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[Building a resilient business in a changing climate](#)

By: Benjamin N. Villacorte

The global energy crisis, driven by disruptions in the Middle East, has exposed vulnerable fuel-dependent economies to price spikes and volatility, with the Philippines particularly affected due to its reliance on imported crude oil and petroleum products. This heavy dependence leaves the country with a limited safety net, as sudden global price increases quickly translating into higher domestic energy costs and broader economic pressure.

ECO BUSINESS

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GMA NEWS

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By: Valerie Volcovici

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INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

[U.N. General Assembly Embraces Court Opinion That Says Nations Have a Legal Obligation to Take Climate Action](#)

By: Dana Drugmand

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly in favor of a climate justice resolution championed by the small Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu. The resolution welcomes the historic advisory opinion on climate change issued by the International Court of Justice in July 2025 and calls upon U.N. member states to act upon the court's unanimous guidance, which clarified that addressing the climate crisis is not optional but rather is a legal duty under multiple sources of international law.

MANILA BULLETIN

[QC Mayor Belmonte warns climate funds bypass cities](#)

By: Trixee Rosel

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte raised concern over the limited direct access of local governments to climate financing, stressing that cities remain underfunded despite being at the frontline of climate change impacts.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Project Noah exec: Metro Manila needs flood management, not just control](#)

By: Marita Moaje

After localized thunderstorms triggered heavy rains and flooding in several areas in Metro Manila last week, Project Noah (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards) Executive Director Mahar Lagmay on Thursday underscored the urgent need to shift from traditional flood control projects to a broader “flood management” strategy.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Merlito G. Edale Jr.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon (OPANL) are intensifying efforts to expand climate resilience, food security, and sustainable livelihood initiatives in Northern Luzon following a recent visit to Project LAWA at BINHI (PLAB) sites in Isabela.

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THE STAR

[Prepare for El Nino risks](#)

By: Gerard Gimino

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) says weather conditions are increasingly pointing to the El Nino phenomenon becoming dominant by August.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Where the tide turns: Confronting a growing ocean crisis](#)

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

For generations, Filipinos understood the ocean as a source of life. It fed communities, connected islands, carried trade, and shaped cultures built around the sea. For an archipelagic country like the Philippines, the ocean was never just a background scenery. It was livelihood, identity and continuity.

[CCC pilot tests gender action checklist](#)

The Climate Change Commission convened national government agencies, development partners, and members of the Gender and Climate Change Advisory Group (GCAG) to finalize their roles and coordination mechanisms as well as pilot test the Harmonized GAD (gender and development) Guidelines Checklist for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

MANILA BULLETIN

[The clock is ticking: Bernos prods LGUs to apply for climate project funding](#)

By: Ellson Quismorio

Abra lone district Rep. JB Bernos knows a way for local government units (LGUs) to make the local agriculture sector more climate-resilient--but they must act fast.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC drives capacity building for PhilDel to ensure unified stance in global climate talks](#)

To ensure that the Philippines speaks with a singular, data-driven voice on the global stage, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) recently convened key government agencies for a comprehensive capacity-building and consultation meeting for the Philippine Delegation (PhilDel).

[CCC: Local Climate Change Action Plans key to water security amid declining dam levels](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the importance of Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) in water security amid the declining water levels in several dams due to prolonged dry conditions and high heat indices.

SUNSTAR

[CCC prepares PH team for global climate talks](#)

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

Building a resilient business in a changing climate

By: Benjamin N. Villacorte

The global energy crisis, driven by disruptions in the Middle East, has exposed vulnerable fuel-dependent economies to price spikes and volatility, with the Philippines particularly affected due to its reliance on imported crude oil and petroleum products. This heavy dependence leaves the country with a limited safety net, as sudden global price increases quickly translating into higher domestic energy costs and broader economic pressure.

Simultaneously, recurring heat waves are compounding these risks. The government weather service, known as PAGASA, reported dangerous heat index levels of 42°C to 51°C in 2026, increasing health risks and straining daily life.

