



## NEWS ROUNDUP

01 APRIL 2026 | 08:00 am

---

- Chaotic March weather has a surprising secret
- Climate change may produce “fast-food” phytoplankton
- ‘Hot, humid, dry weather to persist in next 3 days’
- 3 PAGASA stations record dangerous heat index levels on Holy Tuesday
- No online reservation, no ferry ticket: Strict Holy Week policy enforced at selected ports
- The latest world climate report is grim, but it’s not the end of the story

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC Joins Global Community in Recognizing Important Role of Glaciers in Climate Change and Ecosystem Balance
- NDC is PH ‘whole-of-gov’t’ approach to climate action – CCC

### ABS CBN

#### [No online reservation, no ferry ticket: Strict Holy Week policy enforced at selected ports](#)

By: Dennis Datu

MANILA -- Starting this Holy Monday, travelers passing through Batangas Port and several selected ports nationwide are required to reserve ferry tickets online to prevent long queues, as passengers are expected to flock to their home provinces for Holy Week.

#### [3 PAGASA stations record dangerous heat index levels on Holy Tuesday](#)

By: Ariel Rojas

MANILA — Three monitoring stations of PAGASA recorded dangerous heat index levels on Holy Tuesday afternoon, raising the risk of heat-related illnesses in affected areas.

### GMA NEWS

#### [UN: Global climate at 'emergency' level as key indicators 'flash red'](#)

By: Jiselle Anne C. Casucian

The state of the global climate has reached emergency levels, with every key indicator now “flashing red,” according to the United Nations.

## **INTERAKSYON**

### [The latest world climate report is grim, but it's not the end of the story](#)

By: Andrew King

It's no secret our planet is heating up. And here's the evidence: we've just experienced the 11 hottest years on record, with 2025 being the second or third warmest in global history.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### ['Hot, humid, dry weather to persist in next 3 days'](#)

By: Rio N. Araja

Hot, dry, and humid conditions will persist in the next two to three days in most parts of the country, especially Northern Luzon, due to the ridge of a high-pressure area.

## **MIT NEWS**

### [Climate change may produce "fast-food" phytoplankton](#)

By: Jennifer Chu

With warmer ocean temperatures, the composition of marine plankton could shift from protein-rich to carb-heavy, a new study suggests.

## **USA TODAY**

### [Chaotic March weather has a surprising secret](#)

By: Dinah Voyles Pulver

As its final days wind down, weather in March 2026 has been one for the record books. It showed why old sayings endure and rivaled college basketball for "March Madness."

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### [NDC is PH 'whole-of-gov't' approach to climate action – CCC](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) convened over 200 stakeholders on March 26 to refine the Philippines' updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate action ahead of its submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

**[CCC Joins Global Community in Recognizing Important Role of Glaciers in Climate Change and Ecosystem Balance](#)**

MANILA, 21 March 2026 — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) joined the global community in recognizing the important role of glaciers in climate change and ecosystem balance in observance of the World Day for Glaciers.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **No online reservation, no ferry ticket: Strict Holy Week policy enforced at selected ports**

By: Dennis Datu

MANILA -- Starting this Holy Monday, travelers passing through Batangas Port and several selected ports nationwide are required to reserve ferry tickets online to prevent long queues, as passengers are expected to flock to their home provinces for Holy Week.

Under the system, passengers must scan the QR code of the ORAS reservation platform, select their port of departure, choose their travel schedule, and provide the necessary travel details.

They must then confirm their reservation and save their ORAS Pass, which they will present upon arrival at the port for validation.

Aurora Mendoza, port manager of Batangas Port, said authorities will verify the authenticity of each registration, which passengers will then present to shipping lines as proof that they are guaranteed a ticket for their selected date and time.

“I’ve verify yung authenticity ng registration and then yun ang ipapakita nila sa shipping lines na guaranteed na makakakuha sila ng ticket sa specific date at oras nilang chinoose doon,” she said.

Passengers without an ORAS Pass will not be allowed to purchase tickets.

Mendoza said the system aims to prevent overcrowding and avoid ticket shortages at shipping line ticketing booths.

She also advised travelers to ensure they have secured their ORAS Pass before leaving home or heading to the port.

