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INTERKASYON

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By: Madeleine Orr and Caitlin Felteau-McInnis

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MANILA BULLETIN

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The Philippines faces mounting economic and financial risks from climate change, with projected losses reaching as much as 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2040 unless the country urgently scales up climate financing and aligns adaptation and mitigation efforts, according to state-run policy think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

MANILA STANDARD

[CCC seeks unified climate action as risks intensify](#)

By: Marita Moaje

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.

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[From Climate Commitments to Community Protection: ASEAN Climate Week 2026 to Deliver Real Benefits for Filipino and ASEAN Member-States' Communities](#)

Recognizing the importance of regional and international cooperation in protecting the natural resource base for economic and social development and in intensifying climate actions, the Philippines will spearhead ASEAN Climate Week 2026, a regional platform that aims to translate climate ambitions and commitments into concrete actions that directly benefit people on the ground.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

INTERKASYON

[Hurdles to a hobby: How climate change and 'runfluencer' culture impact our daily jog](#)

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If it feels like everyone around you (physically and digitally) has taken up an affair with running in the past few years, you're not imagining it. Since 2023, running has been the most uploaded activity on the exercise app Strava, according to their annual Year in Sport reports from 2023, 2024 and 2025.

For many of us, running is one of the most accessible forms of physical activity. It is something we can do on our own or with friends. It requires minimal gear and does not rely on a specialized training facility. All we have to do is lace up and go.

However, the seemingly simple practice of running is entangled with complex environmental dynamics. Rising global temperatures and air pollution are making it physically harder and unsafe to run outdoors, and some of the digital tools that many runners rely on carry their own environmental costs.

Strava's 2023 Trend Report noted that: 75 per cent of athletes said extreme heat affected their exercise plans, while poor air quality affected 27 per cent. We now have to reckon with the reality that, due to warming temperatures, running will become less accessible and safe.

Add to that the rise of "runfluencers," running fashion trends and a new market of consumer products designed to help runners cope with heat, and it becomes increasingly clear that the relationship between running, climate change and consumption is wickedly ironic.

The dangers of heat

Running in the heat increases the risk of exertional heat illness and heat stroke. Additionally, running in the heat can increase the risk of acute kidney disease due to insufficient cooling and dehydration during exercise-related heat stress.

For those keen to hit new personal bests, running in hotter conditions can impair performance. For example, an analysis of race data uploaded to Strava identified the average finishing time of the New York City Marathon was approximately 12 minutes slower in 2022 — when the temperature was 23C (plus humidity) — compared to 2021, when temperatures were around 13C.

And that's just a few of the temperature-related risks associated with summer running. In addition to extreme heat exposure, the safety of summer running is also compromised by smoke and poor air quality.

Runfluencer culture

In addition to the climate-driven shifts affecting our daily jogs, the recent running boom and surrounding culture is also shifting how we run.

As runners adapt to rising heat, poor air quality and smoke-filled summers, the pressure to buy, track and optimize intensifies, further entangling running with the very environmental forces that threaten it.

If your social media algorithm is anything like ours, you might have noticed some targeted ads and sponsored content from “runfluencers” highlighting their new favourite running-related products and apps, such as Runna, a British-based coaching app known for its personalized training plans and AI-assisted pacing.

Runna was first launched in 2022, and its online presence jumped significantly after the app was acquired by Strava in April 2025.

Apps like these can help provide structure and prepare for races. However, they have also faced criticism, with experts noting concerns about the intensity of the AI-assisted training plans in regard to training spikes and risk of overuse injuries. Runna has said they “don’t use AI to generate training plans” but to “monitor a runner’s progress throughout their plan.”

While these apps promise efficiency and personalization, they are part of a wider digital infrastructure with their own environmental footprint. GPS tracking, constant data uploads, cloud storage and AI-assisted analysis all rely on energy-intensive data centres.

As running culture becomes more data-driven and automated, even a traditionally low-impact activity becomes entangled with the emissions and the energy demands of digital technology.

Beyond apps, runfluencers are also using their platforms to share their running esthetic — trying out new shoes, participating in the latest running fashion trends and showing off race day outfits.

That, in turn, promotes a culture that normalizes over-consumption under the guise of self-improvement and dramatically increases the environmental cost of what should be a low-impact activity. Such a focus can make running feel less appealing and appear less accessible.

Staying safe on a run

If you are someone with the flexibility to choose when you participate in races, consider pivoting to springtime training rather than slogging through increasingly risky summer training blocks. Not only will your training runs leading up to the race be cooler, but you can also expect more optimal marathon temperatures (2 to 13C) on race day.

