



NEWS ROUNDUP

28 APRIL 2026 | 08:00 am

- BFAR strengthens fisheries management, climate resilience efforts in MIMAROPA
- Big-time rollback for diesel, kerosene on April 28, 2026; price hike for gasoline
- Cebu heat index may peak by mid-May
- Climate Change Commission warns NZ ETS could fail without reform
- HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas to sizzle at 'danger' level Monday (April 27)
- PAGASA: 13 areas hit 'danger' heat index on Sunday; 10 areas on Monday
- PH to lead joint ASEAN climate position at COP31
- The Next El Niño Could Lock Earth Into a Hotter Climate

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC, stakeholders push for stronger alignment of climate plans to strengthen Cebu's resilience
- DENR czar pushes community-level impact as PH hosts ASEAN Climate Week 2026

GMA NEWS

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By: Sherilyn Untalan

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By: Sundry Locus

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INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas to sizzle at 'danger' level Monday \(April 27\)](#)

By: Mary Joy Salcedo

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices are forecast to soar in 10 areas across the country, while Metro Manila is seen to reach 40°C to 41°C on Monday, April 27, according to the state weather bureau.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[BFAR strengthens fisheries management, climate resilience efforts in MIMAROPA](#)

By: Luis T. Cueto

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro (PIA) — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) continues to intensify fisheries management and sustainability efforts across the MIMAROPA region amid challenges posed by climate change and increasing fishing activities.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – The Philippines is leading the preparation of a joint Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) statement on climate change ahead of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to be held at the Antalya Expo Center in Antalya, Turkey, in November.

RNZ

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SUNSTAR

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By: Juan Carlo De Vela

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[CCC, stakeholders push for stronger alignment of climate plans to strengthen Cebu's resilience](#)

CEBU CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC), along with other national government agencies, local officials, and faith-based leaders, pushed for stronger alignment between local planning and national climate policies to reinforce Cebu's resilience against intensifying climate risks during the Cebu Climate Action Summit 2026.

MANILA BULLETIN

[DENR czar pushes community-level impact as PH hosts ASEAN Climate Week 2026](#)

Amid worsening floods, droughts, stronger typhoons, and rising sea levels, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna on Monday, April 27, said that climate action must translate into real, on-the-ground benefits for communities.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

GMA NEWS

[PAGASA: 13 areas hit 'danger' heat index on Sunday: 10 areas on Monday](#)

By: Sherilyn Untalan

At least 13 areas in the country recorded “danger” level heat index on Sunday, with temperatures reaching as high as 45°C, while 10 areas are expected to experience the same levels on Monday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Based on PAGASA’s 5 p.m. monitoring for April 26, the highest heat index was logged in Dumangas, Iloilo and Guiuan, Eastern Samar at 45°C.

Under PAGASA’s classification, a heat index of 42°C to 51°C falls under the “danger” category, where heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely, while prolonged exposure may lead to heat stroke.

Also under the “danger” category on Sunday were:

- Sangley Point, Cavite City – 44°C
- Cuyo, Palawan – 44°C
- San Ildefonso, Bulacan – 43°C
- San Jose, Occidental Mindoro – 43°C
- Iloilo City – 43°C
- La Granja, La Carlota City, Negros Occidental – 43°C
- Baler, Aurora – 42°C
- Casiguran, Aurora – 42°C
- Iba, Zambales – 42°C
- Puerto Princesa City, Palawan – 42°C
- Roxas City, Capiz – 42°C
- Zamboanga City – 42°C

In Metro Manila, the heat index reached 41°C in NAIA, Pasay City and 40°C at Science Garden, Quezon City—both under the “extreme caution” category.

PAGASA advised the public to limit outdoor activities, drink plenty of water, and avoid strenuous physical exertion during peak afternoon hours as hot conditions persist.

What is the heat index?

The heat index refers to how hot it actually feels to the human body, combining air temperature and relative humidity. High humidity slows the evaporation of sweat, making it harder for the body to cool down.

PAGASA noted that heat index values may rise by as much as 9°C when exposed directly to sunlight.