The PPA has also set up help desks at ports to assist passengers who may encounter issues with the ORAS Pass.

Passengers who already have tickets or have booked online are no longer required to register for an ORAS Pass. The system also does not apply to those traveling by vehicle.

LTFRB intensifies inspection of bus, PUV terminals ahead of Holy Week exodus

The ORAS Pass will be implemented from Holy Monday until April 8, 2026, at Batangas Port for routes bound for Calapan Port, Abra de Ilog Port, Caticlan Port, Coron, and El Nido in Palawan, Odiongan and Sibuyan in Romblon, Puerto Galera, and Roxas City in Capiz. It will also be enforced at Lucena Port for routes bound for Balanacan Port in Marinduque, Masbate, and Romblon.

Passengers departing from Calapan Port bound for Batangas Port and from Balanacan Port bound for Lucena are also required to secure an ORAS Pass.

The ORAS Pass will expire three hours before the vessel's scheduled departure.

Meanwhile, an influx of passengers has begun at Batangas Port since Saturday as travelers return to their respective provinces this Holy Week.

According to Mendoza, passenger arrivals at Batangas Port are expected to increase by 10 to 20 percent compared to last year.

### 3 PAGASA stations record dangerous heat index levels on Holy Tuesday

By: Ariel Rojas

MANILA — Three monitoring stations of PAGASA recorded dangerous heat index levels on Holy Tuesday afternoon, raising the risk of heat-related illnesses in affected areas.

A heat index of 47°C was logged in Virac, Catanduanes, while Dagupan City and Mambusao, Capiz registered 42°C.

At these levels, heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely, and prolonged exposure may lead to heat stroke, according to the state weather bureau.

The heat index, also known as the “feels-like” temperature, reflects how hot it actually feels to the human body by combining air temperature and humidity.

For Wednesday, April 1, PAGASA said dangerous levels may persist, with Virac, Catanduanes, expected to reach 45°C.

Other areas may also see elevated heat indices, including Cotabato City at 41°C, and Dagupan City, Mambusao, and Zamboanga City at 40°C.

In Metro Manila, relatively lower heat index values are forecast, with 34°C in Pasay and 35°C in Quezon City.

PAGASA earlier said most parts of the country will experience generally hot and dry weather this Holy Week, although more frequent and stronger afternoon thunderstorms are expected from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday, particularly in Mindanao and parts of the Visayas.

The weather agency advised the public to limit outdoor activities between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to avoid heat-related conditions such as fatigue, cramps, and exhaustion.

It also urged individuals to stay hydrated, take breaks in shaded areas, wear light-colored clothing, and use sun protection such as umbrellas and hats, while minimizing intake of alcohol and caffeinated drinks.

## INTERAKSYON

### [The latest world climate report is grim, but it's not the end of the story](#)

By: Andrew King

It's no secret our planet is heating up. And here's the evidence: we've just experienced the 11 hottest years on record, with 2025 being the second or third warmest in global history.

The annual State of the Climate report, published today by the World Meteorological Organization, suggests we're still too reliant on fossil fuels. And that's pushing us further from our goal to decarbonize.

So what is happening to our climate? And how should we respond?

Unfortunately, the most recent climate data makes for grim reading.

#### Carbon dioxide

We now have a record amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, about 50% higher than pre-industrial levels. And we're still emitting large amounts of carbon dioxide through our use of fossil fuels. In 2025, global emissions reached record high levels. The carbon dioxide we emit can stay in the atmosphere for a long time. So each year we keep emitting large amounts of carbon dioxide, the more concentrated it will be in our atmosphere.

#### Temperature

In 2025, the world experienced its second or third warmest year on record, depending on which dataset you use. The average temperature was about 1.43°C above the pre-industrial average.

This is particularly unusual given we observed slight La Niña conditions in the Pacific region. La Niña is a type of climate pattern characterized by temperature changes in the Pacific Ocean. It typically creates milder, wetter conditions in Australia and has a cooling effect on the global average temperature. But even with La Niña conditions, the planet stayed exceptionally hot.

And each of the last 11 years were hotter than any of the previous years in the global temperature series. This is true across all the different datasets used in the report. However, this does not mean a new record was set each year.