The energy crises and extreme heat are examples of a wider global pattern in recent years, where challenges are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected. One need only look at the news for a surge of developments on global tariffs, artificial intelligence, global pandemics, geopolitical conflict, and ongoing supply chain disruptions.

These realities were highlighted in the recent SGV thought leadership forum, “Transforming Risk into Strategic Advantage,” held on May 6, where industry leaders discussed how businesses can convert emerging risks into drivers of long-term value.

Climate change serves as one of the — if not the biggest — drivers of volatility, but it is not yet well-integrated into strategic planning. Just as geopolitical and supply chain disruption create uncertainty, climate change introduces volatility that is unsuitable for a predictable and stable investment environment.

By understanding emerging risks, companies can build resilience while creating long-term competitive advantages. Businesses that leverage climate insights to mitigate these risks and turn them into competitive advantages will be best positioned to thrive in an uncertain future.

HOW CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS SHAPE BUSINESS OUTCOMES

Climate-related risks disrupt global markets, supply chains, and regulations. They are most visible in extreme weather events, such as extreme flooding, droughts, and strong typhoons, which heavily affect local industries infrastructure and communities.

The Philippines has ranked among the most climate-vulnerable countries for 16 consecutive years, ranked by the Climate Risk Index as the 7th most affected country by storms, floods, and heatwaves. The projected cumulative damage of these events to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will increase from 7.6% in 2030 to 13.6% in 2040.

There are also growing climate policy risks. Governments are introducing stricter rules on carbon reporting, emissions, and sustainability. These regulatory shifts increase compliance costs, risk of penalties, and potential misalignment in supply chains, particularly when sourcing from carbon-intensive countries.

The global value chain, which the Philippines relies on heavily for our primary and intermediate goods, is also highly exposed to these hazardous climate risks. These climate-induced challenges compound existing economic and geopolitical pressures, heightening overall operational risks. Current resilience frameworks often lack climate-specific metrics and targets, making it difficult to incorporate long-term risk assessments into short-term operational planning.

Climate change risk impact on the Filipino people cannot be ignored. Extreme exposure to flooding, heat waves, extreme typhoons, and economic vulnerability from changing labor and consumption demand due to the energy transition must be considered for businesses in their strategic decision making.

TURNING CLIMATE INSIGHTS INTO COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

While climate-related risks are deemed material to companies, the transition toward a low-carbon, resilient economy opens up valuable opportunities. Companies are recognizing climate transparency not just as a regulatory obligation but as a powerful strategic advantage.

Enhanced visibility across value chains enables organizations to identify operational vulnerabilities, assess risks, and respond quickly to emerging disruptions. By investing in climate data and disclosure, businesses can stay ahead of regulatory changes and meet rising investor expectations.

Demand for climate-aligned reporting is rising, signaling a shift toward using transparency as a measure of long-term resilience. The 2025 EY Global Climate Action Barometer reflects this momentum: nearly 80% of companies now link environmental metrics to executive incentives, and most have or are developing climate action plans.

However, 65% of firms with net-zero targets lack actionable transition plans, and fewer than half have validated targets through the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). These actionability gaps carry financial consequences: climate inaction can cost companies up to 15% of annual revenue, compared to 8% for those taking proactive measures. However, many organizations have yet to fully incorporate this perspective into decision-making. The report shows that climate-related disclosures are still not being fully leveraged to inform strategy and capital allocation.

Capital markets are increasingly pricing these risks. Research by MSCI shows that a company's exposure to, and management of, financially material sustainability-related risks directly affects its overall risk profile and influences access to equity and debt financing. Companies with higher resilience to sustainability-related risks (measured through stronger MSCI ESG Ratings) consistently exhibit lower costs of capital across equity and debt instruments. This negative

correlation highlights that transparency, credible planning, and effective risk management are increasingly rewarded by investors and lenders.

