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PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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MANILA, 17 April 2026 — The Climate Change Commission (CCC), with support from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), conducted a three-day Training Workshop on the Compilation of the Agriculture Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory to boost climate transparency.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC: PH must build a unified climate system as risks intensify](#)

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – As climate risks become increasingly complex and interconnected, the Philippines must shift from fragmented climate initiatives to a unified, systems-based approach, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[Extreme weather a growing threat to elections, democracy: report](#)

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Floods, fires and extreme weather increasingly pose a threat to democracy, with at least 94 elections and referendums in 52 countries disrupted by natural hazards over the past two decades, a report published Wednesday said.

Between 2006 and 2025, at least 26 elections and referendums have been postponed, either fully or in part, due to natural disasters, according to the report by Stockholm-based democracy and electoral assistance institute International IDEA, published to coincide with Earth Day on April 22.

Others have been disrupted by floods, hurricanes, heatwaves and landslides, as human-driven climate change is raising global temperatures and worsening extreme weather.

In 2024 alone, extreme weather disrupted 23 elections in 18 countries, the report, entitled "Managing Natural Hazards and Climate Risks in Elections", said.

"From hurricanes and floods to wildfires and heatwaves, these events are damaging infrastructure, displacing voters and forcing last-minute changes to electoral processes," International IDEA said in a statement.

Among other things, the report detailed the effects of Hurricane Sandy on the 2012 US federal election, a 2023 quake on Turkey's presidential and parliamentary elections, an intense heatwave on 2025 Philippine national and local elections, floods and landslides on Bosnia's 2024 local elections, and cyclones on 2019 elections in Mozambique.

"As climate-related risks intensify, the pressure on already fragile democratic systems is expected to grow."

Professor Sarah Birch of King's College London said the study highlighted the importance of timing elections.

"Elections should be held when disasters are least likely; in some cases, electoral management bodies will also need to consider alterations to election timelines to reduce the likelihood of disruption by short-lived disasters," she said.

The report noted that the Alberta provincial legislature in Canada, for example, has moved its fixed election date from May, during wildfire season, to October, as of 2027.

Extreme weather not only poses problems for the holding of elections but can also have long-term effects on democracy.

"Precarity and trauma from natural hazards can exacerbate affected citizens' existing grievances, facilitate the spread of conspiracy theories and impose additional hardship on society's most vulnerable people," the report said.

Democratic institutions, particularly elections, should be treated as "critical infrastructure that is susceptible to environmental threats and in need of special protections".

The authors called on countries to consider including electoral processes in their national climate adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction strategies.

ECO BUSINESS

[Asian countries step up Earth Day push as climate pressures mount](#)

By: Taejun Kang

Governments and civil society groups across Asia are ramping up efforts to mark Earth Day with public campaigns and community action, as the region faces intensifying environmental challenges and calls for stronger climate engagement.

The mobilisation builds on a global surge in activity ahead of Earth Day on 22 April, with organisers reporting thousands of events worldwide and urging communities to treat the occasion as a turning point for climate action rather than a symbolic observance.

In South Korea, authorities are using the occasion to expand citizen participation in climate action through a week-long campaign linking policy, technology and everyday behaviour. The government said it would hold “Climate Change Week” from 20–24 April, including a nationwide lights-off event on Earth Day evening aimed at raising awareness of energy consumption and emissions.

Officials framed the initiative as part of a broader “green transition” strategy, emphasising that individual behaviour — from energy use to consumption choices — plays a central role in achieving carbon neutrality.

Similar grassroots engagement is taking shape elsewhere in the region. In Taiwan, a decade-long “Green Life 21 Days” campaign led by businesses and environmental groups has encouraged participants to adopt simple daily habits, from reducing food waste to limiting disposable plastics. The initiative has drawn participation from hundreds of organisations and generated hundreds of thousands of individual “green actions,” organisers say.

In Japan, one of the region’s largest Earth Day events took place in Tokyo’s Yoyogi Park, where organisers showcased renewable energy use, youth-led initiatives and environmental exhibitions. The festival ran largely on renewable power, including solar panels and biofuel, reflecting a growing emphasis on practical demonstrations of low-carbon solutions.

The push across Asia reflects a broader shift in the region, which has increasingly positioned itself at the forefront of environmental policymaking while still grappling with deep structural challenges.

