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By: Joseph Bernard A. Marzan

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By: David Brown

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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.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Climate spending hits P1.16T in 2025](#)

By: Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

GOVERNMENT spending on climate change programs more than doubled in 2025, reaching P1.16 trillion from P457.4 billion a year earlier, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Thursday.

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.

DAILY GUARDIAN

[Anti-mining group urges replacing Mining Act with AMMB](#)

By: Joseph Bernard A. Marzan

QUEZON CITY—An environmental coalition is pushing for the passage of a proposed law to replace the country’s decades-old mining policy, citing the need for stronger environmental safeguards and climate action.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, April 22, the Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) called on the Philippine government to prioritize the Alternative Minerals Management Bill (AMMB) and repeal Republic Act No. 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995), which it described as flawed.

ATM made the call in line with the observance of Earth Day, emphasizing the need to rationalize mining practices to support national development while protecting communities affected by extractive activities.

“Measures to address the climate crisis and ensure the survival of the planet should include reforms in the government’s policies on large-scale mining. Mining in many communities today is causing environmental degradation, worsening the impacts of climate change, and endangering the lives and livelihoods of the people,” said ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera.

Garganera said a new law is necessary to ensure that the country’s mineral resources benefit Filipinos, particularly as demand rises with the global transition to renewable energy.

“It is unjust that other countries benefit from our minerals while our communities suffer from the destruction caused by mining,” he added.

The group said the proposed AMMB seeks to establish “no-go zones” for mining in critical areas, including watersheds, key biodiversity sites, disaster-prone locations, prime agricultural lands and forests.

It also aims to strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and ensure greater participation of local communities in decisions involving mining projects.

“A just energy transition entails replacing the Mining Act with the AMMB. This is a concrete climate action that the government must urgently undertake towards nation-building and the wise and discriminating use of our minerals and natural resources,” Garganera said.

ATM also urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to act on the concerns of communities opposing mining operations in several areas across the country.

These include Dupax del Norte in Nueva Vizcaya, Manicani Island and Homonhon Island in Eastern Samar, MacArthur in Leyte, and Sibuyan Island in Romblon, where residents have reportedly set up barricades against mining activities.

“These communities are calling for a halt to mining operations and the cancellation of mining contracts in their respective areas. Earth Day is a timely reminder to the DENR to act on the residents’ demands and to make erring mining companies accountable for their violations and breaches,” Garganera said.

The AMMB has been proposed by environmental and civil society groups as an alternative framework to govern mineral resource development, amid longstanding criticism of the 1995 law for prioritizing large-scale extraction over environmental protection and community welfare.

[Iloilo City eyes cooling centers, more water vs worsening heat](#)

By: Joseph Bernard A. Marzan

The Iloilo City government is set to establish cooling centers and boost water distribution in areas with limited access to water as it continues to respond to the effects of the heat index on residents.

Mayor Raisa Treñas-Chu on Thursday, April 23, said the city is gearing toward the implementation of short- and long-term plans to address rising heat, which has also affected the city in recent years.

She cited a recent seminar in Bangkok, Thailand, attended by representatives from the Office of the City Agriculturist, Office of the City Planning and Development, and the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, which focused on responding to higher heat indexes.

“Our directive is to have short-term plans and long-term plans to address [the high heat index]. Everyone knows that the long-term plan is to plant trees,” Treñas-Chu said in a press conference on Thursday.

The cooling centers will be temporary structures that will be installed in areas that are yet to be identified.

“But aside from that, on our short-term plan, our team has identified [that] we can set up cooling centers around Iloilo City so we can provide good ventilation, especially to commuters,” she added.

The mayor said the city government has taken note of increasing foot traffic, especially in the city’s plazas, which are potential sites for cooling centers.

“If you may be in Jaro Plaza waiting for your ride, we can put a cooling center there where there is better ventilation. We can’t use [air conditioners] because you come from the heat outside and you might get sick. But, [with] just a little bit lower [of a] temperature, good ventilation, and water stations in the city,” she said.

These interventions are just part of the full plan, which a team is set to present to the mayor on Monday, April 27.

The team is composed of representatives from the city government’s Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management offices, with additional support from the City Health Office.

GMA NEWS

[PAGASA: Easterlies to bring cloudy skies, isolated rains over Southern Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao](#)

The easterlies will bring cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms over Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao on Friday, PAGASA reported.