#### Oceans and ice

In 2025, the heat held within the world's oceans reached a record high. And as our oceans continue to warm, sea levels will also rise. Hotter oceans also speed up the process of acidification, where oceans absorb an increased amount of carbon dioxide with potentially devastating consequences for some marine animals.

The amount of Arctic and Antarctic ice is also well below average. This report shows sea ice extent, a measure of how much ocean is covered by at least some sea ice, is at or close to record low levels in the Arctic. Meanwhile, the amount of ice stored in glaciers has also significantly decreased.

## Extreme weather

Research shows many of the most devastating extreme weather events of 2025 were exacerbated by human-driven climate change. The heatwaves in Central Asia, wildfires in East Asia and Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean are just three examples. Through attribution analysis, which is how scientists determine the causes of an extreme weather or climate event, this report highlights how our greenhouse gas emissions are making severe weather events more common and intense.

## How does Australia stack up?

Compared to most other countries, Australia has a disproportionate impact on the global climate.

This is largely because our per capita carbon dioxide emissions are about three times the global average. That means on average, each of us emits more carbon dioxide than people in all European countries and the US.

Emissions matter because they exacerbate the greenhouse effect. That is the process by which greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, trap heat near Earth's surface. So by emitting more greenhouse gases, we contribute to global warming. And research suggests Earth is warming twice as fast today, compared to previous decades.

However, Australia is also experiencing first-hand the adverse effects of human-induced climate change.

In 2025, we lived through our fourth-warmest year on record. The annual surface temperatures of the seas around Australia reached historic highs, beating the record temperatures set in 2024. And last March was the hottest March we've seen across the continent.

Here in Australia, we are also battling longer and hotter heatwaves and bushfire seasons. And scientists warn these extreme weather events will only become more common.

## So what can we do?

The 2025 State of the Climate Report shows how much, and how quickly, we are changing our climate. And it is worryingly similar to previous reports, highlighting the need for urgent action.

The priority should be decreasing our emissions. This would slow down global warming, which will only continue if we keep the status quo. Some countries are already decarbonising rapidly, in part through transitioning to renewable electricity supplies. Others, including Australia, need to move much faster to reduce emissions.

Crucially, we must also meet our net zero targets. In Australia, as in many other countries, we are aiming to reach net zero by 2050. The sooner we reach net zero, the more likely we are to avoid harmful climate change impacts in future. To achieve net zero, we need to significantly reduce our emissions while also increasing how much carbon we remove from the atmosphere.

Even if we meet our net zero targets, climate change will not magically disappear. However, by turning away from fossil fuels and cutting our greenhouse gas emissions now, we may spare future generations from its worst effects. That's the least we can do. The Conversation

## MANILA STANDARD

### 'Hot, humid, dry weather to persist in next 3 days'

By: Rio N. Araja

Hot, dry, and humid conditions will persist in the next two to three days in most parts of the country, especially Northern Luzon, due to the ridge of a high-pressure area.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said most parts of the country may experience heat index values ranging from 33°C to 41°C, categorized under the extreme caution level.

“The ridge or extension of the high-pressure area will continue to affect mostly Northern Luzon in the next two to three days,” senior weather forecaster Aldczar Aurelio said during a live early morning broadcast on PAGASA’s Facebook page.

Based on the weather bureau’s forecast, the heat index may reach 40°C in Cotabato City; Dagupan City, Pangasinan; La Carlota City, Negros Occidental; San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; and Zamboanga City.

A heat index of 36°C to 37°C is expected in Metro Manila’s Pasay City and Quezon City, respectively.

The heat index, or apparent temperature, refers to what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity is combined with air temperature.

A high-pressure area brings clear skies and dry weather, often causing hot temperatures and less rainfall.

## MIT NEWS

### [Climate change may produce “fast-food” phytoplankton](#)

By: Jennifer Chu

With warmer ocean temperatures, the composition of marine plankton could shift from protein-rich to carb-heavy, a new study suggests.

We are what we eat. And in the ocean, most life-forms source their food from phytoplankton. These microscopic, plant-like algae are the primary food source for krill, sea snails, some small fish, and jellyfish, which in turn feed larger marine animals that are prey for the ocean’s top predators, including humans.

