



NEWS ROUNDUP

08 MAY 2025 [08:00 am]

- Pilipinas, nakakuha ng \$10 milyon fund para sa climate resilience project sa Tawi-Tawi
- DENR chief champions climate action
- [Opinion] Why Donald Trump's trade tariffs are a threat to global food security
- New carbon credit scheme targets 60 plants by 2030 for coal phaseout
- 'Major step': Palace lauds \$10-M climate grant for Tawi-Tawi project
- World's richest 10% caused two thirds of global warming, study finds

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Climate Change Commission Prods Private Sector To Lead Climate Resilience Efforts
- Village health workers front-liners in climate health response - CCC

BOMBO RADYO

[Pilipinas, nakakuha ng \\$10 milyon fund para sa climate resilience project sa Tawi-Tawi](#)

By: Bombo Analy Soberano

Ipinagmalaki ni Palace Press Officer Claire Castro na nakakuha ang Pilipinas ng sampung milyong dolyar mula sa Adaptation Fund para sa isang proyekto na naglalayong palakasin ang kakayahan ng mga komunidad sa Tawi-Tawi laban sa epekto ng climate change.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[DENR chief champions climate action](#)

By: Carl Magadia

At a time when uncertainties brought about by climate change, environmental degradation and the increasing demands of national development can no longer be ignored, the country can find reassurance in the leadership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] Why Donald Trump's trade tariffs are a threat to global food security](#)

By: Lotanna Emediegwu

Donald Trump's tariffs will make many things more expensive for his fellow US citizens. The price of imported cars, building materials and some tech will go up – and so will the cost of the food on American dining tables.

REUTERS

[New carbon credit scheme targets 60 plants by 2030 for coal phaseout](#)

By: David Stanway

The Rockefeller Foundation aims to sign up 60 projects by 2030 to a new carbon finance scheme for phasing out coal-fired power in developing countries, it said on Wednesday, after its rulebook was given the go-ahead.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

['Major step': Palace lauds \\$10-M climate grant for Tawi-Tawi project](#)

By: Darryl John Esguerra

Malacañang on Wednesday welcomed the Philippines' first-ever grant from the global Adaptation Fund, calling the USD10 million climate resilience project in Tawi-Tawi a "major step" in securing the future of vulnerable communities.

THE JAPAN TIMES

[World's richest 10% caused two thirds of global warming, study finds](#)

By: Marlowe Hood

The world's wealthiest 10% of individuals are responsible for two thirds of global warming since 1990, researchers said on Wednesday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PAGEONE

[Climate Change Commission Prods Private Sector To Lead Climate Resilience Efforts](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has called on the private sector to play a leading role in strengthening the country's climate resilience at the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum recently held in Makati City.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Village health workers front-liners in climate health response - CCC](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the crucial role of barangay health workers (BHWs) in addressing the growing health threats posed by climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BOMBO RADYO

Pilipinas, nakakuha ng \$10 milyon fund para sa climate resilience project sa Tawi-Tawi

By: Bombo Analy Soberano

Ipinagmalaki ni Palace Press Officer Claire Castro na nakakuha ang Pilipinas ng sampung milyong dolyar mula sa Adaptation Fund para sa isang proyekto na naglalayong palakasin ang kakayahan ng mga komunidad sa Tawi-Tawi laban sa epekto ng climate change.

Ang proyekto na tinaguriang “Harnessing the Water-Energy-Food Nexus to Address and Adapt to Climate Change Impacts in Tawi-Tawi” ay tututok sa pagsasaayos at pagpapatatag ng access sa tubig, enerhiya, at pagkain sa mga bayan ng Sibutu at Sitangkai.

Layon ng proyekto na matugunan ang lumalalang hamon sa supply ng malinis na tubig, lalo na sa mga lugar na vulnerable sa epekto ng pabagu-bagong klima.

Sinabi ni Castro Bahagi ito ng mas malawak na hakbang ng pamahalaan upang masiguro ang mas ligtas, matatag, at climate-resilient na kinabukasan para sa mga komunidad sa malalayong isla.

Ang inisyatiba ay bahagi ng pagtutulak ng administrasyon para sa isang Bagong Pilipinas na mas handa at matibay sa harap ng mga hamong dulot ng pagbabago ng klima.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[DENR chief champions climate action](#)

By: Carl Magadia

At a time when uncertainties brought about by climate change, environmental degradation and the increasing demands of national development can no longer be ignored, the country can find reassurance in the leadership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Since her appointment by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in 2022, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga has brought much-needed changes to the table — with clarity, urgency, and a science-based vision guiding every action for the country’s environmental future.