As countries advance their low-carbon transitions, regulatory frameworks are encouraging businesses to invest in emissions reduction, renewable energy, and sustainable practices. Companies that align effectively with these frameworks can also gain competitive advantages through enhanced efficiency, lower energy costs, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

For instance, mapping the carbon intensity of supply chains helps firms avoid regulatory penalties and comply with emerging international policies such as the European Union (EU) carbon border adjustments mechanisms (CBAMs).

SEC Memorandum Circular No. 16, series of 2025, requires publicly-listed companies (PLCs) and large non-listed companies (LNLs) to adopt IFRS S1 and S2 through the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS) on Sustainability Disclosures starting in FY2026, with limited extensions of transition reliefs.

This regulation includes the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and Roadmap that encourage sustainable business practices and align company disclosures with international standards to attract environmental, social, and governance (ESG)-focused investors in the national capital market.

Organizations that integrate climate insights into strategy, through risk assessments, scenario analysis, and resilient operations, are better positioned to capture growth opportunities and strengthen long-term competitiveness.

In this dynamic environment, climate transparency transcends compliance to become a key driver of transformation and competitive differentiation.

TOWARDS A 'JUST TRANSITION' APPROACH

In building a resilient future, a "just transition" is slowly being integrated as the foundation of companies in their long-term business strategies. As a framework, a just transition prioritizes equity, fairness, and inclusion as businesses navigate the shift to a low-carbon economy. It ensures that this does not adversely impact stakeholders or communities, but instead generates social and economic benefits.

For companies, embracing a just transition means aligning climate readiness with responsible business practices, ensuring resilience efforts contribute to broader objectives.

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EMBEDDING CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT INTO STRATEGY

To enhance resilience, businesses are increasingly adopting international standards and climate frameworks that promote consistent risk disclosure and long-term strategic alignment.

Key actions include leveraging scenario analysis to map supply chain vulnerabilities evaluating exposure to extreme physical climate and energy transition risks, integrating climate science data into planning and fostering cross-sector partnerships. These measures enable companies to align climate resilience with operational continuity and regulatory compliance, positioning themselves for sustained competitiveness.

Beyond reporting, organizations must embed climate considerations across enterprise-wide processes. This involves integrating climate data into strategic planning, capital allocation, and product innovation. In practice, climate metrics can guide site selection and business continuity planning, allowing climate insights to move from being siloed ESG initiatives into core business capabilities.

By integrating climate into strategy, companies can mitigate risk and capitalize on new opportunities. As climate risks become increasingly systemic and uncertain, climate assessment and scenario analysis tools become indispensable for insulating against an increasingly volatile business environment.

ECO BUSINESS

Could nature itself hold the solution to climate change?

Decarbonisation of the buildings and construction sector has slowed, leaving it both a major emissions source and increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts and energy price shocks, according to a new report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).

The tenth edition of the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (2025-2026) assesses progress across the sector using seven key indicators covering policies, finance, technologies, and investment aligned with global commitments towards a 2050 net-zero emissions pathway.

Published amid a global housing and energy affordability crisis, the report highlights how climate action in buildings can reduce energy bills, improve living conditions, and strengthen resilience to climate impacts, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

“From homes and schools to hospitals and workplaces, buildings play a fundamental role in our lives,” said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. “Buildings can either lock in climate risks or deliver safer, healthier, and more affordable living conditions. With half of the world’s buildings yet to be built or renovated by 2050, governments have a critical opportunity to drive zero-emission, resilient construction through better policies, codes, and investment.”

Every day, the world builds an estimated 12.7 million square metres of floor area –roughly the equivalent of adding the entire city of Paris in new floor space nearly every week.

In 2024, the global buildings floor area expanded by 1.7 per cent, reaching 273 billion square metres. This rapid growth was driven largely by construction in emerging economies, including India and Southeast Asia. The buildings and construction sector now accounts for nearly 50 per cent of global material extraction, 37 per cent of global emissions, and 28 per cent of global energy consumption.