For example, in the Canadian province of Ontario, races like the Mississauga Marathon in April and Toronto's Sporting Life 10K in May offer runners safer racing temperatures and, potentially, improved performance compared to summer training and fall races.

Think about how you engage with running culture and be a smart consumer. Avoid over-consuming products and programs that you don't need. Remember, running is one of the most accessible forms of exercise we have. You don't need a bunch of gear and apps to participate.

As climate change intensifies and summer temperatures continue to rise, running will become less safe on hot days. Runfluencer culture and over-consumption in running fashion are dramatically increasing the environmental cost of what should be a low-impact activity.

To counter these trends, opt for spring races, listen to your body, seek advice from human coaches and pick durable gear over following the latest fashions.

These choices matter not because individual runners are to blame, but because they push back against a running culture that increasingly equates health with optimization, constant consumption and digital surveillance, even as climate change makes the sport itself more precarious.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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

By: Luis T. Cueto

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.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[ASEAN women lawmakers urged to push for deeper, system-level change](#)

By: Jose Cielito Reganit

Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III on Monday urged women parliamentarians across Southeast Asia to push for deeper, system-level change and move from representation to real power in governance.

Speaking at the 5th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Dy anchored his message on building gender-transformative and future-ready parliaments.

“Progress is not enough. As we pursue a future-ready and inclusive ASEAN, we must move beyond gender-responsiveness toward true transformation, reshaping systems, dismantling barriers, and ensuring women have real decision-making power,” the Speaker said.

“Transformation must go beyond representation. It must create real opportunity for women to lead, to build enterprises, and for marginalized voices to be heard. Inclusion is measured not by presence, but by impact.”

The meeting, hosted by the Philippines via video conference, gathered women lawmakers from across the region to advance cooperation on political participation, economic leadership, and inclusive governance.

It is being held online as part of the Philippines’ calibrated hosting approach to streamline engagements and manage rising global costs, including higher travel expenses driven by tensions in the Middle East.

Dy also linked women’s leadership to stronger institutions and lasting peace in Southeast Asia.

“Peace is not just the absence of conflict, it is trust in institutions and in the future. When women lead, peace becomes more durable,” he said.

The Speaker cited the Philippines’ National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security as part of efforts to promote inclusive and responsive governance.

“At the core of all this is people-centered governance, laws grounded in real needs, budgets that reflect everyday realities, and institutions that are open and accountable,” he said.

“At the same time, we must prepare for a future shaped by technology and climate risks. A future-ready ASEAN must be adaptive, inclusive, and responsible, ensuring no one is left behind.”

Dy urged ASEAN lawmakers to turn commitments into concrete outcomes under the Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) Plan of Action.

"We recognize the challenges before us. That is why WAIPA must continue to move from platform to action. The WPPL Plan of Action gives us direction. Now, we must deliver," he said, stressing that the discussions will be pathways to real outcomes.

While the meeting was originally set in Bohol, it was held virtually following adjustments in ASEAN engagements amid global developments.

But while the format has shifted, Dy said the purpose has not.

"If anything, this moment highlights a defining strength of women leaders: resilience, adaptability, and steady leadership in uncertain times," he said, as he reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to regional cooperation.

"The Philippines stands ready to work with you, to listen, and to serve," he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Maria Rachel Arenas underscored the urgency of sustained leadership and cooperation among women lawmakers across Southeast Asia, declaring that crises must not derail the region's push for inclusive governance.

"Though we gather today through extraordinary circumstances, our presence here sends an extraordinary message: that even in uncertain times, leadership does not pause; cooperation does not weaken; and the work of building a better future must continue," the Pangasinan lawmaker said.

Arenas, who heads the AIPA 2026 organizing team as chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said the ongoing global energy crisis is a test of ASEAN's collective resolve.

"The current energy crisis has reminded us of a truth our region knows well, that stability can never be taken for granted, and resilience must always be built in advance," she said. "Yet even as challenges test our systems, they also reveal our character. Today, by choosing dialogue over delay and action over hesitation, we prove that ASEAN's spirit remains strong."

Arenas said the WAIPA platform plays a critical role in shaping a more inclusive and just ASEAN.

"WAIPA is more than a committee. It is a movement of voices that refuse exclusion, a platform of leaders who transform barriers into bridges, and a force that reminds us that democracy is strongest when women stand fully within it," she said.

Arenas also cautioned that gains in women's representation and rights must be protected and translated into concrete outcomes.

