADMER had been effective in utilising the AHA Centre during major disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, allowing regional support to arrive more smoothly.

However, he said AADMER's implementation was weak and "uneven", and capacity gaps complicated regional coordination.

The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore had stronger disaster management measures compared with other Asean members such as Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, Valenzuela said.

"This leads to another issue of data governance and interoperability. Not all countries have the same level of data," he said.

Kamal said ASPECT could help remedy that by shifting towards criteria-based triggers – such as risk, projected impact and humanitarian need – rather than purely political decisions.

Proposed upgrades also reflected the fast-evolving nature of disasters and could strengthen anticipatory financing for prevention strategies such as disaster-resilient housing and pre-positioned supplies, she added.

'No action, all talk'?

Disaster analysts expressed "cautious optimism" about ASPECT, saying its effectiveness would ultimately be proved through implementation.

Keith Paolo Landicho, an associate research fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), said ASPECT could help scale up collective regional responses more quickly during large-scale or fast-moving disasters.

"Existing mechanisms rely largely on requests from the affected state, reflecting Asean's principles of sovereignty and consent," he said.

"I believe this has helped maintain trust and cooperation among member states, but experience from the 2018 Central Sulawesi triple disaster shows that structural and procedural constraints can slow coordination."

Landicho also raised questions about funding sustainability, referencing a 2019 RSIS paper that highlighted the AHA Centre's dependence on external donors and project-based financing – a vulnerability exposed by US President Donald Trump's closure of USAID in 2025.

Valenzuela cautioned that ASPECT might encounter the same problems plaguing AADMER, including fragmented data sharing and low public awareness.

"Even though AADMER has been effective, not many people know about it. So there's a risk that ASPECT becomes another framework that exists but isn't widely understood or felt," he said.

He also called for any successor framework to establish a regional baseline: a minimum level of disaster response capability across all member states. “Otherwise, you end up with some countries always contributing and others always needing support.”

For Kamal, what matters most is the work that follows any adoption of the framework.

“Asean often faces the criticism of being ‘no action, all talk,’ but disaster management is actually one of its more advanced areas of cooperation,” she said.

“Operationalisation matters. That is more important to me than the document itself. The document provides the aspiration and the inspiration, but the work follows after that.”

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Climate High-Level Champion Calls for Stronger Global Climate Delivery Ahead of COP31](#)**

COP31 (UN Climate Conference) Climate High-Level Champion and President of the Zero Waste Foundation Samed Ağırbaş visited Baku from 12–14 March to participate in the Global

Baku Forum, bringing together political leaders, policymakers and civil society to discuss the next phase of global climate action.

The forum, organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, provided a platform for discussions on translating global climate commitments into practical action as countries prepare for COP31 in Antalya.

During the visit, Ağırbaş held high-level meetings, spoke with media representatives and met university students and youth groups as part of a broader effort to strengthen engagement with communities across regions.

“As COP31 Climate High-Level Champion, I intend to travel across all regions to engage directly with youth and women’s groups and ensure their voices are heard,” he said during the visit. “Climate action must be rooted in communities and reflect the perspectives of those most affected by climate change.”

Also visiting US for UN events

Ağırbaş is also participating at the 70th Annual Commission on the Status of Women taking place until 19 March in New York, which is the UN’s largest annual gathering on gender equality and women’s rights.

He will also attend the International Day of Zero Waste facilitated jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Organized on March 30, the event highlights the importance of bolstering waste management globally and the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns to address the waste pollution crisis. The initiative will continue with Istanbul Zero Waste Week, scheduled for 1–7 June in Istanbul, bringing together international stakeholders to discuss the advancement of the zero waste movement.

Bridging global climate negotiations and real-world action

The role of the COP31 Climate High-Level Champion is designed to connect international climate negotiations with the practical work needed to implement them. Samed Ağırbaş described his mandate as helping ensure that commitments made under the Paris Agreement translate into concrete results across economies and societies.

“My role is to act as a bridge between international negotiations and the real world where climate action must actually happen,” he said. “Businesses, cities, civil society, faith groups and community leaders all have a part to play in turning climate goals into measurable outcomes.”