The state weather bureau classifies heat index levels as follows:

- 27°C to 32°C (Caution): Fatigue is possible with prolonged exposure
- 33°C to 41°C (Extreme Caution): Heat cramps and heat exhaustion may occur
- 42°C to 51°C (Danger): Heat exhaustion is likely; prolonged exposure may lead to heat stroke
- 52°C and above (Extreme Danger): Heat stroke is highly likely and considered a medical emergency

The public is advised to regularly monitor PAGASA's daily heat index forecasts.—MCG, GMA News

[Big-time rollback for diesel, kerosene on April 28, 2026; price hike for gasoline](#)

By: Sundy Locus

Motorists may heave a sigh of relief as the Department of Energy (DOE) on Monday announced a major rollback for diesel and kerosene products starting Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said diesel prices will drop by P12.94, estimated to range from P75.93 to P101.96 per liter. Kerosene prices will likewise go down by P15.71, with adjusted prices ranging from P125.39 to P147.98.

Gasoline prices, however, will increase by P0.53.

"There will be a rollback tomorrow at P12.94 minimum. May estimated pump price range sa diesel na P75.93 to P101.96," Garin told reporters in a media briefing.

(There will be a rollback tomorrow at P12.94 minimum. There is an estimated pump price range for diesel of P75.93 to P101.96.)

"Iba-ibang gas station, iba-iba ang presyo. Depende 'yan kung malayo sa depot or inland siya. Malayo i-deliver, mas magastos ang pag-deliver sa gas station so mas mahal ang benta," Garin said.

(Gas stations have different prices depending on their locations. Those that are far from the depot or inland have higher prices because of the delivery costs.)

Pump prices saw a continuous increase after tensions between the US and Israel and Iran escalated on February 28.

Diesel shipments

The DOE assured the public of continuous pump supply as it likewise announced that four shipments of diesel, procured through the Philippine National Oil Company, have arrived in the country. This amounts to about 178 million liters of diesel, securing five days-worth of buffer stock.

The DOE said the oil products arrived in four phases. The first shipment, consisting of 22,660,613 liters of diesel from Japan, arrived in Batangas on March 26. The second and third shipments, composed of 52,410,065 and 50,808,430 liters of diesel respectively, were delivered to Subic. The fourth shipment, consisting of 52,452,673 liters, already arrived in Davao. "The arrival of all four diesel shipments shows that the government is acting with urgency to protect the country's fuel supply. As the Middle East conflict continues, our priority is to ensure that the Philippines remains prepared, adequately supplied, and able to respond swiftly to developments that may affect fuel availability and market stability," Garin said.—AOL, GMA News

INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

[The Next El Niño Could Lock Earth Into a Hotter Climate](#)

By: Bob Berwyn

The Pacific heat pulse is temporary, but scientists warn that its climate impacts are not.

The Pacific Ocean is a giant climate cauldron, with a powerful heat engine that affects storms, fisheries and rainfall patterns half a world away, and scientists are watching closely to see if it's about to boil over.

Their projections suggest the tropical Pacific is simmering toward a strong El Niño, the warm phase of an ocean-atmosphere cycle that can intensify and shift those impacts.

In a world already superheated by greenhouse gases, a strong El Niño during the next 12 to 18 months could permanently push the planet's average annual temperature past the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming threshold enshrined in scientific documents and political agreements as a turning point for potentially irreversible climate impacts.

Climate scientists also recently published a study showing that strong El Niño events can trigger what they called "climate regime shifts," meaning abrupt, lasting changes in heat, rainfall and drought patterns.

El Niño is one of the planet's biggest natural release valves for ocean heat. The venting starts with periodic shifts of swirling ocean currents and winds over the Pacific. That causes huge stores of tropical ocean heat to surge eastward from the Western Pacific Warm Pool, roughly between Australia and Indonesia, northward to Japan. Those tropical seas are by far the warmest ocean region on Earth, and span an area four times as large as the continental United States.

When that ocean heat spreads across the equatorial Pacific, it spills into the atmosphere in pulses that tilt weather patterns, reroute powerful high-elevation winds, raise global temperatures, bleach coral reefs and disrupt fisheries and ocean ecosystems. The effects hit continents as well, intensifying rainstorms and flooding in some regions, while amplifying extreme heat, drought and wildfires in others.

In 2015, heat from the tropical Pacific helped raise the global annual average temperature irreversibly past 1 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline. And in 2024, Earth experienced the hottest year recorded in human history, aided by another El Niño boost.

