



NEWS ROUNDUP

28 APRIL 2025 [08:00 am]

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THE MANILA TIMES

[The Philippines' blue economy: Charting a sustainable future](#)

By: Ludwig Federigan

AS the world grapples with the urgent challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, the concept of a blue economy has emerged as a beacon of hope for sustainable development, especially for blue nations like the Philippines. Recognizing the vast potential of its marine resources, the Philippines is taking significant strides toward nurturing a blue economy that not only aims for economic growth but also prioritizes the health and preservation of its marine ecosystems.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Our Power, Our Planet: A call to transform climate urgency into collective action](#)

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

The science is unequivocal: climate change is accelerating, and the Philippines, one of the world's most at risk countries to climate change, faces escalating threats. But this is not a eulogy for our future. It is a call for urgent action.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

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Quezon City youth gathered at Barangay UP Campus on Sunday, April 27, to amplify advocacies such as free education and climate justice.

At the Quezon City Youth Covenant 2025, the Kabataan party-list also presented its 10-point Youth Agenda for free, quality, and democratic education, the right to livable wages and regularization, climate action, and other issues in Quezon City.

“Pinresent din namin 'yung 10-point Youth Agenda ng mga kabataan na isa, siyempre prayoridad doon sa edukasyon, 'yung makamasang dekaliter na edukasyon, pagtaas ng sahod at pagbaba ng presyo ng mga bilihan, at siyempre 'yung aksiyon sa klima nating kinakaharap dahil—halimbawa, dito sa Quezon City, talamak talaga 'yung pagbaha eh. Pero siyempre, 'yung panawagan namin na mabigyang aksiyon at siyempre doon sa pangmatagalang solusyon sa klima at pagbaha,” Lorevie Caalaman, running for Quezon City District 4 councilor under the Makabayan coalition, said at the event.

Caalaman also stressed the importance of voter education, especially for the youth.

'Yung mga kabataan, sabi nga po ni Jose Rizal, 'di ba, kabataan—pag-asa talaga siya ng bayan. Siyempre, 'yung mga kabataan tinipon namin para makapagbigay ng awareness. Nakapaglunsad din ng mga voters education hanggang siyempre, nakatipon kami dito para ipanawagan na siyempre, 'yung mga kabataan, siya 'yung ating mga future leaders. At kailangan magmumula sa mga kabataan 'yung boto at 'yung edukasyon na manggagaling sa kanila kaya nagtipon kami para siyempre, nagkaroon kami ng activity para maipakita rin 'yung lakas ng kabataan na kaya ng kabataan na makilahok sa pagbabago ng Lipunan,” Caalaman said.

Other than speeches from youth leaders, activities such as live cultural performances, games, and live mural painting was also seen at the event.

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THE Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is working with the World Bank and key government agencies to establish a unified set of climate change statistics and indicators tailored to the Philippine context.

As part of this push, the PSA hosted a three-day workshop from March 18 to 20 at its Quezon City headquarters to align local data with international frameworks and address gaps in existing climate-related statistics.

The activity followed the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators (GSCCSI) but focused on tailoring metrics to the country's specific vulnerabilities and policy needs.

The initiative gathered representatives from the Climate Change Commission, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of Energy to present their respective data systems and collaborate on harmonizing methodologies.

PSA Assistant National Statistician Mark Pascasio and World Bank Senior Economist Liliana Sousa both emphasized the importance of robust, evidence-based data in shaping effective responses to the climate crisis.

Beyond this effort, the PSA regularly compiles climate-related statistics through the Philippine System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, tracks progress on climate-linked Sustainable Development Goals, and publishes environment data in coordination with agencies.

BUSINESS WORLD

How climate transition planning shapes a sustainable future

By: Benjaminn N. Villacorte

The pressing challenge of climate change demands swift and decisive action; however, many companies are lagging in their efforts to achieve net-zero emissions in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement. According to the 2024 EY Global Climate Action Barometer, only 41% of large companies worldwide have established a transition plan aimed at mitigating climate change, even as global temperatures rise.

Moreover, a significant number of organizations hesitates to set long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, with just over half (51%) committing to goals that extend beyond 2030. The Barometer further reveals that only 36% of companies have incorporated climate-related financial impacts into their financial statements, despite 67% having performed scenario analyses that indicate an understanding of potential climate risks.

This gap between corporate intentions and tangible actions on decarbonization is alarming. Now in its sixth year, the Barometer provides a critical assessment of global advancements in climate-related disclosures. While there has been a significant rise in disclosure coverage — from 61% in 2018 to 94% in 2024 — the quality of these disclosures has not kept pace. In 2024, the average quality score for disclosures is only 54%, an increase from 31% in 2018.