He added that the coming years will focus on shifting the global climate agenda from pledges to delivery, ensuring that climate policies lead to tangible progress in areas such as clean energy, resource efficiency and resilient food systems.

Climate action agenda driving implementation

A central mechanism for this effort is the Global Climate Action Agenda, which coordinates more than 500 initiatives designed to accelerate climate solutions across sectors.

These initiatives bring together governments, businesses, financial institutions and civil society organizations to scale practical responses to climate challenges. Areas of focus include reducing food loss and waste, improving water stewardship and accelerating energy efficiency.

Recent initiatives under the agenda include the Food Waste Breakthrough, which aims to halve global food waste by 2030, and the Race to Resilience campaign, which has helped strengthen climate resilience for hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

“The Climate Action Agenda is our delivery platform,” Samed Ağırbaş told. “It helps ensure that the commitments made at COP are translated into real projects and partnerships that people can see and benefit from in their daily lives.”

#### Azerbaijan–Türkiye partnership and the road to COP31

Discussions in Baku also highlighted the close cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye in advancing climate diplomacy.

COP29 in Baku helped advance negotiations on climate finance and renewed the mandate for the Climate High-Level Champions until 2030, while COP30 in Belém has emphasized implementation of the Paris Agreement. Attention is now turning toward COP31 in Antalya, where further progress on climate delivery is expected.

“Azerbaijan and Türkiye share a deep friendship and a common commitment to climate action,” Ağırbaş stated. “Building on the momentum from Baku and Belém, we have an opportunity to accelerate implementation as we move toward COP31.”

Institutional collaboration between the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and Türkiye’s Zero Waste Foundation has also been highlighted as a potential foundation for deeper cooperation, including the development of a future “Solidarity Hub” aimed at strengthening climate collaboration between regions.

#### Zero waste and inclusive climate leadership

“Zero waste is not only about managing waste,” he said. “It is about improving how we produce, consume and manage resources across the entire economy. When we reduce waste, we cut emissions, protect natural resources and build more resilient economies.”

The Zero Waste Foundation, working under the leadership of H.E. Emine Erdoğan, Chair of the UN High-Level Advisory Board on Zero Waste and Honorary President of the Zero Waste Foundation, has promoted initiatives aimed at reducing food loss, improving recycling systems

and advancing circular economy models. These measures also help reduce methane emissions associated with waste.

Samed Ağırbaş, who began his career as a youth activist and advocate for women's rights, also stressed the importance of inclusive climate leadership.

"Young people and women are already among the most powerful drivers of climate action," he said. "Their participation must go beyond symbolic inclusion and extend to shaping decisions and leading implementation."

#### **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

**DAILY TRIBUNE**

[CCC calls for unified climate governance across sectors](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Tuesday called for stronger integration of climate governance across government planning, stressing the need for closer interagency coordination and policy alignment.

Speaking at the Interagency Summit for Philippine Sectoral Development Planning at the Philippine International Convention Center, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the importance of aligning policies across sectors.

“Our policies must align across sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy systems, land use, infrastructure, and environmental management. National strategies must translate effectively into regional planning frameworks and ultimately into local implementation,” Borje said.

He underscored that climate risks are interconnected and require a comprehensive response.

“The risks we face today are systemic. And if risks are systemic, our governance response must also become systemic,” he added.

The summit highlighted key policy frameworks, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), which guide the country’s climate and development strategies.

The NAP aims to reduce climate-related losses and strengthen the country’s adaptive capacity through long-term strategies toward resilience and sustainable growth by 2050.

Meanwhile, the NDCIP supports the country’s target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030, providing a framework for coordinated implementation across sectors.

The event also forms part of ongoing efforts to develop a Draft Action Agenda focused on strengthening interagency collaboration, policy coherence, and integrated planning among national agencies and local government units.

Organized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources, the summit gathered representatives from government, local units, civil society, development partners, academe, and the media.

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to advancing a coordinated, science-based, and climate-resilient development planning framework for the country.

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