“Our words must become policy. Our solidarity must become systems. Our commitments must become change that ordinary women can feel in their daily lives,” she said.

Looking ahead, Arenas called for stronger cooperation to ensure a more inclusive and compassionate ASEAN.

“Let us imagine not only a prosperous region, but a humane one; not only a competitive region, but a compassionate one; not only a connected region, but a community where no woman and no girl is left behind,” she said.

“The future of ASEAN will not be shaped by geography alone, nor by markets alone, nor by institutions alone. It will be shaped by the courage of its people, and by the leadership of its women.”

Fair weather to prevail across PH Wednesday

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

Generally fair weather will prevail across the country on Wednesday, the weather bureau said. Localized thunderstorms and isolated rain showers are possible in the afternoon and evening, added Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather specialist Loredin Galicia.

No low pressure area is being monitored and no weather disturbance is expected for the next two to three days, Galicia said.

Meanwhile, forecast temperatures could peak at 36 °C in Tuguegarao, and 35 °C in Metro Manila.

Galicia said the heat index, or the temperature felt by the human body when relative humidity combines with actual air temperature, could peak at 43 °C in Sangley Point, Cavite.

The heat index in parts of Metro Manila could reach 38 °C to 39 °C.

"Avoid direct sun exposure, and keep hydrated," she advised.

The whole archipelago, meanwhile, will experience light to moderate winds and slight to moderate seas.

RAPPLER

[PH rallies ASEAN for united stand ahead of COP31](#)

By: Iya Gozum

The Philippine government is rallying ASEAN neighbors to take a “strong united position” on climate obligations and issues ahead of the annual climate summit – the United Nations’ Conference of Parties (COP31) – happening in Turkey late this year.

“What we want to achieve, first of all, is that going to COP31, is that the region, ASEAN member states, come up with a strong united position on all the aspects that we would like to put forth and are committed to, particularly on access to finance,” Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said in a press briefing Monday, April 27, during the opening of the ASEAN climate week.

Cuna said the Philippines is leading the preparation of a joint statement among ASEAN nations that would touch on crucial issues such as adaptation, climate targets (or nationally determined contributions), financing, loss and damage, and just energy transition.

“Many of us here in ASEAN are developing countries and we would like to move from what we call ambition to delivery,” said Cuna.

One finance mechanism parties agreed to in previous COPs is the loss and damage fund. The Philippines is hosting the board of the fund.

Environment Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh said this places the region “in a better position to put forward its recommendations on how to strengthen” access of developing nations.

In the past COP held in Brazil, civil society groups criticized the Philippine delegation for alleged failure to take a strong stance, including its silence on the fossil fuel phaseout campaign that garnered support from both rich and poor nations.

Climate and economic effort

Reducing emissions requires regional and international cooperation. Not only is mitigation a climate obligation (as was decided by no less than the International Court of Justice), it is also a matter of economic development.

ASEAN’s roadmap to carbon neutrality low carbon development expects trillions worth of increase in GDP value-add and green investments, and millions of new jobs by 2050.

“We are all working on our long-term strategies towards low carbon development so that we will all be addressing the need to come up with mitigation measures,” said Teh.

The ASEAN climate week, happening April 27 to May 1, gives countries space outside formal channels where they can discuss best practices of member states, according to Naeda Crishna Morgado of the Asian Development Bank.

The sessions will be held virtually due to the government's austerity measures as response to the Middle East crisis.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[PIDS urges urgent action to close Philippines' climate finance gap](#)

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In an April 27 policy note titled “Closing the Climate Finance Gap: Making Every Peso—and Partner—Count for Developing Resilience,” PIDS noted that the Philippines ranks as the most disaster-prone country in the world in the World Risk Index due to extreme hazard exposure and socioeconomic vulnerability.

“These physical trends translate into large economic losses,” the report said, noting that climate change could reduce Philippine GDP by six to eight percent by 2040 under moderate scenarios and by as much as 13.6 percent under more severe assumptions.

The report was authored by PIDS senior research fellows Jose Ramon G. Albert and Sonny N. Domingo, supervising research specialist Deanne Lorraine D. Cabalfin, and research analysts Mohammad A. Mahmoud and Roselle F. Guadalupe.

PIDS said losses would stem from infrastructure damage, lower labor productivity due to heat stress, reduced agricultural output, health impacts, and recurring disaster recovery costs that crowd out long-term development investments. Core adaptation investments in resilient infrastructure, agriculture, and water systems alone are estimated to require spending equivalent to around 0.7 percent of GDP annually.