In an exclusive sit-down interview with Daily Tribune, the environment chief painted a clear picture of how the agency transformed from a regulatory institution into a climate-forward, science-grounded steward of the nation’s ecosystems.

“The first thing we did when we started at DENR was to assume what they call a ‘climate-risk cleanse’ for all the ecosystems and all the natural resources that we have in the country, including water,” she explained. “We’ve mapped out what we call ‘risk and resilience potential’ — even for unprotected areas like coasts and forests. We’ve now subjected these to climate risk analyses.”

This approach, grounded in research and empowered by innovation, has led to the establishment of a Geospatial Database Office, a first in the country. This platform interconnects land, water, forests, minerals, and air into a dynamic catalog of natural assets — a foundation for smarter environmental governance. It is being enhanced with real-time satellite data and artificial intelligence for predictive analysis.

But Yulo-Loyzaga’s philosophy is not just about maps and data — it is about people.

To prepare for worsening typhoons, sea-level rise, and droughts, the department has completed and is now localizing the National Adaptation Plan, alongside the Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan, in coordination with the Department of Energy, Department of Labor and Employment, and the National Economic and Development Authority, now called Department of Economy, Planning and Development.

For Yulo-Loyzaga, disaster risk reduction and resilience are the threads that weave together the country's development agenda.

"If we cannot get water, if we cannot get food, if we cannot secure our energy operations and sources, if we cannot draw on our minerals for construction and infrastructure, we will have serious problems reaching our Philippine development goals," she warned.

"For example, rice blooms at night... for every 1-degree change in minimum temperature, we could lose 10 percent in rice yield. That's why we are watching those temperatures closely," she said.

Through the Water Resources Management Office, now under the DENR through her efforts, the department is centralizing water-related efforts for the first time in the Philippines' history.

To date, over 2,500 rivers in 421 river basins, 550 lakes, and 435 dams have been mapped.

This new integration has allowed DENR to strike landmark agreements with the National Irrigation Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways to repurpose idle water rights and infrastructure, aiming to deliver potable water to 15 million more Filipinos — including 100,000 in island barangays.

Furthermore, DENR is now actively safeguarding four of the Philippines' most critically endangered species — the tamaraw, Philippine eagle, Palawan cockatoo, and the dugong.

The Philippines, under the leadership of Yulo-Loyzaga, has rejoined the International Union for the Conservation of Nature after years of absence, reaffirming the country's role as a biodiversity stronghold in the global environmental movement.

As the archipelago asserts itself as a "large blue nation," eight new marine science research stations have been established under her leadership, increasing the country's maritime domain awareness and unlocking sustainable potential in coastal and marine ecosystems. These initiatives also benefit coastal communities, especially fisherfolk.

"We need to be aware that there needs to be some conservation effort in terms of our mangrove systems," she stressed. "Not only do these protect against storm surges... but they also serve as spawning grounds for our fisheries." They even serve as carbon

sinks under what's called 'blue carbon,' which can one day enter the global carbon market.

Her tenure has also seen the launch of the 10 Million Trees in 3 Years campaign — a public-private reforestation drive targeting six critical regions. Philippine business leaders from the Aboitiz, Ayala, Lopez, MVP and SM groups have pledged their support, marking a historic alignment behind government and corporate environmental responsibility.

Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga's career spans not just environmental management but also national security, disaster response, and science diplomacy. Formerly president of the National Resilience Council and executive director of the Manila Observatory, she helped implement international frameworks like the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate.

Under her stewardship, the Philippines has been chosen to host the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund, a mechanism operationalized during COP28 to help vulnerable nations recover from the effects of climate change. This responsibility cemented the Philippines' role in the global climate conversation.

Yet amid the international milestones, she remains firmly grounded in the daily realities of Filipino communities.

"We need to understand our dependence on ecosystems — forest or coastal — and how these have a direct impact not just on livelihood but on the economy in general," Yulo-Loyzaga emphasized. "The economy doesn't own the environment. It's the environment that supports the economy."

Through Project Transform, a program on local governance, the DENR is embedding this climate awareness in the grassroots — training LGUs on disaster preparedness, environmental protection, and multi-sector collaboration.

Indeed, Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga has emerged as a transformative figure in Philippine environmental leadership. Balancing the needs of business development, mining, and economic growth with science, justice, and sustainability, she exemplifies what a modern steward of natural resources should be.

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] Why Donald Trump's trade tariffs are a threat to global food security](#)

By: Lotanna Emediegwu

Donald Trump's tariffs will make many things more expensive for his fellow US citizens. The price of imported cars, building materials and some tech will go up – and so will the cost of the food on American dining tables.