The report notes that since 2015:

- Global building energy intensity – measuring a building’s annual energy consumption relative to its size – has reduced by 8.5 per cent.
- Green building certifications have nearly tripled.
- In 2024, renewables supplied just 17.3 per cent of buildings’ energy demand, far below what is needed for a net-zero pathway.
- Investment in energy efficiency reached US\$275 billion in 2024, contributing to cumulative investment of US\$2.3 trillion since 2015.

- Since 2020, however, progress has slowed, as the green transition has not kept pace with the rate of construction. To align the sector with a net-zero pathway, policymakers should accelerate energy efficiency improvements, and the fossil fuel phase out, while investment in building energy efficiency must reach US\$5.9 trillion by 2030, equivalent to US\$592 billion annually.

The report highlights positive examples across regions, including:

- The European Union deployed policies tackling operational emissions and emissions released before and during construction (embodied emissions). Improvements in building energy performance in Japan and Switzerland.
- Growth in on-site renewables in buildings in Australia, Germany, India, and Pakistan.
- National climate action plans (NDCs) substantively covering building sector strategies in the Bahamas, Cambodia, and Colombia.
- Updated building energy codes in California, Kenya, Japan, and Singapore.
- Expansion of green building certification in China, Colombia, India, and Türkiye.
- National roadmaps supporting sector transformation in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Ghana, and Senegal.
- Growth in investment and financing for sustainable buildings in Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.
- UNEP and GlobalABC will continue working to strengthen data, improve methodologies and support national policymaking. These efforts will equip decision-makers with the evidence needed to accelerate climate action while addressing affordability and equity challenges.

About the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

About the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)

Founded at COP21, hosted by UNEP and with over 400 members, including 71 countries, the GlobalABC is the leading global platform for all built environment stakeholders committed to a common vision: A zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector.

GMA NEWS

[141 countries, including Philippines, back world court climate opinion](#)

By: Valerie Volcovici

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday voted 141-8 to adopt a resolution backing a world court opinion that countries have a legal obligation to address climate change, with the world's biggest historical emitter the United States among those opposing it.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the vote, in which 28 countries abstained, underscored that governments are responsible for protecting citizens from the "escalating climate crisis."

The Philippines voted in favor of the resolution.

"I welcome the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the ICJ's advisory opinion on climate change – a powerful affirmation of international law, climate justice, science & the responsibility of states to protect people from the escalating climate crisis," he said in a post on X.

The resolution, brought by the Pacific island Vanuatu, affirms a July 2025 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that states are obligated to reduce fossil fuel use and tackle global warming.

While not legally binding, the opinion is expected to be cited in climate-related legal cases worldwide.

The United States joined Saudi Arabia, Russia, Israel, Iran, Yemen, Liberia and Belarus in opposing the resolution. COP31 climate summit host Turkey, India, and oil producers Qatar and Nigeria were among those abstaining.

The Trump administration has removed the US from the Paris climate agreement and other major environmental accords, and has pursued policies to boost fossil fuel production.

"The resolution includes inappropriate political demands relating to fossil fuels," US Deputy Ambassador to the UN Tammy Bruce said, adding that Washington saw no basis for requiring the secretary-general to report on the legal issues raised.

Vishal Prasad, director of Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, which led the campaign for an ICJ opinion, called the vote a commitment to "making it a reality."

INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

[U.N. General Assembly Embraces Court Opinion That Says Nations Have a Legal Obligation to Take Climate Action](#)

By: Dana Drugmand

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly in favor of a climate justice resolution championed by the small Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu. The resolution welcomes the historic advisory opinion on climate change issued by the International Court of Justice in July 2025 and calls upon U.N. member states to act upon the court's unanimous guidance, which clarified that addressing the climate crisis is not optional but rather is a legal duty under multiple sources of international law.

"Last year, the International Court of Justice ruled that countries have a legal duty to protect the climate, and today the world has not only reaffirmed that ruling, but committed to making it a reality. This must be a turning point in accountability for damaging the climate," Vishal Prasad, director of Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change—the group that initiated the campaign to request a climate change advisory opinion from the ICJ—said in a statement.