The think tank said climate change should no longer be viewed merely as an environmental issue, but as a macroeconomic, fiscal, and financial stability challenge that threatens growth, worsens inequality, and strains public finances.

It also urged policymakers to treat adaptation and mitigation as complementary—not competing—priorities.

While adaptation addresses immediate vulnerabilities, the report said exclusive reliance on resilience-building without mitigation would result in the highest long-term climate costs because it does not reduce the intensity of future hazards.

This challenge is especially relevant in the Philippines, where the government’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commits to a 75-percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG)

emissions by 2030 relative to business-as-usual, alongside a 35-percent renewable energy (RE) share by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

However, implementation has lagged, with PIDS noting that the country's RE share fell from 34 percent in 2008 to 21 percent in 2020, while coal-fired capacity expanded by 6.7 gigawatts (GW), underscoring the gap between mitigation ambition and actual outcomes.

“The gap between mitigation ambition and reality highlights the need for urgent correction,” the report said.

The think tank said the Philippines also has a distinct policy advantage: public awareness. Around 90 percent of Filipinos consider climate change a serious problem—the highest proportion among 14 Asian economies surveyed in the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) 2024 Climate Change Perception Survey—creating a rare window for sustained and ambitious climate action.

Still, PIDS said public understanding of specific climate finance tools such as carbon pricing, green bonds, and climate risk insurance remains limited, potentially weakening support for revenue-raising measures and regulatory reforms.

The report noted that climate finance in the Philippines currently comes from domestic public spending, official development assistance (ODA), multilateral development banks (MDBs), and private sustainable finance.

However, current flows remain insufficient, as the Department of Finance's (DOF) Sustainable Finance Roadmap estimates annual climate finance flows of \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion against annual needs of roughly \$12 billion to \$15 billion, implying a financing gap of \$9 billion to \$12 billion per year.

PIDS warned that the dominance of loans—even for adaptation projects that generate no direct financial returns—adds to the fiscal burden of a country already highly vulnerable to climate shocks. ODA and concessional finance will remain essential not only to increase funding volumes but also to de-risk private investments and build viable project pipelines.

The report also highlighted governance and institutional challenges. For instance, PIDS noted that climate finance responsibilities are fragmented across the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and several line agencies, with no single institution maintaining full oversight of climate finance flows and alignment with vulnerability priorities.

In particular, the BSP has advanced sustainable finance regulations, but legal restrictions prevent it from undertaking developmental financing, limiting its ability to deploy targeted climate finance facilities unlike some of its peers in Southeast Asia.

PIDS said a narrowly scoped legislative clarification of the BSP's mandate to recognize systemic climate risk could unlock stronger financial sector tools without compromising central bank independence.

The report also called for mobilizing more private capital through stronger incentives, such as regulatory reforms to reduce investment risks, such as guaranteed grid access for independent renewable energy producers, as well as stronger financial incentives such as feed-in tariffs for clean electricity. It also cited green bonds and blended finance as promising tools, provided transparency and verification standards are strengthened.

PIDS outlined four key policy directions, including integrating mitigation and adaptation into a single climate investment framework, replacing ex post climate expenditure tagging with ex ante "climate proofing" of major public investments, reforming legal and institutional structures for climate finance, and introducing market-based instruments such as carbon taxes or emissions trading systems with safeguards for vulnerable households.

The think tank also called for a unified climate finance governance mechanism to reduce fragmentation, improve accountability, and align spending with the country's most vulnerable communities.

"Climate finance is the bridge between risk and resilience," the report said, adding that the cost of decisive climate action remains far smaller than the accumulating cost of inaction.

MANILA STANDARD

[CCC seeks unified climate action as risks intensify](#)

By: Marita Moaje

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 last week, CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje stressed 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 said 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.PNA

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.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[From Climate Commitments to Community Protection: ASEAN Climate Week 2026 to Deliver Real Benefits for Filipino and ASEAN Member-States' Communities](#)

Recognizing the importance of regional and international cooperation in protecting the natural resource base for economic and social development and in intensifying climate actions, the Philippines will spearhead ASEAN Climate Week 2026, a regional platform that aims to translate climate ambitions and commitments into concrete actions that directly benefit people on the ground.

Set on April 27 to May 1, the event will be led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change, Climate Change Commission and the Department of Finance.