Even a moderately strong El Niño during the next 12 to 18 months could drive the average global temperature to about 1.7 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial level, climate scientist James Hansen told Inside Climate News. Hansen doubts the world will meaningfully cool back down to below the 1.5 degree Celsius mark after the El Niño fades.

Passing that threshold may not be like falling off a climate cliff, but it's definitely the point when the edge starts crumbling, with rapid changes to relatively stable systems of forests, water, rain and temperatures that have sustained people and ecosystems for millennia.

Even below the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold, California reservoirs no longer fill in some years and overflow with extreme rainfall in others. Coral reefs from Australia to the Caribbean have bleached beyond recovery and vast tracts of forests burned up in megafires. Traditional crop calendars don't align with seasons. Deadly nighttime heat rises in cities, killing vulnerable people in apartments that never cool.

“Super El Niño” Seen as Game Changer

Climate impacts amplified by strong El Niños keep hitting the same vulnerable regions, may be more widespread than previously thought and can persist long after the tropical Pacific cools, according to an El Niño study published December 2025 in Nature Communications.

The study concluded that “super El Niños” are not just passing weather events, but more like climate shocks that can push parts of the Earth system into new states, co-author Jong-Seong Kug wrote in an email.

The study's definition of a super El Niño is when the sea surface temperature anomaly in the tropical Pacific “exceeds 2 standard deviations above normal”—not an ordinary fluctuation, but more of a systemic warning sign.

The impacts are clustered in areas known to be sensitive to long-distance climate connections and regions “that are already prone to climate regime shifts,” wrote Kug, a climate researcher at Seoul National University in South Korea.

There are only three super El Niños on record: in 1982-83, 1997-98 and 2015-16. All of them contributed to regime shifts in regional ocean temperatures, leading to unprecedented marine heat waves that destroyed or damaged coral reefs and caused mass die-offs and starvation among many marine organisms, from starfish to seabirds and marine mammals.

Those impacts, as well as changes in drought and extreme heat over land areas, persisted for years and could shift some regional patterns for decades, according to the study.

Kug said the main “regime-shift hotspots” in oceans include the central North Pacific, the southeastern Indian Ocean, the southwestern Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico, areas where globally linked atmospheric connections “can strongly perturb the ocean surface and, in some cases, help anomalies persist.”

Kug said the study identified super El Niño regime shifts in East Africa and the Maritime Continent—the island-rich region between the Indian and Pacific Oceans around Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

The research also uncovered strong El Niño signals in the form of soil moisture changes in central southern Asia, central Australia, the Amazon and western Greenland. The land responses are “linked to the way super El Niño reshapes regional precipitation and temperature through teleconnections,” he said in an email.

“These shifts matter because they can turn a short-lived climate shock into a longer-lasting risk,” he wrote. If soil moisture stays below normal for several years, crops are exposed to repeated heat and water stress across multiple growing seasons with “direct consequences for food production and water security.”

Adapting to a Changing Baseline

The potential for more destructive physical impacts raises deeper concerns about how societies that developed under relatively stable climate conditions will function in a world with shifting baselines and sharper swings between droughts and floods, more intense tropical storms, expanded fire seasons and long-lasting unseasonal extreme heat.

Understanding how stronger El Niños reshape the climate can help countries close what the United Nations calls the global adaptation gap, which is the widening distance between known climate risks and actual preparation.

The U.N. Environment Programme’s 2025 Adaptation Gap Report found that international public adaptation finance fell slightly to \$26 billion in 2023, even as the cost of climate impacts rises sharply. Developing countries will need \$310 billion to \$365 billion per year by 2035 to prepare for worsening heat waves, floods and droughts, but so far, global efforts will amount to less than a tenth of what’s needed.

The UNEP report warned that adaptation can no longer rely on reactive, incremental projects but must become anticipatory, strategic and transformational: redesigning water systems, cities, agriculture and infrastructure for the climate of the future, unlike anything people have experienced. Experts say adaptation doesn’t mean waiting for the old normal to return and that there is not a one-size-fits-all answer for building resilience to more intense climate impacts.

Kug said that El Niño and global warming may be locked into a vicious climate cycle. The study findings suggest global warming amplifies the impacts associated with super El Niños, and “makes the climate system more prone to persistent shifts once those impacts are triggered.”