ASSESSING CLIMATE DISCLOSURES

Various factors contribute to companies' reluctance to providing comprehensive climate disclosures. Concerns about disclosing sensitive business information, the potential for accusations of greenwashing, and fears of legal repercussions from stakeholders can all deter transparency. Some organizations may not have made adequate progress on climate initiatives to present a favorable narrative.

Companies' climate disclosures are significantly influenced by regulations. The relaxation of environmental regulations during the Trump administration may discourage some companies to report climate-related information. Additionally, the EU Simplification Omnibus Package could impact climate reporting by narrowing the scope of companies obliged to comply with sustainability-related EU directives. This reduction in regulatory requirements and priority may lead to decreased transparency in climate disclosures among affected companies.

INDUSTRY TRENDS AND INSIGHTS

Regulatory developments and increasing pressure from stakeholders are fostering improvements in the quality of climate disclosures across various sectors. However, the Barometer highlights a concerning lack of urgency among companies to take meaningful action against the climate crisis. Despite this, some progress in climate disclosures has been noted, primarily driven by regulatory changes.

HIGH PERFORMERS AND UNDERACHIEVERS

Countries with robust climate reporting regulations, such as the UK (with a quality score of 69%) and the EU (60%), demonstrate enhanced disclosure quality and a greater likelihood of having transition plans in place. Conversely, limited advancements in countries like India, the US, and China raise concerns, given their substantial contributions to global emissions.

The Middle East, Southeast Asia, and India continue to lag in both disclosure quality and coverage, although all three regions have experienced improvements of over 20% since last year's study. Companies are increasingly motivated to report to meet stakeholder expectations regarding climate action and the integration of sustainability into their business strategies.

In the Philippines, companies are still mainly driven by compliance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) regulatory requirements for sustainability reporting. Leading companies though have disclosed their climate strategy, targets and commitments, demonstrating their capacity for more comprehensive climate disclosures. Having an established regulation in place will serve as a catalyst for companies to enhance their climate reporting practices.

PREPAREDNESS FOR ISSB STANDARDS

The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) has rolled out voluntary standards that many jurisdictions are planning to adopt. As a result, the proportion of companies disclosing in accordance with the IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures recommendations has risen significantly.

The highest readiness scores for ISSB adoption were recorded in Taiwan and the UK (both at 68%), reflecting the proactive measures taken by these jurisdictions.

In the Philippines, the adoption of ISSB standards will be implemented in phases, beginning with mandatory disclosures in 2027 covering 2026 data. This rollout will be tiered according to market capitalization. In addition, the SEC, in collaboration with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE), is actively developing the Philippines Sustainability Reporting Roadmap this year. This initiative seeks to create a structured

and globally aligned approach to sustainability reporting within the country, potentially driving companies to enhance their climate disclosures. Given this, it is anticipated that an increasing number of companies will also begin aligning their sustainability disclosures with IFRS S2.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE RISKS

Many companies are reluctant to recognize the financial implications of climate-related risks in their financial statements. While most disclosures are qualitative descriptions of these risks, some companies choose to conduct climate scenario analysis. This approach assists them in evaluating the potential impacts of climate change and translate those effects into quantifiable financial implications.

The Barometer indicates that only 36% of surveyed companies have acknowledged climate-related financial impacts, a modest increase from 33% last year. This stagnation is concerning, particularly given that the average GDP for the 51 assessed countries is projected to decline by 35% by 2100 without further climate action. Only 17% of companies in the Americas recognize that climate risk could significantly impact their financial performance, despite the high risk of adverse effects on GDP in the US and Canada.

PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY

The current level of transition planning and target-setting is insufficient to enable decarbonization and mitigate the severe consequences of climate change. Only 41% of companies have developed transition plans, while 21% lack a plan but have indicated intentions to create one.

Organizations with transition plans generally exhibit higher-quality climate disclosures. However, the inaction on transition planning contradicts the ambitious climate objectives many companies have established. A significant majority (83%) of companies has set short-term targets aimed for achievement by 2030.

C-LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Despite the challenges companies face in transitioning to net-zero, they can accelerate their efforts. First, integrating transition planning into the core business strategy is essential. This involves developing a comprehensive, actionable plan based on science-based targets that includes clear short- and long-term goals for Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. Additionally, companies should incorporate climate risk into their financial statements. By adopting quantitative analysis to measure climate-related risks and opportunities, organizations can ensure a direct link to financial reporting. This connection

will help them identify potential financial impacts and explore new business opportunities that arise from climate action.