The US currently imports around 16 per cent of its food supply, with a large proportion of its fruit and vegetables coming from countries now hit by tariffs.

Mexico stands out. It supplies over half the fresh fruit and nearly 70 per cent of the fresh vegetables consumed in the US.

And even when it comes to home-grown produce, the US still depends on imported fertiliser for its crops, with Canada providing up to 85 per cent of its neighbour's supply.

So grocery bills for American families, especially for fresh produce (and processed foods dependent on foreign ingredients) will get higher. But there will also be a noticeable effect on food prices outside the US.

The consequences could be particularly serious for developing economies that rely on stable international prices to secure affordable food imports. The prices of many global staples, including maize, wheat and soybeans, are benchmarked against US markets, so when disruptions occur, they reverberate globally.

Research I conducted with a colleague found that when international prices are disturbed, local food prices, especially in developing countries, go up.

Take global maize prices, which this year rose by 7 per cent between April 2 (Trump's "liberation day") and April 11. Our study suggests this will immediately lead to a similar increase in local maize prices in places like sub-Saharan Africa.

This is where many of the world's poorest people live, with hundreds of millions in households earning below the World Bank's poverty line of US\$2.15 (£1.61) per day. When much of that income is spent on food, a 7 per cent increase in the price of maize could be devastating.

Growth market

According to another study, tariffs on agricultural products such as fertiliser will increase global production costs, potentially lowering crop yields and worsening food insecurity.

While the US has reduced tariffs on Canadian potash from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, other fertiliser producers face steeper levels (up to 28 per cent for another major exporter, Tunisia, before Trump's reciprocal tariffs were paused).

This is especially worrying for agriculture in countries like Brazil, India and Nigeria, which are still reeling from fertiliser shortages caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine. As with food costs, US tariffs are likely to drive up prices in the global fertiliser market, making it more expensive for everyone, everywhere.

And when the cost of farming rises, crop production can suffer. This could significantly weaken food production in developing countries that are already battling climate change and volatile markets.

Another study I conducted found that countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia – already struggling with food insecurity – are among the most vulnerable to local food price shocks. These economies depend heavily on food imports and face high exposure to currency fluctuations and transport costs.

If the trade war escalates, farmers in these regions may be forced to abandon staple crops for cash commodities such as cocoa or coffee, deepening their reliance on volatile global markets and reducing their food self-sufficiency. Global inequality will worsen unless things change.

One option would be to protect essential agricultural imports, especially fertilisers and staple foods, from punitive tariffs. This would stabilise prices and protect vulnerable economies. The recently announced 90-day pause for negotiations offers a glimmer of hope, but it must be used wisely to build a more equitable trading system.

In the long term, developing countries need to bolster the resilience of their food systems. My research recommends investing heavily in mechanised agriculture, which is resilient to climate change, incentivising farmers with government support, and strengthening regional trade.

The global food system is heavily interconnected. Decisions made in Washington can quickly affect food prices in Lagos, Cairo and New Delhi. And if tariffs go unchecked, they may unleash a silent and subtle crisis – one measured not in GDP, but in millions of empty stomachs.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[‘Major step’: Palace lauds \\$10-M climate grant for Tawi-Tawi project](#)

By: Darryl John Esguerra

Malacañang on Wednesday welcomed the Philippines’ first-ever grant from the global Adaptation Fund, calling the USD10 million climate resilience project in Tawi-Tawi a “major step” in securing the future of vulnerable communities.

In a press briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the project, “Harnessing the water-energy-food nexus to address and adapt to climate change impacts in Tawi-Tawi,” would support two of the country’s southernmost and most climate-affected areas – Sibutu and Sitangkai.

Castro cited the importance of ensuring stable water access for these island municipalities, saying the initiative reflects the Marcos administration’s commitment to long-term climate adaptation and sustainable development.

“Partikular na susuportahan nito ang bayan ng Sibutu at Sitangkai para masiguro ang ligtas at matatag na access sa tubig sa harap ng tumitinding mga hamon dala ng climate change, isang malaking hakbang para sa mas matatag na kinabukasan ng ating mga komunidad sa Tawi-Tawi tungo sa isang Bagong Pilipinas (It will specifically support the municipalities of Sibutu and Sitangkai to ensure safe and reliable water access amid growing climate change challenges – a major step toward a more resilient future for our communities in Tawi-Tawi under a Bagong Pilipinas),” she said.

READ: PH secures \$10-M climate adaptation grant from global fund

The project was officially approved during the 44th Board Meeting of the Adaptation Fund held in Bonn, Germany from April 8 to 11, with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Finance leading the effort to secure the grant.