As of 2 a.m. there are no Low Pressure Areas (LPA) that are being monitored for Tropical Cyclone Formation.

Forecast Weather Conditions

Metro Manila, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Visayas, and Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the easterlies. Meanwhile, flash floods or landslides may occur during severe thunderstorms.

The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms with the possibility that flash floods or landslides will occur during severe thunderstorms.

Forecast Wind and Coastal Water Conditions

The wind speed forecast for Northern Luzon is light to moderate and moving in the southeast to south direction while coastal waters will be slight to moderate.

The rest of the country will experience light to moderate wind speed moving in the east to southeast direction with slight to moderate coastal waters.

Sunrise will be at 5:37 a.m., sunset at 6:12 p.m. — BAP, GMA News

INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

[Corpus Christi Plans to Declare a 'Water Emergency.' What Does That Mean?](#)

By: Dylan Baddour, Neena Satija of KUT, and Emily Salazar

No modern American city has ever run out of water. But chances are rising that Corpus Christi, Texas, could be the first. Absent a biblical rainfall event, its reservoirs are on track to completely dry up by next year.

That raises baffling questions for the future of Texas' eighth-largest city and one of the nation's major petrochemical hubs.

"We have no precedent to follow. There's no manual, there's no video," Corpus Christi City Manager Peter Zanoni told the City Council in March, when local leaders first acknowledged that disaster could be imminent.

This week, Zanoni announced that Corpus Christi will require 25 percent cuts to water usage across the board in September. But at a City Council meeting on Tuesday, officials appeared deeply uncomfortable with exploring the details of how life in Corpus Christi might look under these conditions—and whether such ambitious conservation targets were even possible.

"It's not going to be pretty," said City Councilmember Carolyn Vaughn, a co-owner of an oilfield services company, at the meeting Tuesday. "Everybody's going to have to make sacrifices."

The City of Corpus Christi doesn't just provide water to 500,000 residents and nearby towns. The rest of its water consumption—more than half of it, in fact—comes from the multi-billion-dollar chemical plants, refineries and other industrial facilities operated by some of the biggest companies in the world. And those companies—including ExxonMobil, Valero and Occidental—have not publicly explained how, or if, they will implement such steep water cuts this fall.

So what does all this mean for Corpus Christi residents and beyond? Here's what we know, and don't know.

Could Households Lose Access to Water?

Not immediately. Residents haven't been allowed to water their lawns since 2023, and city data released Tuesday made clear: The people have been squeezed for all they can give.

Officials said about 70 percent of homes in the city already use less water than restrictions will require. The rest, about 27,000 households, would face fees for overconsumption and eventually have their water shut off under current plans.

During Tuesday's meeting, though, Mayor Paulette Guajardo balked at that proposal.

“I could never support that, to turn someone’s water off,” she said. She suggested making the household water cuts voluntary instead of mandatory.

How Will This Affect Schools?

No one knows for sure. During a meeting last month covered by KRIS TV, the city’s fire chief, Brandon Wade, floated some disturbing scenarios.

“Do we just call school closed?” Wade said. “Do we have bottled water? Or two pallets of water per school and we can hand some out?”

On Tuesday a spokesperson for Corpus Christi Independent School District, which serves 33,000 students, told us the district does not expect to cancel classes in a water emergency.

“Our working families rely on us to provide a safe learning environment as well as free breakfast and lunch. While we share the community’s concern regarding water, we do not plan to move to a virtual format.”

However, the spokesperson said, “additional water restrictions may come with increased financial burdens,” adding that the district is seeking permits to drill three water wells—two at middle schools and one at a sports complex.

One of the top uses of water in schools is sportsfield irrigation, which has already been banned. Another top use that might be hard to cut back on, though, is toilet flushing.

How Will Emergency Water Rules Be Enforced?

Plans presented Tuesday would formally prohibit watering lawns, washing cars and filling residential swimming pools. The plans proposed a \$500 fine and misdemeanor for a first violation and suspension of water service for a second. Water service could also be suspended for users who exceed their allotted water amount for more than a month.

Guajardo said those plans may change, arguing that such water shutoffs are “just not acceptable.”

What will happen for larger water users is unclear. The city’s presentation indicated that it does plan to charge industrial users, but it also wrote in underlined lettering that “Legal will need to be consulted.”