While nonbinding, the court's opinion is widely viewed as an authoritative interpretation of existing law. Legal experts say it could be used as persuasive authority in domestic climate litigation and in diplomatic arenas like the annual U.N. climate summits.

In its opinion, the ICJ—the principal judicial body of the United Nations—affirmed that limiting long-term global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius remains the primary goal for global climate action. It clarified that customary legal obligations apply to all countries regardless of whether they are parties to the U.N. climate treaties, and that protection of the environment is a precondition for the enjoyment of human rights.

The court also said the countries have a duty to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, including by regulating private actors, and it suggested that continued boosting of fossil fuels could be considered an internationally wrongful act.

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly on Wednesday seeks to operationalize the court's opinion. It calls upon countries to comply with their international obligations as clarified by the court. It also urges countries to implement measures to achieve the 1.5-degree objective, including by transitioning away from fossil fuels. And it requests that the U.N. Secretary-General issue a report exploring ways to advance compliance.

When the vote finally came, following some procedural wrangling over proposed amendments, it passed by a resounding majority with 141 member states voting in support, and 28 abstaining.

Only eight countries, Belarus, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Yemen,

voted against the resolution.

Prior to the vote, the U.S. delivered an oral statement strongly opposing the proposal and urging all countries to vote against it. “The United States continues to have serious legal and policy concerns about this resolution,” Tammy Bruce, deputy representative of the United States to the United Nations, said on the assembly floor. She called it “highly problematic” in directing states to comply with “so-called obligations,” including the duty to prevent transboundary harm to the global climate, which she said was “legally wrong.”

“The resolution includes inappropriate political demands relating to fossil fuels and on other climate topics,” Bruce added. She further argued that it makes “alarmist political statements such as the idea that climate change is an unprecedented challenge of civilizational proportions.”

In a speech before the General Assembly in September 2025, President Donald Trump called climate change the “greatest con job” in history and described renewable energy and other measures to reduce carbon emissions as a “green scam,” urging member nations to reject climate measures and consume American oil and gas.

The court itself stated in its opinion, aligning with warnings from top climate and Earth system scientists, that climate change is an “existential problem of planetary proportions that imperils all forms of life and the very health of our planet.”

In the months leading up to the vote on the resolution, the U.S. had reportedly tried pressuring other countries to oppose it and demand that Vanuatu withdraw it altogether. Vanuatu did not drop the resolution, but it did make some compromises on the text, such as eliminating a call to establish a global registry to track climate-related loss and damage.

In the end, though, the resolution endorsing the court’s opinion passed by a considerable margin, without any last-minute amendments that climate justice advocates say would have weakened the text even further. Advocates celebrated the milestone.

“Today’s vote marks an important step in advancing climate justice,” said Camile Cortez, senior campaigner on climate justice at Amnesty International. “This resolution brings renewed momentum towards ensuring accountability for climate-driven human rights harms and protecting present and future generations.”

Joie Chowdhury, senior attorney and climate justice and accountability manager at the Center for International Environmental Law, said the resolution’s power comes from the “strong majority” of countries voting yes. “It sends a clear signal in very troubled times that governments remain committed to the rule of law, and to collective action to protect the climate,” Chowdhury told Inside Climate News. “And it’s a victory for constructive multilateralism and cooperation.”

“It demonstrates the collective refusal by the global majority to let a handful of holdouts block the path to climate justice,” Chowdhury added. “And crucially, it helps ensure that the ICJ’s advisory opinion is not a one-off breakthrough, but is a lasting compass for advancing ambition and equity.”

MANILA BULLETIN

[QC Mayor Belmonte warns climate funds bypass cities](#)

By: Trixee Rosel

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte raised concern over the limited direct access of local governments to climate financing, stressing that cities remain underfunded despite being at the frontline of climate change impacts.

Speaking at the Philanthropy Asia Summit 2026 in Singapore, held from May 18 to 20, Belmonte said cities like Quezon City -- with a population of about 3.3 million -- are not directly reached by existing climate finance mechanisms, even as they carry the immediate burden of climate-related disasters.