Asia faces some of the world’s most acute environmental pressures, including air pollution, water stress, deforestation and climate change, all closely linked to rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and population growth. The World Bank has warned that climate change could reduce economic output in parts of East Asia and the Pacific by up to 20 per cent by 2050 under high-emissions scenarios, as rising temperatures, sea-level rise and extreme weather disrupt infrastructure, labour productivity and supply chains.

These pressures are already affecting economic stability, food security and public health, particularly in Southeast Asia, where agriculture remains highly climate-sensitive. More frequent droughts and floods have begun to disrupt crop yields, while coastal communities face increasing risks from storm surges and saltwater intrusion. The Asian Development Bank has estimated that climate impacts could cost the region billions of dollars annually in lost productivity and damage to infrastructure if adaptation measures are not accelerated.

Air pollution remains another major challenge across the region. Several Asian cities regularly rank among the most polluted globally, with fine particulate matter (PM2.5) linked to rising rates of respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

In advanced East Asian economies, the transition is further complicated by structural reliance on fossil fuels and energy-intensive industries such as steel, petrochemicals and semiconductors. South Korea remains one of the world's top greenhouse gas emitters per capita among industrialised economies, reflecting its export-driven industrial base. Japan, despite progress in renewable energy and efficiency, continues to depend heavily on imported fossil fuels following the reduction of nuclear power after the Fukushima disaster.

Taiwan, a major hub for semiconductor manufacturing, faces similar challenges as surging electricity demand from high-tech industries adds pressure to expand clean energy capacity. While the island has strengthened its climate policy framework and corporate commitments, renewable deployment has lagged behind targets in recent years.

At the same time, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are accelerating across the region. Southeast Asia has one of the highest rates of deforestation globally, driven by agricultural expansion, infrastructure development and resource extraction. This has contributed to habitat loss, declining wildlife populations and increased carbon emissions, while also undermining natural climate resilience.

Water stress is emerging as another critical risk, particularly in rapidly growing urban areas. According to a new study by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), increasing water stress and its negative impact on economic output is making it more expensive for countries to borrow money, especially lower-middle-income ones.

Against this backdrop, Earth Day initiatives in Asia are increasingly focused not only on awareness but also on sustained behavioural change and institutional action, linking individual participation with broader policy and corporate commitments. Governments, businesses and civil society groups are placing greater emphasis on translating public engagement into measurable outcomes, from energy savings and waste reduction to long-term shifts in consumption patterns.

Organisers say the growing scale of participation — from local clean-up campaigns to national-level programmes — underscores a widening recognition that climate action must

extend beyond governments to communities, businesses and individuals, particularly in a region where everyday consumption and urban lifestyles are rapidly evolving.

GMA NEWS

[Earth Day explained: When did it start, why, and how do we celebrate?](#)

By: Carby Rose Basina

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. What started in 1970 as a nationwide protest in the United States has spawned into one of the largest global movements for the environment.

But Earth Day is not just a token celebration of how to love the planet. It is a stark reminder of how environmental awareness began, why it matters, and how people continue to take action today.

The world before Earth Day

Before 1970, environmental damage was largely ignored. In fact, according to EarthDay.Org, pollution was often seen as a sign of economic growth.

Many people accepted dirty air and polluted waters as normal. There was little understanding of how pollution affected human health and ecosystems.

Then one woman helped ignite the movement.

Marine biologist and author Rachel Carson raised public awareness with her 1962 book “Silent Spring.” The New York Times best-seller exposed the dangers of chemical pesticides and their effects on wildlife and humans.

It opened with a “fable for tomorrow,” based on real communities where chemical use caused environmental damage, making the issue easier to understand, and a whole lot more real.

In her book, Carson warned that human actions were disrupting nature’s balance, explained that many man-made chemicals had no natural equivalent and could cause long-term harm, and most importantly encouraged people to question authority.

Pushing accountability from government and industry, she urged the public to ask, “Who speaks, and why?”

Her book became known as “the classic that launched the environmental movement,” helping raise awareness and inspire activism.

Unsurprisingly, Carson faced criticism from the chemical industry and defended her work until her death in 1964 but by then, her influence could already be felt in the growing public concern that eventually led to the creation of Earth Day.