Corpus Christi plans to adopt its proposal for enforcement rules in the coming weeks but hasn’t indicated exactly when.

How Could Businesses Be Affected?

Current plans call for all businesses to cut water use by 25 percent, but the details and implications of that plan are still being worked out.

“We don’t have enough information from the city to make a statement on how we would proceed or how this would affect our business,” said a spokesperson for H-E-B, which operates its largest bakery in Corpus Christi, supplying bread and tortillas to grocery stores across Texas. “They are also still working offline to discuss the potential effects for commercial businesses.”

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Restrictions will also affect how much water businesses have available for cleaning floors, washing dishes and cooking. But how they’ll cut back is unclear. The chief operating officer for Corpus Christi’s water utility could not provide estimates on average restaurant water usage when asked by city councilmembers on Tuesday.

One of the few firm details that the city has proposed is that car washes will be forced to close completely.

What About Hospitals?

City leaders indicated they plan to carve exemptions for hospital water use but offered few details. Nick Winkleman, chief operating officer of the city’s water department, said some cases, like surgeries, would be “easy,” but others would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

“We’re not experts in operating hospitals,” he said. “We need to understand that, and we want them to present the facts to us.”

Corpus Christi’s two hospital districts are also pursuing plans to drill their own wells, though it’s not clear how quickly they could do so.

How Will the Water Emergency Affect Chemical Plants and Refineries?

This is the elephant in the room.

Data released Tuesday said the city hoped to shave off 15.7 million gallons per day of water demand by September and expects “0.0” of that to come from residential users. Practically all of it will have to come from the large industrial users like Exxon, Valero, Flint Hills and Occidental Chemical.

While city pools and splash pads consume almost 2 million gallons of water over the course of a summer, a single Exxon plastics plant consumes 13 million gallons per day.

“Industry simply cannot compete long-term without reliable water resources,” said Kara Rivas, a spokesperson for Flint Hills Resources, at a contentious City Council meeting last year. The company supplies jet fuel to Texas airports from its Corpus Christi refinery.

“This would force the shutdown of at least some aspects of our operations,” Rivas said.

So far, industry representatives haven’t been publicly forthcoming about how the planned reduction would impact their businesses.

“The industry will never reveal their cards,” said Drew Molly, former chief operating officer of Corpus Christi Water, “because it’s highly competitive.”

Molly said companies have been at work for months developing plans to absorb cuts in their water supply. Those plans aren’t public.

“They said it would be tough for them to disclose how they would operate their business if they had to use less water. It’s proprietary information,” Zanoni said in a March 31 interview.

“It’s really none of the city’s business.”

It remains unclear how much authority the city would wield to enforce its water rules on industrial customers.

“There’s going to be a lot of legal opinions, possible litigation,” said Michael Miller, a member of the Corpus Christi Planning Commission.

A water shortage would raise the prospect of layoffs and business closures if companies faced prolonged cuts to production.

But if the water shortage continues to deepen, Corpus Christi would face disastrous economic consequences.

“Without lots and lots of rain, industry will be forced to shut down,” said Don Roach, a former assistant general manager of the San Patricio Municipal Water District, which buys water from Corpus Christi and supplies it to industrial users. “If the industry shuts down, who stays in Corpus without a job? Without industry, what other businesses could exist? This is an unprecedented disaster.”

How Long Will This Emergency Last?

The water emergency has no end date. Most likely, it would end if rain refills the region’s reservoirs.

If extreme drought conditions persist, the industrial water users could suck the reservoirs dry in a year. But the city, in theory, would never let it get to that point, experts say. It would likely shut the large spigots to the industrial users and face their lawyers in court before it allowed the 500,000 residents of the Coastal Bend to be left without drinking water.

If shortages continue to deepen, the city could implement rolling blackouts of water availability, shifting its supply to sections of the city at a time.

According to James Dodson, a former regional director of the Corpus Christi Water Department: "In the worst case scenario, in addition to all the other measures, the City might limit the hours or days water is available, or rotate water availability across the different distribution zones within the City."

Emergency authorities might also ship in bottled water or start filling cisterns by tanker truck.

After that, authorities would oversee managed evacuations, and most residents of Corpus Christi would need to find somewhere else to live. Officials insist that is highly unlikely to happen.