At the panel "Turning Pledges into Progress: How Investment-Ready Governments Turn Climate Finance into Results," Belmonte underscored the widening gap between global climate finance commitments and actual delivery to local governments.

She also pointed out that philanthropic funding for the Philippines remains limited, citing what she described as reputational concerns, including issues linked to the flood control scandal, which have affected investor confidence.

Belmonte highlighted Quezon City's own climate initiatives, including the deployment of additional electric buses under the QCity Bus free ride program aimed at reducing emissions and improving public transport services.

She emphasized that beyond funding access, strong governance systems are crucial to ensure that climate finance is efficiently managed and translated into measurable and accountable results.

Joining Belmonte in the panel were Woonchong Um, CEO of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet; Zoe Whitton of the Investor Group on Climate Change; Arghya Sinha Roy of the Asian Development Bank; and Laurel Blatchford of Delivery Associates, with Kate Epstein serving as moderator.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Project Noah exec: Metro Manila needs flood management, not just control](#)

By: Marita Moaje

After localized thunderstorms triggered heavy rains and flooding in several areas in Metro Manila last week, Project Noah (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards) Executive Director Mahar Lagmay on Thursday underscored the urgent need to shift from traditional flood control projects to a broader “flood management” strategy.

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview, Lagmay said flooding persists due to rapid urbanization, inadequate drainage systems, clogged waterways and heavier rainfalls linked to worsening climate change.

“Hindi natin matatanggal ang baha dito sa Pilipinas. Hindi natin matatanggal ang baha dito sa Metro Manila. Ang maaari nating gawin ay pababain para mas mamana natin. Ayaw na nga namin tawagin na flood control ito at gusto natin tawagin ito na flood management (We cannot eliminate the floods here in the Philippines. We cannot eliminate the floods here in Metro Manila. What we can do is lower it so we can better manage it. We don’t want to call it flood control anymore, and we want to call it flood management),” he said.

He said extensive concrete development has reduced the ground’s ability to absorb rainwater, causing faster runoff that overwhelms drainage systems during heavy downpours.

Lagmay also noted that most flood control systems were designed decades ago and are no longer sufficient to address current rainfall conditions.

He also pointed out that garbage accumulations, clogged drainage systems and silted rivers have also worsened flooding in Metro Manila.

“Tapos yung mga nagbabaha dyan, yan yung mga lugar na mabababang lugar (And then those areas that flood, those are the low-lying areas),” he said.

Despite efforts to address flooding problems, rains have become heavier and more unpredictable, leading to deeper flooding.

Lagmay emphasized the need for “hybrid solutions” that combine infrastructure and nature-based interventions to mitigate flooding.

These include detention basins, bioswales, rainwater harvesting, tree planting and preserving open spaces that can temporarily store floodwater, he added.

He also stressed the need for stricter urban planning, noting that critical infrastructure and housing should not be built in flood-prone, low-lying areas.

“Ang pinakamaganda ay iiwas natin yung pagtatayo ng mga kabahayan, mga gusali, critical facilities doon sa mabababang lugar (The best thing is to avoid building houses, buildings and critical facilities in those low-lying areas),” he said.

He added that river rehabilitation, dredging and improved solid waste management remain essential to restoring waterways’ capacity, along with stronger coordination between local governments and national agencies under a watershed approach.

He also advised the public to remain vigilant, as long-term interventions take time to put in place.

“Malapit na po ang tag-ulan, ngayon ay Mayo na. Pagdating po ng July-August, napakatindi na po ng mga habagat natin dito sa Metro Manila. Mag-ingat po tayo at sundin po ang batas at sundin po ang mga abiso ng inyong LGU at ng national government (The rainy season is approaching, it’s already May. When July and August come, our southwest monsoon here in Metro Manila will be very intense. Be careful and follow the law and heed the advisories of your local and national governments),” he said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH backs UN resolution endorsing ICJ climate crisis ruling](#)

By: Merlito G. Edale Jr.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon (OPANL) are intensifying efforts to expand climate resilience, food security, and sustainable livelihood initiatives in Northern Luzon following a recent visit to Project LAWA at BINHI (PLAB) sites in Isabela.