The birth of Earth Day

The idea for Earth Day came from U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, after witnessing a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969 that pushed him to act.

Inspired by growing student protests, he proposed a nationwide “campus teach-ins,” where environmentalists and experts interact and engage with students about the environment.

He worked with Congressman Pete McCloskey and activist Denis Hayes, who helped organize events across the country.

And then on April 22, 1970 some 20 million Americans — about 10% of the U.S. population, per EarthDay.org — joined demonstrations across the country where people gathered in streets, parks, and campuses to demand environmental reform.

According to National Geographic, the date April 22 was chosen because it fell between spring break and final exams, allowing more students to participate.

But it wasn't just students. Earth Day united groups that had been working separately, bringing together people from different backgrounds to take part in what became a historic moment for environmental action.

The results were immediate: By the end of 1970, the United States created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and several important laws were also passed, including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, EarthDay.Org said.

Earth Day helped push environmental issues into national politics and public awareness.

Why Earth Day matters and how to celebrate

Earth Day is celebrated for several important reasons:

- It raises awareness about environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss
- It also promotes the protection of natural resources. The goal is to preserve air, water, land, and wildlife for future generations
- Earth Day encourages action and it inspires individuals and communities to take part in protecting the environment
- It also supports the idea that all people have a right to a clean and healthy environment

Per National Geographic, the ways people celebrate Earth Day are directly connected to its purpose. For instance clean-up drives in beaches, parks, and other public spaces is directly related to reducing pollution.

Conservation efforts meanwhile like tree-planting and ecosystem restoration, are directly related to protecting nature.

Participating in recycling activities, like composting and avoiding single-use plastics, point to waste reduction, while actions around energy, like reducing energy use and supporting renewable energy, support the fight against climate change.

Earth Day around the world

Since 1970, Earth Day has grown into a global movement, with over 1 billion people participating during its 50th anniversary in 2020.

In the Philippines, an organization called Earth Day Network Philippines was established in 2006, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, business partners, various churches, and civil society organizations to promote the celebration of Earth Day in the country. — LA, GMA News

INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

[Major Livestock and Animal Agriculture Companies Are Making Climate Promises They Aren't Keeping](#)

By: Georgina Gustin

A new study finds that the vast majority of climate-related claims made by the meat and dairy industry don't hold up to scholarly scrutiny.

Five years ago, the world's largest meat company took out a full-page ad in The New York Times, making a bold claim: "Bacon, chicken wings, and steak with net zero emissions. It's possible."

But according to new research, that assertion by JBS and hundreds of other promises made by meat industry giants amount to hollow attempts to woo consumers and investors with unsubstantiated claims.

A study, published in PLOS Climate on Wednesday, analyzed more than 1,200 claims in which the meat industry announced its intentions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or reach carbon neutrality in its operations. The authors categorize 98 percent of those claims as greenwashing.

"We're at this moment where we're really trying to understand what is a real commitment to saving our planet and what is public relations," said Jennifer Jacquet, one of the report's authors. "And a lot of this is public relations."

The livestock industry is aware it has a PR problem. Animal agriculture accounts for at least 16.5 percent total global greenhouse gas emissions, a figure that has prompted researchers and climate policy experts to recommend reducing meat consumption, especially in developed countries, where people eat disproportionately more meat and dairy products.

Research has found that it will be impossible to reach global emission reduction targets—even if radical cuts are made to fossil fuels—without major cuts to global livestock consumption.

Nutrition guidance in many countries has advised eating less meat for both dietary and environmental reasons, though attempts to issue such guidance in the United States—the world's biggest beef consumer and, historically, its biggest producer—have failed.

Jacquet, a professor of environmental science and policy at the University of Miami, has for years studied the industry's attempts to influence policy and public opinion. In a 2021 study, she and her colleagues found that the meat industry spent millions of dollars downplaying the role of livestock agriculture in heating the atmosphere. That study also found that only five of the world's 35 largest animal agriculture companies had made commitments to reaching net-zero in their supply chains.

In the following years, more livestock agriculture companies began making a range of climate-related claims, saying they would reduce emissions and achieve net-zero. JBS, for one, made an abrupt reversal. The company said in 2019 that it bore no responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions in its supply chains. Two years later, it began making bold promises, saying it would achieve net-zero emissions by 2040.