The practical challenge, Kug said, is not just preparing for a single season of extremes, but for a climate shift that will also alter conditions in the future.

“Super El Niño may not just cause a one-time extreme event,” he wrote. “It can shift the background climate conditions that people and ecosystems rely on.”

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas to sizzle at 'danger' level Monday \(April 27\)](#)

By: Mary Joy Salcedo

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices are forecast to soar in 10 areas across the country, while Metro Manila is seen to reach 40°C to 41°C on Monday, April 27, according to the state weather bureau.

The heat index, as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defined, measures the level of an average person's discomfort due to the effects of the temperature and air humidity.

Based on its latest monitoring, Dumangas, Iloilo will reach the highest heat index for the day at 45°C.

HEAT INDEX WATCH: 3 areas under 'danger' level on Friday – Pagasa
Heat Index Watch

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices are forecast to soar in 10 areas across the country, while Metro Manila is seen to reach 40°C to 41°C on Monday, April 27, according to the state weather bureau.

The heat index, as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defined, measures the level of an average person's discomfort due to the effects of the temperature and air humidity.

Based on its latest monitoring, Dumangas, Iloilo will reach the highest heat index for the day at 45°C.

Article continues after this advertisement

The other areas that are forecast to experience dangerous heat indices are as follows:

- Sangley Point, Cavite City, Cavite — 44°C
- Iloilo City, Iloilo — 43°C
- La Granja, La Carlota, Negros Occidental — 43°C
- Guiuan, Eastern Samar — 43°C
- Iba, Zambales — 42°C
- San Ildefonso, Bulacan — 42°C
- San Jose, Occidental Mindoro — 42°C
- Puerto Princesa City, Palawan — 42°C
- Cuyo, Palawan — 42°C

READ: Agriculture officials fear 'super' El Niño

Dangerous heat indices, which cover 42°C to 51°C, can cause heat cramps and heat exhaustion and even heat stroke upon continued exposure to the sun, Pagasa said.

Meanwhile, in Metro Manila, Pagasa predicted a 41°C heat index at the weather station in Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City, and a 40°C at the Science Garden in Quezon City for this Monday, falling under the “extreme caution” category (33°C to 41°C).

Heat cramps and heat exhaustion may also occur under the “extreme caution” level, while continued activity in the heat can likewise lead to heatstroke.

The following areas are also seen to experience “extreme caution” heat indices this Monday:

41°C

- Dagupan City, Pangasinan
- Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
- Cubi Pt., Subic Bay Olongapo City
- Aborlan, Palawan
- Roxas City, Capiz
- Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur

40°C

- Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
- Bacnotan, La Union
- Aparri, Cagayan
- ISU Echague, Isabela
- Clark Airport (DMIA), Pampanga
- CLSU, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
- TAU Camiling, Tarlac
- Ambulong, Tanauan, Batangas
- Infanta, Quezon
- Coron, Palawan
- Panglao International Airport, Bohol
- VSU-Baybay, Leyte
- Borongan, Eastern Samar
- Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte
- Cotabato City, Maguindanao del Norte
- Butuan City, Agusan del Norte

39°C

- Sinait, Ilocos Sur
- Baler (Radar), Aurora

- Casiguran, Aurora
- Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City
- Alabat, Quezon
- CvSU-Indang, Cavite
- NAS-UPLB, Los Baños, Laguna
- Calapan, Oriental Mindoro
- Mambusao, Capiz
- Siquijor, Siquijor
- Mactan International Airport, Cebu
- Tacloban City, Leyte
- Laguindingan Airport, Misamis Oriental
- Davao City, Davao del Sur
- General Santos City, South Cotabato
- Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur

38°C

- MMSU, Batac, Ilocos Norte
- NVSU Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
- Mulanay, Quezon
- Romblon, Romblon
- Daet, Camarines Norte
- Legazpi City, Albay
- Juban, Sorsogon
- CBSUA-Pili, Camarines Sur
- Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
- Catarman, Northern Samar
- Catbalogan, Western Samar
- CMU Agromet, Musuan, Bukidnon

37°C

- Calayan, Cagayan
- Abucay, Bataan
- Virac (Synop), Catanduanes
- Masbate City, Masbate
- Maasin, Southern Leyte
- Surigao City, Surigao del Norte

36°C

-
- Tayabas City, Quezon
- BU-Guinobatan, Albay

- BIA-Daraga, Albay
- Malaybalay, Bukidnon

33°C

- Itbayat, Batanes
- Basco (Radar), Batanes
- Tanay, Rizal

Amid the continued hot and humid weather across the country, Pagasa urged the public to limit time outdoors; drink plenty of water; avoid tea, coffee, soft drinks and alcohol.