MONGABAY

[Scientists forecast wildfire risk for species survival under climate change](#)

By: David Brown

A new study warns climate change could increase the global area susceptible to wildfires in the future, putting many more species at risk than today.

Previous research has shown that climate change is increasing the risk of wildfires as precipitation patterns change and vegetation becomes drier in parts of the world. Researchers have now projected how the length of fire seasons and the extent of burned area might change in the future under four scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions. Using these forecasts, they also assessed the future impact of wildfire for 9,592 species of animals, plants and fungi, currently reported on the IUCN Red List as threatened by wildfire.

Under the moderate-emissions scenario, where current greenhouse gas emission trends continue, the researchers found that by 2100, the extent of burned areas globally could increase by 9.3%, and that nearly 84% of fire-threatened species will be exposed to higher risk of wildfires.

Xiaoye Yang, study lead author from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, told Mongabay by email that “there are clear spatial disparities in future wildfire risk to biodiversity.”

Regions such as South America and Oceania are expected to face especially elevated risks of burning, Yang said. Fires in high-latitude areas of the Northern Hemisphere are also projected to increase rapidly in the future, although they’ve historically been rare in these regions, he added.

The study found that the top 1% of species most affected by wildfires (96 species) are found in South America, South Asia, southern Australia and New Zealand. These species, including the Maud Island frog (*Leiopelma pakeka*) and North Island saddleback (*Philesturnus rufusater*), a bird, both from New Zealand, share common traits, the authors write: they have very small geographic ranges and are already threatened with extinction.

Species in areas newly threatened by wildfires may lack adaptive experience with fire, making them particularly vulnerable to emerging wildfire regimes, Yang said.

At the same time, some regions like Central Africa could see a reduction in burned area in the future, the study found. About 1,000 species in Africa could also experience lower exposure to wildfire risk.

“Although the increase in wildfire risk will vary across regions — meaning that some countries contributing more to emissions may not experience proportional increases in wildfire impacts — collective action remains crucial,” Yang said.

Carla Staver, a professor at Princeton University in the U.S., who studies wildfires in savannas, told Mongabay that framing wildfires as a blanket biodiversity threat is a limited perspective, since certain ecosystems depend on fires. “For example, the 41.8% of African species that could experience a decrease in wildfire risk probably mostly occur in savannas, which are fire dependent, so reductions in fire activity in those systems aren’t good news either,” she said.

VIRGINIA TECH NEWS

[Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture receives extension, expands enrollment](#)

By: Samantha Wright Jameson

A Virginia Tech-led initiative helping farmers adopt climate-smart practices will continue through 2027 after receiving a one-year extension from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The \$80 million Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture provides financial incentives and technical support to help producers implement conservation practices that improve soil health, strengthen water retention, and reduce environmental impacts. The extension allows the multi-state program to continue enrolling farmers and measuring outcomes across its growing network.

Since launching in 2023, the alliance has expanded rapidly, with more than 1,800 farms and 475,000 acres enrolled across four states. In April 2025, the program was approved to continue under the USDA's Advancing Markets for Producers initiative — one of roughly 10 percent of projects nationwide selected to move forward following a federal funding pause.

In November 2025, the USDA granted a one-year, no-cost extension through September 2027, providing time to complete ongoing practice implementation, expand enrollment, and conduct a more comprehensive analysis of environmental and economic outcomes. For producers, the extension means continued access to incentives, technical assistance, and market development support.

Support when farmers need it the most

For Shannon Ellis, a cattle farmer in Virginia, the program arrived at a critical time.

“It is a challenging time in the agricultural economy, and the alliance has been a game changer,” Ellis said. “Many farmers want to implement these practices but lack financial support to do so. Because of the alliance, I was able to complete a nutrient management plan and invest in fertilizer for my hay and pastureland much sooner than would have been possible. It’s helped us protect our land and strengthen our operation.”

This sentiment is echoed across the alliance's four-state footprint. By removing the financial barriers to entry, Virginia Tech is helping farmers build resilience against extreme weather while improving soil structure and water retention — benefits that will serve these communities for generations.

“The extension gives us the opportunity to build on the strong foundation producers and partners have established,” said Tom Thompson, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech and the alliance’s principal investigator. “It ensures we can fully evaluate the environmental and economic benefits of conservation practices.”