The Adaptation Fund finances projects and programs that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change. Initiatives are based on the country’s needs, views, and priorities.

REUTERS

[New carbon credit scheme targets 60 plants by 2030 for coal phaseout](#)

By: David Stanway

The Rockefeller Foundation aims to sign up 60 projects by 2030 to a new carbon finance scheme for phasing out coal-fired power in developing countries, it said on Wednesday, after its rulebook was given the go-ahead.

Around 2,000 coal-fired power plants need to be decommissioned from now until 2040 in order to meet global climate targets, the International Energy Agency says, but only 15% are covered by decommissioning pledges.

The Rockefeller Foundation's Coal to Clean Credits Initiative (CCCI) is one of several schemes, opens new tab under development that aim to use carbon finance to help close them earlier than scheduled and replace them with renewable power.

"That target of 60 projects by 2030 is our overall goal, our ambition," said Joseph Curtin, who runs the Rockefeller Foundation's "coal to clean" programme.

In Singapore on Tuesday, carbon standards organisation Verra launched CCCI's methodology for determining which projects are eligible and how emission reductions from early coal plant shutdowns will be calculated, allowing them to generate carbon credits.

The first project to use the methodology will be the South Luzon Thermal Energy Corporation (SLTEC) plant in the Philippines, with the transaction expected to be completed next year.

"Obviously if we can close one transaction - and we're getting much closer - we think that will have a very strong impact on the market and will hopefully reverberate across the region and send a signal that this is indeed possible."

Curtin said his team has identified around 1,000 coal-fired plants in developing countries that would be eligible under the methodology.

The 60 project target could attract \$110 billion in public and private investment by 2030, he said, citing research commissioned by the foundation.

The early retirement of SLTEC is backed by Philippine energy firm ACEN (ACEN.PS), opens new tab together with Singapore clean investment group GenZero, the

infrastructure conglomerate Keppel (KPLM.SI), opens new tab, Japan's Mitsubishi (8058.T), opens new tab and its subsidiary Diamond Generating Asia.

Revenue from carbon credits will be used to cover foregone cashflows brought about by the closure, help pay for the energy storage needed to support renewables and protect the interests of local workers and communities, said Eric Francia, ACEN's chief executive.

CCCI went through seven rounds of consultations on its methodology, partly to allay concerns of environmental groups, who say carbon finance should not be used to bail out coal asset owners.

"The risk with this is how do you determine you are not giving finance to something that was a stranded asset, that wasn't going to be viable in the future?" said Jonathan Crook of Carbon Market Watch, a research group.

The CCCI initiative's criteria will only select projects that are profitable and owned by companies or countries that have made firm "no new coal" commitments, said Curtin.

While there is a moratorium on new coal plants in the Philippines, new facilities approved before the ban are still expected to come on line in the next few years.

But the early retirement of SLTEC would still deliver progress on the energy transition, ACEN's Francia said.

"Of course we need to manage the perception, which is admittedly not good, but we look at the substance, and that is really the equation here," he said.

THE JAPAN TIMES

[World's richest 10% caused two thirds of global warming, study finds](#)

By: Marlowe Hood

The world's wealthiest 10% of individuals are responsible for two thirds of global warming since 1990, researchers said on Wednesday.

How the rich consume and invest has substantially increased the risk of deadly heat waves and drought, they reported in the first study to quantify the impact of concentrated private wealth on extreme climate events.

"We link the carbon footprints of the wealthiest individuals directly to real-world climate impacts," said lead author Sarah Schoengart, a scientist at ETH Zurich.

"It's a shift from carbon accounting toward climate accountability."

Compared to the global average, for example, the richest 1% contributed 26 times more to once-a-century heat waves, and 17 times more to droughts in the Amazon, according to the findings, published in Nature Climate Change.

Emissions from the wealthiest 10% in China and the United States — which together account for nearly half of global carbon pollution — each led to a two-to-threefold rise in heat extremes.

Burning fossil fuels and deforestation have heated Earth's average surface by 1.3 degrees Celsius, mostly during the last 30 years.

Schoengart and colleagues combined economic data and climate simulations to trace emissions from different global income groups and assess their impact on specific types of climate-enhance extreme weather.

The researchers also emphasized the role of emissions embedded in financial investment rather than just lifestyle and personal consumption.

"Climate action that doesn't address the outsized responsibilities of the wealthiest members of society risk missing one of the most powerful levers we have to reduce future harm," said senior author Carl-Friedrich Schleussner, head of the Integrated Climate Impacts Research Group at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis near Vienna.