That claim eventually drew legal attention. In 2024, New York Attorney General Letitia James filed a lawsuit accusing the U.S. division of JBS of misleading the public, saying the company's plans to ramp up production were incompatible with its climate promises.

"When companies falsely advertise their commitment to sustainability, they are misleading consumers and endangering our planet," James said in a press release at the time. "JBS USA's greenwashing exploits the pocketbooks of everyday Americans and the promise of a healthy planet for future generations."

The company reached a settlement in November of last year and agreed to pay \$1.1 million that would be directed to New York farmers to implement agricultural practices that reduce emissions.

JBS did not respond to a request for comment from Inside Climate News.

The JBS lawsuit prompted Jacquet and her colleagues to analyze other livestock agriculture companies' claims to see how they differ in both their ambition and planning. Looking at the same dataset as the 2021 study, they found that 17 of the companies have since made net-zero pledges. (The original study looked at 35 companies; this one considered only 33, because one, Dean Foods, was acquired by Dairy Farmers of America, and another, Wens Foodstuff Group, did not have a sustainability report available in English.)

"Like JBS, none of these companies provide a clear pathway on how they're going to achieve those pledges," Jacquet said. Only one company, Nestlé, made any financial commitment toward climate-related measures, investing roughly \$4 billion, she noted. For the rest, she added, "that shows you that they're not putting their money where their mouth is."

The research team looked at the companies' websites and annual sustainability reports, finding 1,233 environmental and climate-related claims. They found that the companies only provided supporting evidence for 356 of these claims and scholarly research to support only five of them.

Then, using an empirical greenwashing assessment framework, they determined that 98 percent could be deemed greenwashing.

The authors pointed out that some companies have net-zero targets but have only made relatively minor improvements, including reducing idling time for trucks and paper usage at

single facilities in their operations, or improved animal breeding to develop animals that use resources more efficiently. Several said they intend to use methane-reducing feed.

“They make many promises and provide very little supporting evidence,” the study concludes. “Like the fossil fuel industry, which has used greenwashing over the last several decades to delay meaningful climate action, the meat and dairy industry may be misleading consumers and investors regarding whether and to what extent they are addressing environmental impacts, including climate change, with even less time to spare.”

The conclusion aligns with Jacquet’s recent research that found the animal agriculture industry, like the fossil fuel industry, knew of its climate impact long before acknowledging it publicly. And like the fossil fuel industry, it too strategized to discredit climate-related concerns over its product.

SDG KNOWLEDGE HUB

[COP 31 Presidency Prioritizes Global Economy as Climate Impacts Worsen](#)

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In a letter dated 13 April 2026, COP 31 President-designate Murat Kurum outlines "a new model of cooperation," under which Türkiye will hold the COP 31 Presidency, host COP 31, including its World Leaders' Summit, and lead the Action Agenda. Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen, appointed under the Türkiye-Australia Partnership Modalities as President of Negotiations, "will have exclusive authority in leading the... negotiations, in consultation with Türkiye." According to the letter, this arrangement is "based on a shared purpose, sincere cooperation, and a determination to deliver strong and practical results for the world...."

The letter notes that the Pre-COP meeting will be held in Fiji from 5-8 October 2026, and a leaders' event will convene in Tuvalu, both contributing to "reflecting diverse perspectives in an inclusive manner."

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The World Leaders' Summit, to be held in Antalya from 11-12 November, will serve as a platform "for leaders to announce new, concrete, and implementable climate commitments and to launch initiatives that address key gaps and will support positive outcomes in the negotiations."

In an effort to realize a "COP of the Future," the Presidency will rely on the principles of dialogue, consensus, and action. It will focus on the following key areas:

- Strengthening the zero waste and circular economy approach;
- Accelerating the clean energy transition;
- Supporting green and low-carbon industrialization;
- Increasing the resilience of vulnerable regions, oceans, and seas;
- Supporting food security and developing sustainable agricultural systems;
- Promoting climate-resilient and sustainable cities;
- Strengthening financial and institutional mechanisms that support climate action;
- Increasing the active participation of youth; and
- Promoting cross-sectoral action to jointly address climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation.