Now MIT scientists are finding that phytoplankton’s composition, and the basic diet of the ocean, will shift significantly with climate change.

In an open-access study appearing today in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, the team reports that as sea surface temperatures rise over the next century, phytoplankton in polar regions will adapt to be less rich in proteins, heavier in carbohydrates, and lower in nutrients overall.

The conclusions are based on results from the team’s new model, which simulates the composition of phytoplankton in response to changes in ocean temperature, circulation, and sea ice coverage. In a scenario in which humans continue to emit greenhouse gases through the year 2100, the team found that changing ocean conditions, particularly in the polar regions, will shift phytoplankton’s balance of proteins to carbohydrates and lipids by approximately 20 percent. The researchers analyzed observations from the past several decades, and already have found a signature of this change in the real world.

“We’re moving in the poles toward a sort of fast-food ocean,” says lead author and MIT postdoc Shlomit Sharoni. “Based on this prediction, the nutritional composition of the surface ocean will look very different by the end of the century.”

The study’s MIT co-authors are Mick Follows, Stephanie Dutkiewicz, and Oliver Jahn; along with Keisuke Inomura of the University of Rhode Island; Zoe Finkel, Andrew Irwin, and Mohammad Amirian of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada; and Erwan Monier of the University of California at Davis.

#### Nutritional information

Phytoplankton drift through the upper, sun-lit layers of the ocean. Like plants on land, the marine microalgae are photosynthetic. Their growth depends on light from the sun, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and nutrients such as nitrogen and iron that well up from the deep ocean.

When studying how phytoplankton will respond to climate change, scientists have primarily focused on how rising ocean temperatures will affect phytoplankton populations. Whether and how the plankton's composition will change is less well-understood.

"There's been an awareness that the nutritional value of phytoplankton can shift with climate change," says Sharoni, "But there has been very little work in directly addressing that question."

She and her colleagues set out to understand how ocean conditions influence phytoplankton macromolecular composition. Macromolecules are large molecules that are essential for life. The main types of macromolecules include proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and nucleic acids (the building blocks of DNA and RNA). Every form of life, including phytoplankton, is composed of a balance of macromolecules that helps it to survive in its particular environment.

"Nearly all the material in a living organism is in these broad molecular forms, each having a particular physiological function, depending on the circumstances that the organism finds itself in," says Follows, a professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

#### An unbalanced diet

In their new study, the researchers first looked at how today's ocean conditions influence phytoplankton's macromolecular composition. The team used data from lab experiments carried out by their collaborators at Dalhousie. These experiments revealed ways in which phytoplankton's balance of macromolecules, such as proteins to carbohydrates, shifted in response to changes in water temperature and the availability of light and nutrients.

With these lab-based data, the group developed a quantitative model that simulates how plankton in the lab would readjust its balance of proteins to carbohydrates under different light and nutrient conditions. Sharoni and Inomura then paired this new model with an established model of ocean circulation and dynamics developed previously at MIT. With this modeling combination, they simulated how phytoplankton composition shifts in response to ocean conditions in different parts of the world and under different climate scenarios.

The team first modeled today's current climate conditions. Consistent with observations, their model predicts that a little more than half of the average phytoplankton cell today is composed of proteins. The rest is a mix of carbohydrates and lipids.

Interestingly, in polar regions, phytoplankton are slightly more protein-rich. At the poles, the cover of sea ice limits the amount of sunlight phytoplankton can absorb. The researchers surmise that phytoplankton may have adapted by making more light-harvesting proteins to help the organisms efficiently absorb the weak sunlight.

However, when they modeled a future climate change scenario, the team found a significant shift in phytoplankton composition. They simulated a scenario in which humans continue to emit greenhouse gases through the year 2100. In this scenario, the ocean sea surface temperatures

will rise by 3 degrees Celsius, substantially reducing sea ice coverage. Warmer temperatures will also limit the ocean's circulation, as well as the amount of nutrients that can circulate up from the deep ocean.