It also encouraged the use an umbrella, hat; wearing of clothing with sleeves; and performing strenuous activities during the cool hours of the day to avoid health complications. /apl

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[BFAR strengthens fisheries management, climate resilience efforts in MIMAROPA](#)

By: Luis T. Cueto

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro (PIA) — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) continues to intensify fisheries management and sustainability efforts across the MIMAROPA region amid challenges posed by climate change and increasing fishing activities.

BFAR MIMAROPA Regional Director Roberto Abrera said the agency remains focused on its core functions, including fishing production and support services, fisherfolk coordination and training, and fishery machinery regulation.

BFAR strictly enforces regulations against illegal fishing practices — to ensure sustainable marine resources.

In response to climate change and the growing number of fisherfolk, the bureau implements measures such as the closed fishing season in designated areas to allow fish populations to recover.

“Ang closed season ay pansamantalang pagbabawal sa pangingisda sa piling lugar upang maparami muli ang isda para sa konsumo ng mamamayan,” Abrera said during the Philippine Information Agency MIMAROPA and Radyo Pilipinas program “Arangkada MIMAROPA” on April 22.

He noted that Palawan and Occidental Mindoro have vast fishing grounds, while aquaculture is being promoted in other provinces through hatcheries producing tilapia, bangus, shrimp, and lapu-lapu.

According to him, BFAR also works closely with local government units (LGUs), which handle licensing and permitting within municipal waters. The bureau, in turn, ensures compliance through monitoring municipal ordinances, fisherfolk profiles, development plans and registration systems.

For commercial fishing vessels operating in national waters, BFAR issues licenses and requires monthly fish catch reports to help assess whether fish importation is necessary or if local supply is sufficient.

Additionally, the bureau maintains quarantine offices to monitor the entry and exit of fishery products, ensuring sustainability and quality standards.

Through these efforts, BFAR aims to strengthen fisheries governance, protect marine ecosystems, and secure food supply for future generations. (LTC/PIA MIMAROPA/Photo from BFAR)

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH to lead joint ASEAN climate position at COP31](#)

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – The Philippines is leading the preparation of a joint Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) statement on climate change ahead of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to be held at the Antalya Expo Center in Antalya, Turkey, in November.

At the opening of the ASEAN Climate Week (ACW) 2026 in Taguig City on Monday, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said a draft statement is now being circulated among ASEAN member states for comments and inputs.

“Actually, the Philippines is leading the preparation of a joint statement for ASEAN on climate change in preparation for the COP, the 31st COP later this year. And right now, the draft is being circulated with the different ASEAN member states,” Cuna said in a press briefing.

He said the Philippines, as the 2026 ASEAN Chair, is waiting for these comments and inputs to be included in the statement.

He added that the proposed statement will reflect the region’s shared priorities and reaffirm commitments on key climate issues.

“Basically, it will include the joint priorities of the entire region, and it will be a reiteration of our commitments as a region on the different aspects, including NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), the National Adaptation Plans, loss and damage, climate financing, and just transition, to name a few. So, this is what we want to achieve before going to COP,” he said.

The ASEAN Climate Week 2026 was convened under the Philippines’ ASEAN 2026 Chairship and co-organized with the Asian Development Bank.

Cuna said the meeting comes at a crucial time as ASEAN countries seek to translate updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) into concrete programs and investments.

“We convene at a critical moment,” he said, adding that “the urgent challenge before us is implementation, translating commitments into policies, programs, and investment-ready projects that deliver measurable outcomes for our people”.

DENR Undersecretary Annaliza Rebuelta-Teh said the ASEAN Climate Week 2026 aims to accelerate implementation of NDCs, expand climate and biodiversity finance, strengthen regional cooperation on loss and damage, and build institutional capacity through dialogue, technical exchanges, and training across ASEAN.