Key development partners are the Asian Development Bank, GIZ ASEAN-EU Climate Action Programme, United Nations Development Programme, UK FCDO, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, Center for Conservation Philippines, Global Affairs Canada, Global Green Growth Inc., GIZ TRANSCEND, Parabukas, ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund, International Organization for Migration, C40/GCom, among others.

DENR Secretary Juan Miguel T. Cuna underscored that, with increasing flooding and droughts, stronger typhoons, and rising sea levels, it is urgent to ensure that national climate plans and environmental sustainability are felt in communities, beyond policy and decision-making spaces.

“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,” Secretary Cuna stated.

DENR will highlight field-level actions such as coastal ecosystem restoration, reforestation and forest rehabilitation, pollution control and mine-site rehabilitation, protected area management, and community-led natural resource governance that reduce hazard exposure while delivering co-benefits for biodiversity and local incomes.

To be held under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship, ASEAN Climate Week will convene government leaders, technical experts, local stakeholders, and development partners to take stock of progress, deepen collaboration, and accelerate climate action. The event 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.

The DENR will foreground operational tools and programs that translate plans into on-the-ground protection: scalable nature-based solutions (mangrove restoration, seagrass and coral rehabilitation, watershed restoration), strengthened enforcement against illegal logging

and pollution, community forestry and coastal resource co-management, and pilot investments in resilient, nature-positive livelihoods. These initiatives illustrate how ENR measures reduce risk and create investment opportunities that align with NDC and NAP priorities.

It also aims to be ASEAN's collective voice at COP31 and catalyze concrete, actionable outcomes that support resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development across the region.

"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 DENR Secretary Juan Miguel T. Cuna.

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

Anchored on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive for evidence-based, investment-led, and transformative climate solutions, the Philippines continues to push for climate action that delivers tangible improvements in people's everyday lives, and stronger protection, especially in vulnerable communities.

ASEAN Climate Week comes at a time when many communities across Southeast Asia are already experiencing the impacts of climate change, particularly in densely populated coastal areas, climate-sensitive livelihoods, and regions with limited access to finance, technology, and institutional support.

Each thematic session is designed to tie technical discussion back to natural-resource outcomes, for example, how biodiversity-climate linkages can be financed through ecosystem service valuation, how loss and damage assessments must account for non-economic losses to ecosystems and cultural heritage, and how climate-economy modelling should incorporate ecosystem dependencies that affect fiscal resilience.

The ASEAN Climate Week will feature a series of technical and high-level engagements designed to move from planning to implementation:

- High-Level Dialogue on Advancing Implementation of NDCs in ASEAN – Session will focus on how ASEAN Member States can move from planning to implementation of their respective NDCs by strengthening policy alignment, institutional coordination, and whole-of-government approaches to climate action. It also explores how the region can unlock and align public and private finance to support NDC implementation, including the role of carbon markets and innovative financing mechanisms.
- Knowledge Exchange on Loss and Damage – ASEAN Member States will share knowledge and experiences on addressing climate-related loss and damage, including

climate risks, impacts, and recovery systems. The session will highlight nature-based solutions such as ecosystem restoration and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, as well as discussions on climate-induced displacement and the integration of mobility into disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation.

- Training on Climate Risk Management– The training will strengthen ASEAN Member States’ capacity to assess and manage climate risks linked to loss and damage. It will introduce tools for analyzing slow-onset hazards and extreme events using data and risk mapping to support planning, preparedness, and decision-making.
- Parallel Sessions on Climate Finance and Solutions – A series of technical sessions will bring together ASEAN partners to discuss mobilizing and aligning funding for climate and biodiversity action, improving climate risk modelling for economic planning, and understanding how climate impacts affect growth, productivity, and public finance systems. The sessions will also explore investment needs, financing tools, and policy approaches, while identifying ways to scale up support for nature-based solutions and improve access to global climate finance mechanisms across the region.

The ASEAN Climate Week is expected to produce a Chair’s Summary, a regional report of actionable recommendations, and a technical compendium of best practices on loss and damage and climate risk management.

Under the Philippines’ Chairship, DENR will advance concrete ENR commitments: accelerating ecosystem restoration targets, expanding community-based natural resource management, strengthening environmental compliance and monitoring, and mobilizing nature-positive finance tools.

These actions aim to ensure that environmental protection and sustainable resource use remain central to ASEAN’s climate resilience agenda.

“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,” DENR Secretary Cuna continued.

Through this initiative, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment as ASEAN Chair to advancing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plans, reflecting the shared vision of “Navigating our Future, Together,” and its sub-theme, “From Ambition to Delivery: Strengthening ASEAN Regional Climate Action.”

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