Under these conditions, the model predicts that the population of phytoplankton growth in polar regions will increase significantly, consistent with earlier studies. Uniquely, this model predicts that phytoplankton in polar regions will shift from a protein-rich to a carb- and lipid-heavy composition. They found that plankton will not need as much light-harvesting protein, since less sea ice will make sunlight more easily available for the organisms to absorb. Total protein levels in these polar phytoplankton will decline by up to 30 percent, with a corresponding increase in the contribution of carbs and lipids.

It's unclear what impact a larger population of carb- and lipid-heavy phytoplankton may have on the rest of the marine food web. While some organisms may be stressed by a reduction in protein, others that make lipid stores to survive through the winter might thrive.

The team also simulated phytoplankton in subtropical, higher-latitude regions. In these ocean areas, it's expected that phytoplankton populations will decline by 50 percent. And the team's modeling shows that their composition will also shift.

With warmer temperatures, the ocean's circulation will slow down, limiting the amount of nutrients that can upwell from the deep ocean. In response, subtropical phytoplankton may have to find ways to live at deeper depths, to strike a balance between getting enough sunlight and nutrients. Under these conditions, the organisms will likely shift to a slightly more protein-rich composition, making use of the same photosynthetic proteins that their polar counterparts will require less of.

On balance, given the projected changes in phytoplankton populations with climate change, their average composition around the world will shift to a more carb-heavy, low-nutrient composition.

The researchers went a step further and found that their modeling agrees with available small set of actual phytoplankton field samples that other scientists previously collected from Arctic and Antarctic regions. These samples showed compositions of phytoplankton have become more carb- and lipid-heavy over the past few decades, as the team's model predicts under climate warming.

"In these regions, you can already see climate change, because sea ice is already melting," Sharoni explains. "And our model shows that proteins in polar plankton have been declining, while carbs and lipids are increasing."

"It turns out that climate change is accelerated in the Arctic, and we have data showing that the composition of phytoplankton has already responded," Follows adds. "The main message is:

The caloric content at the base of the marine food web is already changing. And it's not a clear story as to how this change will transmit through the food web.”

This work was supported, in part, by the Simons Foundation.

## USA TODAY

### [Chaotic March weather has a surprising secret](#)

By: Dinah Voyles Pulver

As its final days wind down, weather in March 2026 has been one for the record books. It showed why old sayings endure and rivaled college basketball for "March Madness."

True to the proverb, the month came "in like a lion," and later echoed Shakespeare's warning to "beware the ides of March."

Relentless, record-breaking heat persisted in the West. Powerful storms and bouts of polar air blew through the Central and Eastern U.S., bringing extreme swings in temperature within hours. Hawaii endured flooding rains in a string of kona lows.

It may come as a surprise, but these weather systems also illustrate how connected we are by larger patterns that move around in our atmosphere.

Though we tend to focus on what's going on in our own regions, "all the global patterns are connected through jet stream interactions and waves around the planet," said Daniel McEvoy, a research scientist with the Western Regional Climate Center. "The patterns kind of feed off each other and drive weather across the continent."

Scientists don't yet fully understand all the triggers and feedbacks in the atmosphere, but they know things taking place in and over the Pacific Ocean influence weather across the U.S. That influence travels through the fluid environment in the atmosphere via planetary waves, said Jonathan Rutz, an atmospheric scientist at the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes.

Much of the activity is linked to the jet streams, currents of typically very fast-moving air in the mid-latitudes of both the Northern and Southern hemispheres, Rutz said. The jet streams exist because of temperature differences in the atmosphere between the poles and the equator that create the strong wind fields. Depending on conditions in the atmosphere, the jet stream can be fairly flat and fast moving or meander.

High pressure systems, usually related to clear and warm conditions, and low pressure systems, often linked to storms, kind of ride around the globe on the jet stream, McEvoy said. When they're blocked, they can linger over a region for days or weeks.

When the jet is streaming rapidly, planetary waves ripple along quickly in the atmosphere, bringing fronts with more frequent changes in the weather, Rutz said. When the jet slows, the number of planetary waves decreases, and the patterns become more amplified, with the jet stream developing big dips and peaks, he said. "That's when we see weather making the news."