The extension creates additional enrollment periods in Arkansas and Virginia and opens a concurrent opportunity specifically for livestock producers in Virginia.

Expanding options for livestock producers

A significant milestone this past year was the launch of the livestock subpilot, designed to help livestock producers in Virginia and Minnesota implement high-cost, high-impact conservation practices such as Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.

These plans guide the proper amount, form, placement, timing, and application of nutrients — including animal manure, commercial fertilizers, and biosolids — to maintain soil productivity, optimize yields, and reduce negative environmental impacts. With \$4 million allocated for direct producer payments, the subpilot has enrolled 44 livestock operations to date.

“The alliance is one of the more exciting opportunities to obtain funding to support the risks associated with adopting new types of management,” said Robin White, professor at the Virginia Tech School of Animal Sciences and lead researcher for the livestock subpilot. “It is a compelling opportunity to take a lot of what we do at the university and translate that into practice on the farm.”

Enrollment opportunities

The Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture is expanding opportunities for producers to participate in 2026, with enrollment open April 1–30 in both Arkansas and Virginia. In Arkansas, producers in Cross, Drew, Jefferson, Lincoln, Lonoke, Prairie, and St. Francis counties are eligible to apply.

In Virginia, the program is expanding in 2026, offering producers multiple pathways to participate. Through the general program, producers may implement nutrient management, grazing management (formerly prescribed grazing), or pasture and hay planting on up to 120 acres, with payments of \$100 per acre. Producers seeking a more comprehensive approach may apply to the pasture renovation subpilot, which supports implementation of all three practices on up to 50 acres, with payments of \$300 per acre.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Cebu urged: Align climate plans amid rising risks](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), together with national agencies, local governments and faith-based leaders, is calling for stronger alignment between local development planning and national climate policies to boost Cebu's resilience against intensifying climate threats.

At the Cebu Climate Action Summit 2026, the CCC stressed the importance of the National Adaptation Plan as a guide for LGUs in crafting science-based and actionable strategies, including Local Climate Change Action Plans, Annual Investment Plans, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management programs.

The commission warned that Cebu's exposure to flooding, landslides, sea level rise and extreme rainfall continues to grow. From 2021 to 2025, the province recorded nearly P14 billion in damages from major typhoons, including "Odette," "Tino" and "Uwan."

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje said the challenge is no longer the lack of plans, but the lack of coordination.

"We do not lack plans. We lack alignment. If conditions are changing, our path to development cannot remain the same," Borje said. "When systems align, risk is reduced before it becomes loss."

He added that climate risks are now interconnected across sectors, making integrated planning more urgent.

"We are no longer dealing with isolated hazards, but with risks that move across systems," he said.

The summit also highlighted inclusive and community-based approaches. Cebu Disability-Inclusive DRR convenor Corazon B. Clarin stressed that persons with disabilities must be fully integrated into climate action.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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

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)

THE MANILA TIMES

[Climate spending hits P1.16T in 2025](#)

By: Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

GOVERNMENT spending on climate change programs more than doubled in 2025, reaching P1.16 trillion from P457.4 billion a year earlier, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Thursday.

The bulk of the 2025 allocation was directed toward adaptation measures, which accounted for 97.2 percent of total climate expenditures. These included programs designed to help communities cope with the impacts of climate change.

Just 2.8 percent was allocated to mitigation efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, based on data from the Climate Change Commission.

Spending distribution across sectors further highlighted the government's strategic priorities under the National Climate Change Action Plan.

Sustainable energy received the largest share of P391.88 billion, equivalent to 38.4 percent of total climate expenditures. This was followed by water sufficiency at P313.45 billion or 30.7 percent.

Climate-smart industries and services accounted for P228.77 billion or 22.4 percent of the total, indicating growing investment in making economic sectors more resilient and environmentally sustainable.

Meanwhile, food security programs received P62.37 billion or 6.1 percent, while other cross-cutting priorities — including ecosystem stability, human security and capacity development — made up the remaining 2.3 percent.

The PSA said the data formed part of the Compendium of Philippine Environment Statistics, which consolidates information from various government agencies to provide a comprehensive view of environmental governance, expenditure and outcomes.

The climate spending figures were sourced from the Climate Change Commission, the lead policymaking body on climate-related initiatives.

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