“This approach reflects an integrated perspective encompassing resource efficiency, energy security, renewable energy, nature-based solutions, sustainable water utilisation, disaster-resilient infrastructure, local climate action, and multi-stakeholder partnerships,” the letter explains. The Presidency will also aim to mobilize finance, technology, and partnerships in support of global climate goals through local and regional implementation.

The Presidency encourages the participation of civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, academia, local governments, and youth “throughout the process.”

The 2026 UN Climate Change Conference will take place in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9-20 November 2026.

THE GUARDIAN

[Heatwaves, floods and wildfires pose rising threat to democracy, report finds](#)

Research shows natural hazards linked to climate crisis disrupted 23 elections in 18 countries in 2024

Democracy is under mounting threat from the climate crisis, with new analysis documenting how elections are increasingly shaped not only by political forces but also by floods, wildfires and extreme weather.

At least 94 elections and referendums across 52 countries have been disrupted by climate-related impacts over the last two decades, researchers found.

As risks intensify, the pressure on already fragile democratic systems – particularly in Africa and Asia – is forecast to grow.

The findings, from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, an intergovernmental organisation that aims to support democracy around the world, is the first global analysis of how natural hazards are affecting elections.

In 2024, those hazards disrupted 23 elections in 18 countries, including Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Senegal, either by damaging infrastructure, displacing voters or precipitating last-minute changes to electoral processes.

The report's co-author, Sarah Birch, a professor of politics at King's College London, said elections should be timed to avoid predictable climate threats, noting that even the US was still intent on staging elections in November, during its hurricane season.

"Elections should be held when disasters are least likely," she said. "In some cases, electoral management bodies will also need to consider alterations to election timelines to reduce the likelihood of disruption by short-lived disasters."

The findings highlight more than 100 climate-related crises, including Mozambique's 2019 election, when Cyclone Idai submerged thousands of houses, schools, power lines and roads and people were forced to move to safer locations, events that the report states "affected the results of the presidential election and the distribution of legislative and provincial seats".

Another example is the flooding that took place during Senegal's parliamentary election in November 2024, when firefighters were required to help bring election observers to polling stations.

Heatwaves are another recurring problem, with at least 10 elections since 2022 affected by very hot weather. Among them was the general election in the Philippines last year, when intense heat meant that some vote-counting machines overheated on election day and ejected previously accepted ballots.

Heat is a particular threat to elections in the world's megacities, which have populations of more than 10 million. The Nigerian city of Lagos now has the most days a year - 89 - where local temperatures are significantly above pre-climate change levels.

To help mitigate the impact of extreme climate events, the report advocates for those organising elections to work closely with meteorological experts, environmental protection bodies, and disaster relief and humanitarian agencies.

Election staff in Peru, for instance, have received training in disaster risk management to help them respond to disruptions on voting day. Next year, the Alberta provincial legislature in Canada will move its traditional election date in May to October to avoid the wildfire season.

Ferran Martínez i Coma, a professor of government at Australia's Griffith University, said: "As natural hazards increase, training and contingency planning is more important than ever. Preparation is key to the integrity and resilience of the elections."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA STANDARD

[Urban heat risks escalating—CCC](#)

By: Gab Padero

Densely populated urban centers are the most vulnerable to extreme heat, which poses serious health risks and strains power and water systems.

The Climate Change Commission raised the alarm over escalating urban heat risks and urged local government units (LGUs) to speed up climate actions to better protect communities.

CCC officials said extreme heat is no longer a future threat but a present danger, especially in densely populated cities. The agency issued the warning last week during the Urban Heat and Drought Summit 2026 organized by the Quezon City government and CityNet.

Based on records, in Quezon City alone, the heat index levels reached as high as 46°C in 2024 and 2025, disrupting daily activities.

“This dry season, we continue to experience intense heat, which highlights the need for urgent and coordinated action. Through NAP (National Adaptation Plan 2023–2050) localization, we provide a science-based roadmap that will guide the country in addressing heat risks while protecting key sectors and human health,” said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

He said localizing the NAP provides a “science-based roadmap” that enables LGUs to directly address heat risks and safeguard vulnerable sectors.

“The NAP is a tailored-fit adaptation strategy for each locality, ensuring that interventions respond directly to their unique climate risks and conditions,” he said.

The CCC said the effectiveness of the national plan hinges on its implementation at the community level, where climate impacts are most acutely felt.