Moreover, companies may look at other climate-related opportunities that they can take advantage of such as investing in renewable energy, supporting innovative technology solutions, and participating in carbon credit markets to offset their emissions. By actively pursuing these opportunities, companies can contribute to climate change mitigation while also enhancing their competitive advantage in the market.

Finally, leveraging data effectively is crucial for informed decision-making. By capturing and analyzing relevant data, companies can enhance their real-time decision-making capabilities and better prepare for future climate challenges. This includes comprehensive reporting on TCFD pillars and GHG emissions, which can aid in setting net-zero targets and developing strategies to mitigate climate risks.

TACKLING THE GROWING CLIMATE CRISIS

The 2024 EY Global Climate Action Barometer highlights the pressing need for companies to significantly improve their climate-related disclosures to effectively tackle the growing climate crisis. Organizations must prioritize the development of robust transition plans, ensure that their scenario analyses are integrated with financial reporting, and establish scientifically grounded targets for both the short and long term.

By taking these essential steps, businesses can not only align with global climate goals but also position themselves as leaders in the transition to a sustainable future.

ECO BUSINESS

[How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected](#)

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As more data and research reveal the connections between gender, social equity and climate change, it's time to talk about how climate change impacts women and girls, why gender equality is key to global climate action, and how we must support solutions for women, by women.

How does climate change impact women and girls?

The climate crisis is not “gender neutral”. Women and girls bear the brunt of its impacts, which amplify existing gender inequalities and pose unique threats to their livelihoods, health and safety.

Feminist climate justice brings a gender lens to the fight against climate change, acknowledging how the drivers of the climate crisis are also the drivers of gender inequalities.

The Gender Snapshot 2024 report indicates that by 2050, climate change may push up to 158 million more women and girls into poverty (16 million more than the total number of men and boys). Even today, 47.8 million more women face food insecurity and hunger than men.

Women depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources

In many regions, women bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water and fuel for their families. When these resources become scarce due to the changing climate, women must work harder and travel farther. This also puts added pressure on girls, who sometimes have to leave school to help their mothers manage the increased burden.

“Women are the ones to face and respond to the effects of climate change, but their role is not understood, much less made visible,” says Miriam Jemio, an environmental journalist from Bolivia.

“Extractivism and the climate crisis have profound socio-environmental impact on Indigenous populations, but these impacts affect women differently.” She gives the

example of Indigenous women in the Chiquitanía (a region in eastern Bolivia), whose traditional care responsibilities for their families include fetching water. “Water is increasingly scarce... In the Chiquitanía, there are seasons when women have to travel to another community or even to the nearest city.”

Climate change is driving a surge in gender-based violence

A 2025 UN Spotlight brief finds that climate change is intensifying the social and economic stresses that are fueling increased levels of violence against women and girls. For example, one study highlighted in the brief found a 28 per cent increase in femicide during heatwaves.

Without urgent action, climate change could be linked to one in every ten cases of intimate partner violence by the end of the century. The impacts will be felt hardest in communities where women already face entrenched inequalities.

Climate change is a “threat multiplier” worsening gender inequality in conflict affected-areas

The impacts of climate change escalate social, political and economic tensions in fragile and conflict-affected settings – areas in which women and girls are already vulnerable to all forms of gender-based violence. For instance, in rural economies, a prolonged drought or powerful flood that hits local agriculture can destroy sources of income, as well as access to food and clean water. This can be the match that strikes the powder keg in areas of existing political destabilisation.

Research shows that the instability and poverty that follow these climate-fueled conflicts lead to more instances of conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking and child marriage.

Women and girls are less likely to survive natural hazards

Climate change is fueling more extreme weather and other natural hazards. When disasters strike, women are disproportionately impacted and more likely to be injured due to long-standing gender inequalities that have created disparities in information, mobility, decision-making and access to resources and training.

In the aftermath, women and girls are less able to access relief and assistance, further threatening their livelihoods, well-being and recovery, and creating a vicious cycle of vulnerability to future disasters.

Climate change also impacts maternal and neonatal health, especially when disasters and conflicts limit access to services and health care. Research indicates that extreme

heat increases the incidence of stillbirth, and warming global temperatures are helping to spread vector-borne illnesses such as malaria, dengue fever, and Zika virus.

How does climate change intersect with other inequalities for women and girls?

While women and girls experience disproportionate impacts from climate change at the global level, the effects are not uniform.

Looking at climate change through the lens of intersectional feminism – meaning, the way in which various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other – it is clear that climate change risks are acute for Indigenous and Afro-descendent women and girls, older women, LGBTIQ+ people, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women, and those living in rural, remote, conflict and disaster-prone areas.