Owners of capital, he noted, could be held accountable for climate impacts through progressive taxes on wealth and carbon-intensive investments.

Earlier research has shown that taxing asset-related emissions is more equitable than broad carbon taxes, which tend to burden those on lower incomes.

Recent initiatives to increase taxes on the super-rich and multinationals have mostly stalled, especially since Donald Trump regained the White House.

Last year, Brazil — as host of the G20 — pushed for a 2% tax on the net worth of individuals with more than \$1 billion in assets.

Although G20 leaders agreed to "engage cooperatively to ensure that ultra-high-net-worth individuals are effectively taxed," there has been no follow-up to date.

In 2021, nearly 140 countries agreed on work toward a global corporate tax for multinational companies, with nearly half endorsing a minimum rate of 15%, but those talks have stalled as well.

Almost a third of the world's billionaires are from the United States — more than China, India and Germany combined, according to Forbes magazine.

According to anti-poverty nongovernmental organization Oxfam, the richest 1% have accumulated \$42 trillion in new wealth over the past decade.

It says the richest 1% have more wealth than the lowest 95% combined.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PAGEONE

[Climate Change Commission Prods Private Sector To Lead Climate Resilience Efforts](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has called on the private sector to play a leading role in strengthening the country's climate resilience at the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum recently held in Makati City.

In a news release on Tuesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje underscored the critical role of the business sector in the country's national development and sustainable progress.

"The private sector holds the power to drive innovation, unlock investments, and create scalable solutions for a climate-resilient future," Borje said during the event organized by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) in partnership with the New Zealand Embassy.

"By aligning private sector innovation with national strategies, we can accelerate climate action and build a climate-secure future where businesses and communities thrive together."

The forum focused on strengthening partnerships between the private sector, government, and the civil society to build climate resilience in the Philippines, under the theme "Advancing Private Sector Engagement and the National Adaptation Plan".

Borje said 93 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) comes from the private sector, with its capacity to drive innovation and mobilize investments.

He also reiterated the significance of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the updating of the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) as core frameworks to achieve a resilient, low-carbon future.

Borje said the NAP is the country's collective roadmap to climate resilience.

"Preventing losses and damage starts with turning our adaptation plans into tangible solutions, with the private sector stepping up as a driving force in building a climate-resilient future," he said.

The CCC said the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum also marked the continued strengthening of climate cooperation between the Philippines and New Zealand.

New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador Stuart Horne reaffirmed his country's support, highlighting the progress made since the signing of the Joint Declaration on Climate Change Cooperation in November 2024.

The agreement outlines an 18-month plan for collaboration in innovation, sustainable development, and economic growth.

In his remark, Borje cited President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to climate action, with a stress on the importance of inclusive, science-based, and locally-led strategies to ensure long-term climate resilience for both businesses and communities.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Village health workers front-liners in climate health response - CCC

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the crucial role of barangay health workers (BHWs) in addressing the growing health threats posed by climate change.

In a news release on Wednesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje said that during the recent pilot training session of the Accelerated Climate Action and Transformation for Local Communities (ACT LOCAL) program in Caloocan City, it was noted that climate change is not just an environmental issue but also a serious public health concern.

"Ang patuloy na pagtaas ng temperatura at pabago-bagong panahon ay nagdudulot ng paglaganap ng iba't ibang sakit (The continuous rise in temperature and changing weather conditions are causing the spread of various diseases)," Borje said.

He said barangay health workers are the first responders to those affected by climate change.

"Kayo ang frontline ng mga komunidad at katuwang sa pagsagip ng buhay mula sa anumang epekto ng climate change sa kalusugan ng tao (You are the frontline of communities and partners in saving lives from any impact of climate change on human health)," he added.

Borje pointed to the increasing risks from extreme weather events, higher temperatures, and the changing patterns of diseases that threaten vulnerable communities.

The CCC said the ACT LOCAL program aims to equip local communities with knowledge and tools to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The CCC said there are currently around 253,000 trained BHWs across the country, who provide first aid, child healthcare, and immunization services.

Meanwhile, Borje expressed gratitude to the BHWs for their dedication to public service and community well-being, while emphasizing that strengthening prevention and resilience is key to protecting health systems and saving lives amid a changing climate.

The ACT LOCAL initiative forms part of a broader whole-of-government approach under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., which aims to enhance health and climate resilience through community empowerment and science-based solutions.

The CCC, meanwhile, reaffirmed its commitment to support local government units (LGUs) and grassroots sectors, ensuring that climate action initiatives remain inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the evolving needs of Filipino communities.

=END=