In these cases, the same patterns persist over the same areas, Rutz said. That's sometimes a major force behind repeated kona lows over Hawaii, atmospheric rivers in the Pacific Northwest or hot, dry air in the West.

"Sometimes it can be a little bit chicken and egg to determine exactly where that pattern started or what the trigger was," Rutz said. He describes the process as interconnected, simultaneous phenomena that develop "and then kind of lock into each other, almost like pieces of a puzzle."

#### Kona lows

The low pressure system that generated the rain over Hawaii is a recurring winter phenomenon in the region. The pattern is commonly called a "kona low." Kona is the Hawaiian word for leeward and the activity often brings wind and rain to the leeward side of the islands.

Incredible amounts of rain fell with the lows in March, according to a National Weather Service summary using preliminary data. Rainfall amounts ranged as high as 52 inches on Oahu, 54.92 at Summit on Maui and 42.2 at Puu Waawaa on the island of Hawaii.

Devastating flooding occurred in North Shore communities on Oahu, where homes were swept away and residents needed rescuing.

#### Unprecedented heat wave

A persistent high-pressure system fueled a lack of precipitation in the West and enduring triple-digit temperatures. By March 19, weather data shows monthly all-time high record temperatures were broken in at least 11 states where the data goes back at least 70 years.

"It was just really an extraordinary event, for several reasons," including the magnitude and duration of the heat, McEvoy said. "Previous records for statewide monthly record are being broken by 4, 5 and 6 degrees, which is really a huge jump in magnitude," McEvoy said. "The magnitude of the heat wave was more like early summer."

The high temperature in Yuma, Arizona, on March 20 reached 109 degrees, 28 degrees above its 30-year normal.

Among the March records in the U.S., 492 locations broke a previous monthly high, and at least 300 broke records for their warmest monthly overnight low. More than a thousand other records were set for daily maximum temperatures or warm overnight lows.

#### Weather whiplash and climate change

The same pattern that created the rain over Hawaii, and atmospheric rivers in the Pacific Northwest also brought high winds and snow storms and a variety of extremes to the eastern half of the United States during the month. A powerful storm March 14-16 canceled flights, prompted states of emergency and brought the first blizzard warnings in 15 years to Milwaukee.

Several scientists this week pointed to these extremes and the whiplash between them as potential evidence of the warming climate.

Unusual heat waves like the one in the West have been discussed in climate change literature, with forecasts that they'll increase in severity and duration, McEvoy said.

Jennifer Francis, a senior scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center, is among the scientists pointing to intense heat waves in the Pacific Ocean and the likelihood they're influencing the jet stream and the persistent warm pattern over the western U.S.

"They're dominating the influence on the jet stream and anchoring these patterns in place that create these very persistent weather conditions," Francis said in a March webinar.

Scientists with World Weather Attribution, an organization working to understand how climate change is affecting weather events, conducted a rapid analysis of the rare western heat wave and found it would be "virtually impossible" without human-caused climate change. In just a decade, such an event has become about four times more likely due to climate change, the analysis concluded.

The wild swings in temperatures can be unsettling for people, Francis and others said, and also reflect the realities of a warming climate. For example, the reactions to the cold in the Northeast suggest people have become so used to milder winters that when temperatures plunge back to those more typical decades ago, they seem even more severe.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

#### [NDC is PH 'whole-of-gov't' approach to climate action – CCC](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) convened over 200 stakeholders on March 26 to refine the Philippines' updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate action ahead of its submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje underscored the importance of the consultation in ensuring coherence and readiness for implementation.

“This NDC reflects a one-country team approach: A whole-of-government alignment in policy and planning, a whole-of-economy approach to analysis and the mobilization of investment and systems, and a whole-of-society engagement that keeps our actions grounded and credible,” Borje said, as quoted in a news release Tuesday.

The draft NDC 2026 text — developed by national government agencies — was presented to stakeholders from civil society organizations, marginalized groups, academia, the private sector and development partners. The consultation aimed to validate its clarity and technical soundness and to identify remaining gaps ahead of submission.

“Importantly, this updated NDC integrates elements that enable delivery—just transition considerations, strengthened climate finance and other means of implementation, nature-based solutions, and more robust systems for transparency and monitoring,” Borje said.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said the consultation inputs would be reviewed and reflected in the final text.