She said the event will produce three key outputs, including a Chair's Summary, a consolidated report with policy recommendations for ASEAN cooperation, and a compendium documenting member states' experiences and best practices, particularly on loss and damage and climate-induced mobility.

The week-long program includes a series of thematic sessions that will commence with an opening forum on advancing NDC implementation and biodiversity-climate linkages, discussions on climate and biodiversity financing with partners such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH or German Development Cooperation (GIZ), the C40 Cities, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and a loss and damage knowledge exchange with risk management training.

It also includes sessions on climate-economy modeling for planning and investment, as well as a scheduled signing of a Philippines–Singapore carbon market implementation agreement.

The April 27 to May 1 event is expected to conclude with a forum on expanding climate finance flows in Southeast Asia.

The DENR said all sessions will be conducted virtually as part of the Philippine government's austerity measures.

The event gathers all 11 ASEAN member states, along with ministers, senior officials, technical agencies, civil society, and private sector representatives, to align regional strategies and accelerate practical climate action.

Aside from the Philippines, the other ASEAN members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. (PNA)

RNZ

[Climate Change Commission warns NZ ETS could fail without reform](#)

The Climate Change Commission said the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is on track to fail without reform.

In its annual advice to the government, the commission warned that the scheme faces huge future volatility and would fail without reform by the 2030s.

The ETS is a market in which the government sets a price for greenhouse gas that polluters must pay to emit. The price of units rises over time, incentivising firms to emit less.

The commission has advised the government this year to keep auction unit pricing and volumes the same to prevent price instability.

However, chief executive Jo Hendy said a unit shortfall as early as 2028 could see price spikes and significant economic harm.

She said that could result in factory closures to reduce emissions, rather than investment in decarbonisation.

The government could get ahead of the shortfall by publicly consulting on options to address it, she said.

Forest and Bird fears the scheme will soon be unfit for purpose.

Climate spokesperson Scott Burnett said the market had lost confidence in it, due to recent volatility in prices and recent government policy announcements, such as rolling back action on agricultural emissions.

He said it urgently needed reform and stability to allow businesses to make good investment decisions on decarbonisation.

The Climate Change Commission had been sounding the alarm on the fragile state of the ETS for years, he said.

Climate minister Simon Watts told RNZ in a statement that the government welcomed the commission's advice, and it would carefully consider that before developing proposals for the ETS auction and unit settings.

SUNSTAR

[Cebu heat index may peak by mid-May](#)

By: Juan Carlo De Vela

CEBU is set to experience hotter days in the coming weeks, with the heat index likely to peak in May, weather officials said.

Ana Dumdum, a weather specialist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Visayas, said in a phone interview on Sunday, April 26, 2026, that the heat index is expected to intensify by mid-May.

Pagasa Visayas has recorded a heat index range of 35 degrees Celsius to 38 degrees Celsius since April, with the first peak of 39 degrees Celsius recorded on Friday, April 24. Another 39 degrees Celsius was recorded on Sunday, April 26.

Dumdum said temperatures could rise further in the coming months and may reach 40 degrees Celsius.

“Climatologically, May is our hottest or warmest month when the heat index typically peaks. We experience both warm temperatures and high humidity, so we can expect elevated heat index levels,” Dumdum said.

Warmest month

Pagasa data also show that May is the warmest month in the Philippines based on the average of all weather stations, excluding Baguio.

While the region has not reached the “danger” category, Dumdum said current conditions already fall under “extreme caution,” which may cause heat exhaustion and dehydration.

The “extreme caution” heat index category ranges from 33 degrees Celsius to 41 degrees Celsius, according to Pagasa.

Residents are advised to stay hydrated, limit outdoor activities during peak heat hours and seek shade when possible, as heat index levels may remain under the extreme caution category.

Dumdum said relief may come later in the season as weather patterns shift with the expected onset of the southwest monsoon, locally known as habagat, which usually brings more clouds and rain.

Weather experts are also monitoring the possible development of an El Niño alert. Pagasa said the El Niño phenomenon may increase the likelihood of drier-than-usual conditions, although above-normal rainfall may also occur in the western section of the country during the habagat season. / DPC

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC, stakeholders push for stronger alignment of climate plans to strengthen Cebu's resilience](#)

CEBU CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC), along with other national government agencies, local officials, and faith-based leaders, pushed for stronger alignment between local planning and national climate policies to reinforce Cebu's resilience against intensifying climate risks during the Cebu Climate Action Summit 2026.