The initiative supports President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to strengthen disaster preparedness, promote food security, and empower vulnerable communities through sustainable, climate-adaptive programs.

The site visit was led by DSWD Disaster Response Management Bureau Director Maria Isabel B. Lanada and Assistant Secretary Ana Carmela Remigio of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon (OPANL), together with DSWD Region 2 Director Lucia Alan, at the PLAB sites in Barangay Bigao, Siffu, and Barangay Carikkikan Norte in the City of Ilagan, Isabela.

The activity aimed to identify possible collaborations among the DSWD, OPANL, and local government units (LGUs) to further expand the implementation of Project LAWA at BINHI and other community-based resilience and livelihood initiatives across Northern Luzon.

Project LAWA at BINHI is one of the government's key programs that addresses the impacts of climate change and disasters by combining water resource management, food production, and community livelihood development.

Beneficiaries also showcased various livelihood products developed through the program, including dried fish, atchara, and chili garlic oil, highlighting the project's contribution to creating additional income opportunities for participating communities.

Remigio commended the beneficiaries for their dedication and commitment to sustaining and properly implementing the project in their respective communities.

She assured the continued support of the national government for the expansion of partner-LGUs, establishment of additional project sites, and provision of further assistance to beneficiaries to strengthen community livelihoods and improve preparedness against disasters and climate-related risks.

"The government remains committed to ensuring that communities become more resilient, self-sufficient, and prepared for the challenges brought by climate change," Remigio said, emphasizing that the initiative is aligned with the administration's whole-of-government approach to inclusive and sustainable development.

Meanwhile, City of Ilagan Social Welfare and Development Officer Evalyn Bacungan expressed gratitude for the continued trust of the DSWD in the City Government of Ilagan as one of the agency's active partners in implementing the project.

Bacungan said the officials' visit served as an opportunity to highlight the positive outcomes of collaboration among national agencies, local government units, and communities in advancing programs that promote welfare and development.

Prior to the site visit, Director Lanada and Assistant Secretary Remigio also met with officials of the City Government of Ilagan to discuss plans and strategies for expanding resilience and livelihood programs in the region.

THE GUARDIAN

[Could nature itself hold the solution to climate change?](#)

Technological interventions face huge financial or practical challenges, but there is another way

In 2019, my scientific research was nearly brought to an early end when my team and I published the bombastic statement that natural forest restoration was the “best climate change solution” available in a paper for the peer-reviewed journal Science.

I remember a colleague from the World Wildlife Fund advising me that this message represented career suicide. He argued that people would be furious because reducing greenhouse gas emissions was the most urgent priority. The revival of nature might help with 30% of our carbon drawdown needs, but you cannot stop rising temperatures without cutting emissions.

I agreed both then and now. However, I explained that when we referred to the “best” solution, we didn’t simply mean the one with the largest impact in terms of CO₂; we meant the best option for improving the livelihoods and wellbeing of people, too. And that, as we shall see, plays a crucial role in magnifying the beneficial effect.

Many people believe the scale of the climate challenge calls for immense technological innovation, geoengineering, or the transformation of our economy. But with these solutions there are often painful trade-offs. Almost every technological or geoengineering fix you can imagine comes at the expense of something else.

Stratospheric aerosol injection is one example. Creating clouds of reflective particles could block the sun and cool the land below. But alterations in sunlight and rainfall patterns could disrupt the growth of the crops we depend on for food. Similarly, direct air carbon capture has incredible potential to remove CO₂, but the huge financial and energy costs currently stand in the way of deploying it at the scale we need.

There is one set of solutions, however, that present no trade-off at all when they are done right. The restoration of natural habitats like forests is an exception in our climate toolkit because it draws on the same network of connections that allowed life to flourish in the first place.