“Today’s consultation makes clear that the direction we are taking is being tested against real conditions on the ground. The NDC is being shaped by the very people and institutions who will help carry it forward,” Herrera said.

John Leo Algo of Aksyon Klima, a civil society organization, said this year’s NDC consultations showed progress in transparency and inclusivity.

“More consultations were held by the CCC and other agencies nationwide, and we from civil society also conducted our own to ensure more voices are brought to the policymaking table. While improvements such as timelier communications and feedback on how stakeholder inputs are integrated into the document should be made, this was a step in the right direction towards a 'whole-of-society' approach to climate action,” he said.

The NDC serves as the country's roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening climate action.

In its 2021 submission, the Philippines committed to a projected 75 percent reduction in emissions from 2020 to 2030.

The targets cover key sectors and their responsible agencies. Energy is led by the Department of Energy; transport by the Department of Transportation; industrial processes and product use, waste, and forest and other land use by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and agriculture by the Department of Agriculture.

The NDC 2026 is co-led by the CCC and DENR, in coordination with national government agencies and development partners.

The NDC advances the priorities of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines, supporting the country's transition toward low-carbon development, strengthened climate resilience, and inclusive economic growth. (PR)

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [CCC Joins Global Community in Recognizing Important Role of Glaciers in Climate Change and Ecosystem Balance](#)

MANILA, 21 March 2026 — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) joined the global community in recognizing the important role of glaciers in climate change and ecosystem balance in observance of the World Day for Glaciers.

Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, March 21 was designated as the World Day for Glaciers to highlight the rapid degradation of glaciers driven by climate change. The CCC underscored that while glaciers are not part of the country's ecosystem, their decline profoundly affects Filipino communities through rising seas, disrupted water systems, and the unraveling of interconnected climate processes.

When glaciers melt at unprecedented rates, they signal a planet under severe ecological stress. This rapid loss directly contributes to sea level rise, which in turn places coastal communities—including those in the Philippines—at heightened risk of flooding, erosion, and displacement.

Citing the National Adaptation Plan, the CCC warned that sea levels in the Philippines are projected to rise at approximately double the historical global average. By 2030, the national average rate of sea level rise is projected to be between 5.4 mm and 6.6 mm per year, compared to the global average of 3.2 to 4.2 mm per year recorded between 2006 and 2018.

By 2030, flooding from sea level rise could impact 77,000 to 154,000 Filipinos. By 2050, that number could increase to 252,000 to 423,000 individuals. Sea level rise is forecast to cause approximately PHP 18 billion in infrastructure damage by 2030, a figure that can escalate to PHP 41 billion by 2050.

Glaciers also act as natural freshwater reservoirs, releasing meltwater into rivers and streams that sustain communities, especially during dry seasons. As glaciers retreat, this vital source of water becomes increasingly uncertain, a reality that extends far beyond mountainous regions.

For tropical nations such as the Philippines, glaciers serve as vital 'water towers' that ensure a steady river flow for agriculture and hydropower even during dry season, according to a UNESCO report. These are fundamentally linked to local ecosystems through a feedback loop where healthy forests provide the moisture needed to sustain glacial ice. Protecting these peaks is inseparable from safeguarding the forests, as both are essential parts of an interconnected climate system.

As the world commemorates the World Day for Glaciers, the CCC reminded the public that protecting these "guardians of Earth's future" requires action on multiple fronts. The Commission

called for a unified response that recognizes the deep links between global climate systems and local vulnerability.

“Glaciers may be far from our shores, but their fate is tied to ours through rising seas and shifting water cycles. The same carbon emissions that melt glacial ice also intensify the typhoons that batter our communities and the droughts that threaten our farms,” said Borje.

“We cannot address one without confronting the other. Protecting glaciers means reducing emissions, restoring our forests, and strengthening the resilience of our own coastal and agricultural systems. These are not separate struggles, they are one and the same.”

The Commission reiterated its commitment to the Paris Agreement and to accelerating the Philippines’ transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future, emphasizing that global action on glaciers begins with local action on fossil fuels, forests, and sustainable development.

**=END=**