“If you are invisible in everyday life, your needs will not be thought of, let alone addressed, in a crisis situation,” says Matcha Phorn-in, a lesbian feminist human-rights defender who works to empower stateless and landless Indigenous women, girls and young LGBTIQ+ people in Thailand’s Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, and Tak provinces.

“Humanitarian programmes tend to be heteronormative and can reinforce the patriarchal structure of society if they do not take into account sexual and gender diversity,” Phorn-in explains. “In addressing structural change, we are advocating for and working towards equality of all kinds.”

Can empowering women help fight climate change?

Because women and girls – especially in rural and Indigenous communities – bear the brunt of climate change’s devastating effects, they also stand at the forefront of solutions.

Take for example the “conchera women” (shell women) of Tumaco, Colombia who, for generations, have been sustainably harvesting a mollusc called piangu for food and income. When they recognised that the destruction of local mangrove forests was destroying the piangu, they came together to create a programme to replant the trees. Not only will the mangroves help preserve the local harvest and traditions, they’ll also filter water, preserve coastlines and absorb carbon.

“We have learned resilience from the mangroves,” says Magnolia Ordoñez, a conchera with the Raíces del Manglar Association. She adds that the process has taught them business planning, financial management, and the importance of supporting other women. “It has given us new hope; highlighted our role in the community.”

As the world reflects on 30 years since the Beijing Platform for Action, the most visionary plan for gender equality to date, it's critical to prioritise women's and girls' rights and leadership in climate action. That means increasing investments and access to green jobs, like care work, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy.

By addressing gender inequality for all women and girls, we can better understand the complex and varying impacts of climate change. And the more we understand these impacts, the stronger and more sustainable our climate solutions will be.

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By: Myrna M. Velasco

It's disheartening to see many Philippine businesses, especially in the energy sector, still clinging to the tired excuse that "we pollute less, so we should do less." This perspective misses the point entirely; climate action isn't a competition to see who the worst polluter is, but a collective fight where every single avoided ton of carbon emissions offers a glimmer of hope for humanity's survival.

This year's Earth Day theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," directly challenged global leaders and supply chain giants: enough with the greenwashing. It's time to harness the genuine power of renewables and sustainability before our very eyes witness the planet's irreversible decline.

That crucial message resonated at the Leaders Session on Climate and the Just Transition in Brazil, prompting United Nations Secretary General António Guterres to urge countries to "step up efforts to submit the strongest possible national climate plans well ahead of COP30," or what we call NDC 3.0. These plans must accelerate the shift from fossil fuels to renewables and be tightly integrated into national energy and development strategies that align with climate goals.

NDCs 3.0 refer to the mandatory climate action plans, or Nationally Determined Contributions, under the Paris Agreement. These are submitted to the UNFCCC every five years, with the next ones due in early 2025, before the COP30 Climate Change Summit in Belém, Brazil, this November. The message is clear: it's time for countries to move beyond vague promises and implement concrete policies that slash emissions. Crucially, these targets must include timelines for phasing out dependence on fossil fuels.

The NDCs are more than just another round of climate homework; they represent each nation's strategic plan for reducing emissions by 2035. These plans will be assessed as part of the Global Stocktake, which reflects and measures how far we are from translating climate commitments into tangible action.

Turning our attention back to the Philippines, a climate-vulnerable nation, the critical question is whether it's genuinely committed to its Paris pledges or simply putting on a green facade while its emissions continue to rise.

One energy sector executive cuts to the chase: "Have we actually quantified our carbon emissions reduction, and where do we stand in terms of our NDC? Do we even know how to measure? How can you manage something you can't measure?" Without mincing

words, he pointed out that the fundamental first step for the country is to accurately measure its carbon emissions. Only then can we effectively manage the emission cuts we're aiming for. This is the bedrock upon which the government needs to build its decarbonization policy.

The bigger challenge, as the industry source aptly puts it, is: "How can we seriously discuss 2030 emission targets when coal still dominates our energy mix, with even more plants in the pipeline to fuel economic growth?" While we may still need coal for the time being, the real policy conundrum is: when will we finally remove it from the driver's seat?

Fossil Fuels: The Roadblock to Climate Ambitions?

The UN Secretary General frankly acknowledged that "our world faces massive headwinds and a multitude of crises. But we cannot allow climate commitments to be blown off course." He emphasized that while "dissenters and fossil fuel interests may try to stand in the way, no group or government can stop the clean energy revolution. Science is on our side – and economics have shifted."