The CCC emphasized the role of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in guiding local government units (LGUs) to develop science-based, actionable strategies, including Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), Annual Investment Plans (AIPs), and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) plans.

Recognizing Cebu's high exposure to flooding, intense rainfall, sea level rise, and landslides, the CCC underscored the urgency of coordinated, forward-looking action. From 2021 to 2025 the province has incurred nearly ₱14 billion in damages from major typhoons, including Odette, Tino, and Uwan, placing lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure at risk.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje stressed the need to move beyond planning toward coherent and aligned implementation.

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

He emphasized that climate risks are becoming more complex and interconnected across sectors.

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

Cebu Governor Pamela S. Baricuatro acknowledged the province's increasing climate risks, citing the changing nature of weather patterns and their growing impacts on communities.

"The challenges are changing, the rain is no longer what it used to be. What used to be a simple downpour can now mean flooding, disruption, and danger," Baricuatro said.

The discussion featured sessions that deepened understanding of climate hazards and enabled the exchange of best practices across key sectors.

Ms. Corazon B. Clarin, Convenor of the Cebu Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction initiative, underscored the importance of social equity and accessibility, emphasizing that persons with disabilities must be fully included in climate action.

The Archbishop of Cebu, Most Rev. Alberto S. Uy, D.D., highlighted the moral urgency of climate action, calling for reflection that leads to concrete action.

“Today, those cries are becoming louder. The cry of the poor, the cry of the earth, and even the cry of future generations. These are not separate cries; they are one, and they are calling us not just to reflect but to act.”

The Province of Cebu remains highly vulnerable to compounding hazards, including flooding in low-lying and urban areas, rain-induced landslides in upland communities, and drought that threatens water security and agriculture. These overlapping risks underscore the need for integrated planning and sustained investment in resilience.

The Summit was organized by the Cebu Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, which brought together national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, the academe, faith-based institutions, and the private sector. It served as a platform to strengthen.

This supports the guidance and vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, ensuring that policies, plans, and investments work together to build a climate-resilient future.

MANILA BULLETIN

[DENR czar pushes community-level impact as PH hosts ASEAN Climate Week 2026](#)

Amid worsening floods, droughts, stronger typhoons, and rising sea levels, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna on Monday, April 27, said that climate action must translate into real, on-the-ground benefits for communities.

The statement was made as the Philippines prepares to host ASEAN Climate Week (ACW) 2026, a regional platform aimed at turning climate commitments into concrete actions that directly benefit people.

The event, set from April 27 to May 1, will be led by the DENR in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change, the Climate Change Commission, and the Department of Finance.

“This means protecting and restoring the natural systems that support livelihoods and resilience, from mangrove belts and coral reefs that buffer storm surge, watersheds that sustain agriculture and fresh water, to intact forests that regulate rainfall and stabilize soils,” Cuna said.

ASEAN Climate Week 2026 will convene government leaders, technical experts, local stakeholders, and development partners to accelerate climate action and strengthen regional cooperation.

It will focus on making key climate commitments—such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS)—more actionable at the community level.

According to the DENR, the event will highlight field-level initiatives, including coastal ecosystem restoration, reforestation and forest rehabilitation, pollution control, mine-site rehabilitation, and community-led natural resource governance.

“Climate action is ultimately about people. Through sustainable management and conservation of soil, water, mineral, coastal and marine resources as well as the improvement in water and air quality, it ensures that families are safe during storms, farmers can protect their crops, and communities can recover quickly after severe weather events,” said Cuna.

“ASEAN Climate Week is about ensuring that climate plans translate into real protection and improved quality of life for communities,” he added.

The DENR said it will also push for nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration, seagrass and coral rehabilitation, and watershed restoration, alongside stronger enforcement against illegal logging and pollution.

“Climate action must protect the natural systems that sustain our communities. By restoring mangroves and watersheds, enforcing environmental safeguards, and investing in nature-positive livelihoods, we not only reduce disaster risk and biodiversity loss, but we also create resilient economies and secure the futures of our coastal and upland communities. DENR stands ready to turn ASEAN commitments into on-the-ground protection and opportunity for our people,” Cuna said.

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