The CCC said the effectiveness of the national plan hinges on its implementation at the community level, where climate impacts are most acutely felt.

Arnold Grant Belver of the CCC’s Policy Research and Development Division stressed the need for stronger coordination between national and local governments to ensure that the NAP translates into concrete, inclusive and climate-resilient actions for every community.

QC Mayor Joy Belmonte, meanwhile, said climate change impacts are most visible at the local level, where communities directly experience rising temperatures.

“But climate change does not announce itself in global averages, it is felt by our people, most especially in specific places,” she said.

The NAP, developed under the leadership of Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., serves as the country’s long-term roadmap to boost climate resilience and adaptive capacity through 2050.

The summit brought together national agencies, academe, private sector, development partners and key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and accelerate solutions to combat urban heat and drought.

The CCC said it will continue pushing for localized climate action as rising temperatures increasingly threaten public health and urban systems. CCC News, PNA

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC, PSA Boost Climate Transparency in Agricultural Sector with GHG Inventory Training](#)

MANILA, 17 April 2026 — The Climate Change Commission (CCC), with support from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), conducted a three-day Training Workshop on the Compilation of the Agriculture Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory to boost climate transparency.

The workshop brought together targeted participants from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and its attached agencies. Participants deepened their technical proficiency in key areas of GHG inventory compilation, including the use of activity data, emission factors, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines.

Beyond technical modules, the training underscored the critical importance of robust institutional arrangements and streamlined interagency data sharing. Hands-on exercises allowed attendees to work through actual inventory estimates for major agricultural sub-sectors.

A landmark outcome of the activity was the DA's expressed commitment to establish its inter-bureau GHG Inventory Team. This dedicated unit is expected to institutionalize inventory compilation within the agriculture sector and strengthen direct linkages with the implementation of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

“We commend the DA for its proactive step toward an institutionalized inventory system, which will significantly bolster our collective NDC implementation,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the DA, PSA, and other stakeholders to ensure that the Philippines maintains a transparent and responsive climate reporting system.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC: PH must build a unified climate system as risks intensify](#)

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – As climate risks become increasingly complex and interconnected, the Philippines must shift from fragmented climate initiatives to a unified, systems-based approach, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

At the launch of the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Philippines project in Pasig City on Monday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the urgency of strengthening governance systems that can anticipate and manage climate risks, rather than respond to disasters after they strike.

“Everybody knows that our climate risks are no longer linear, cascading across sectors and then compounding over time,” he said.

Borje stressed that the country is now being tested to see whether its systems can anticipate risks and deliver timely, precise, and sustained responses to these challenges.

He said the CBIT Philippines project is designed to strengthen the country’s measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) framework by integrating data systems, institutional processes, and analytical tools into a single decision-making platform.

He underscored that the country’s focus now must shift from recovery to prevention, and from reacting to risk to managing it.

“What we are launching is not simply another project. It is part of a broader effort to build a system where climate information shapes decisions and where those decisions lead to real, measurable results, allowing us to situate where we are very clearly,” he said.

Borje said the initiative will align data architecture, clarify institutional roles, and improve analytical capacity so that climate information feeds directly into policy choices, investment planning, and performance tracking, emphasizing the need to move beyond compliance-driven reporting.

The effort builds on the Philippines’ first Biennial Transparency Report submitted in 2025 under the Paris Agreement’s Enhanced Transparency Framework, which demonstrated the country’s commitment to accountability but also revealed persistent capacity gaps.

“The challenge has never been willingness. It has always been capacity,” Borje said.

He also called for stronger coordination across government agencies and partners, warning that siloed approaches could undermine progress.

“We need to work very, very closely together. The work should not stay within silos. It has to function as one. A system where information moves with discipline, where decisions are based on evidence, and where results are tracked and improved over time,” he said.

He added that stronger transparency systems would not only improve policymaking and adaptation efforts but also help mobilize climate finance, noting that “transparency builds confidence.”

“Ultimately, transparency is not just about visibility. It is about being able to steer, to make decisions with confidence, and to adjust when things are not working. And then to do so before problems become more difficult or more costly,” he said.

The CBIT Philippines project is a multi-year initiative supported by partners including the Manila Observatory, Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Conservation International, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.

Borje noted that while systems are critical, their effectiveness ultimately depends on people and institutions working together. *(PNA)*

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