At this juncture, however, Guterres paints a stark reality: "Africa and other parts of the developing world are experiencing faster warming – and the Pacific islands are seeing faster sea-level rise – even while the global average itself is accelerating."

Despite this alarming situation, the world hasn't given up on the climate battle. The UN chief noted that "since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the projected global warming-curve has bent down - from over 4.0 degrees of temperature rise within this century, to 2.6 degrees if current national climate action plans are fully implemented."

Guterres also offered a ray of hope, stating that "countries are waking up to a clear fact: renewables are the economic opportunity of the century." He further stressed that "prices for renewables have plummeted, and the sector is booming – creating jobs and boosting competitiveness and growth worldwide." He added, "The pathway out of climate hell is paved by renewables. They offer the surest route to energy sovereignty and security, and ending dependence on volatile and expensive fossil fuel imports."

However, to make the 1.5°C target a reality, the UN Secretary General laid down a firm challenge: at COP30, leaders must present a solid plan to channel \$1.3 trillion a year to developing countries by 2035. His primary call is for developed nations to honor their commitments by doubling adaptation finance to at least \$40 billion annually starting this 2025.

Even with Trump's past withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, Guterres isn't dismissing the US, recognizing that the world's largest economy operates on markets, not just

mandates. With renewables now more cost-effective than fossil fuels, its private sector is, in many ways, continuing to push forward for a clean energy future.

Ultimately, whether it's climate-vulnerable nations like the Philippines or high-emitting giants like the US and China, the core challenge remains the same: safeguarding the planet for future generations. We must fuel economic growth, but that growth must be built upon smart, responsible choices that respect our obligation to preserve the Earth.

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Our theme for this year's International Mother Earth Day, "Our Power, Our Planet," reflects the solutions embedded in our laws, communities, and enduring bayanihan spirit.

At the Climate Change Commission (CCC), we recognize that sustainability and climate resilience are a vision for the future that we — the national and local governments, our development partners, and our institutions — are all duty-bound to fulfill. The policies we make and the resources we deliver need to be ambitious and transformational, shaped by the principles of climate justice and equity.

The Philippine government has enacted robust frameworks like the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), that mandate climate-smart adaptation infrastructure, renewable energy transitions, and climate-resilient communities. Local governments, such as Quezon City's plastic-free initiatives, translate these policies into tangible progress, while development partners help activate and sustain these programs and interventions through grants.

These efforts are vital, but they are only half the equation.

Front and center in the landscape of climate actors are civil society and the private sector, for whom these policies exist. Communities and localities, the academe, the scientific community, businesses big and small — every Filipino has a stake in our vision of a climate-smart, climate-resilient future.

Our frameworks were designed with the imperative of inclusion — on one hand ensuring that the government's policy-making processes were informed and driven by citizens; and, equally important, the same framework drawing its transformative power from the people for whom these policies were created. This means that at the heart of climate governance are the people themselves, citizens in nation-building empowered to lead the change on the ground; and, from the ground-up, call for government accountability on the promises it made in these policies and laws.

The development of the NAP and NDCIP is a sterling example of this imperative: communities made their voices heard on the urgency of mangrove protection, scientists modeled typhoon trajectories, youth activists demanded coal phase-outs. Now, we enter an even more important phase as we begin to localize the NAP and NDCIP. We ask citizens to not just be passive recipients but as rights holders that will take the lead in the transformation of their communities and the empowerment of sectoral constituencies as we make adaptation and mitigation happen in their localities.

This is climate governance reimagined, where policies are informed by the people and powered through the people.

The CCC's mandate is clear, that is to ensure that every Filipino recognizes their role in this covenant. Duty-bearers deliver on their promise to craft policies and provide communities the wherewithal to turn these policies into results. Rights holders provide the vision, the grassroots wisdom, the private- and citizen-led investment solutions, the courage to drive reimagined systems.

We already see this bayanihan in the way local governments allocate budgets for adaptation and mitigation, corporates adjusting their business models for a future driven by a carbon-free economy, development partners funding, among others, nature-based solutions, and sectors such as the youth using digital fluency to spread climate awareness.

This Earth Day, let's rewrite our role from victims of the crisis to victors of solutions. Every question asked, every peso spent, and every story shared weave together the tapestry of our collective resilience. The time for isolated acts is over; the era of bayanihan for our planet has begun.

We at the CCC do not claim to have all the answers. But we are certain of this: The Filipino people united across islands, generations, and sectors are our greatest asset.

Let us channel this ingenuity toward a future where "climate vulnerability" gives way to "climate victory."

The fight for Our Power, Our Planet begins not in conference rooms, but in communities. It begins with all of us. Ang ating lakas ay nasa ating pagtutulungan

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