The resilience of the natural world comes from ancient, underappreciated forces known as feedback loops. A positive feedback loop occurs when the outcome of a process has an effect that amplifies the process itself. You can see these patterns all the time in different aspects of life: for example whenever your anxiety about sleeping makes it harder to drift off.

Around 3.8bn to 4.2bn years ago, feedback loops allowed life to spread on an otherwise toxic and uninhabitable planet: Earth. As life gained a foothold, it began to transform the environment, making it hospitable to more life. Species emerged that generated opportunities for even more

species. This self-reinforcing process created the Eden that allowed our own species to thrive, as well as providing every ounce of food, oxygen, timber, medicine and fuel we have ever needed.

But as we are all aware, the success of our species has initiated new feedback loops. The exploitation of natural resources by human beings has allowed population growth that has driven even more exploitation, which has warmed the planet, causing carbon to be released from the soil, driving more warming. As forests dry out, they are able to store less moisture, which causes more drying. Many loops such as this are now in motion, threatening to tip our planet into an entirely new state.

If we can work with nature's feedback loops rather than distorting them, we can reap the benefits of their self-sustaining momentum

But just as feedback loops can cause damage, they can be harnessed as a pathway to recovery. They are not objectively good or bad: they are simply agents of change. If we can work with nature's feedback loops rather than distorting them, we can reap the benefits of their self-sustaining momentum.

In Argentina's Iberá national park, you can see a stunning example of runaway revival. After decades of degradation, the reintroduction of jaguars has reduced bloated herds of grazing herbivores, allowing wetland plants to recover. The plants' roots trap moisture in the soil, and their branches provide a habitat for species that make this one of the most spectacular wetlands – and carbon sinks – on the planet. After just a few years, caimans now bask on the banks, macaws flash scarlet across the sky and giant otters patrol the waterways.

Of course, nature-based solutions are not always so successful. Companies have created vast carbon farms via monocultural tree planting, destroying native species in the process. The drying of peatlands to reduce methane production leads to the release of huge amounts of CO₂. Nature's power lies in its complexity, so attempting to simplify or reengineer the system often backfires.

The risks and trade-offs tend to disappear, though, when you get one vital part of the equation right. Time and again, when the revival of local biodiversity improves the livelihoods and wellbeing of local people, change becomes truly sustainable. Whenever people are intrinsically motivated to protect the environment around them, they become an integrated part of a natural feedback loop that can quickly gather momentum.

In the Iberá wetlands example, ecotourism became the engine of a new "restoration economy" employing rangers, chefs, hosts, wildlife trackers and guides. There are hundreds of such examples around the world: in Saseri, northern India, strategic soil management and tree restoration is trapping water to improve the yields of more than 1,200 farmers. A thousand kilometres to the south-west, in Gujarat, Indigenous women are restoring mangroves to protect 12 coastal villages from erosion while simultaneously improving the productivity of fisheries, crops and livestock.

What these and countless other projects illustrate is that we do not need remarkable innovation or great sacrifice to move things forward. We just need to allow a tiny fraction of our collective attention and wealth (perhaps less than 1% of global GDP) to flow towards these rural land stewards, supporting their ongoing efforts. Cumulatively, they result in hundreds of millions of tons of CO₂ captured – but that is only the beginning of their potential impact.

The more degraded nature becomes, the more desperately we need it. When nature starts to bounce back, it doesn't only provide livelihoods, food security and carbon storage; it revives the hope, joy and inspiration that our species so desperately needs at this critical moment in time. Though they might seem beside the point, these emotional reactions are the lifeblood of nature restoration, with the potential to generate their own feedback loops, far into the future.

[UN backs historic climate crisis ruling, despite US attempts to stop resolution](#)

The UN has voted 141-8 to adopt a resolution backing a world court opinion that countries have a legal obligation to address climate change, with the US – which is the world’s biggest historical emitter – among the small group opposing it.

The UN secretary general, António Guterres, said Wednesday’s general assembly vote, in which 28 countries abstained, underscored that governments are responsible for protecting citizens from the “escalating climate crisis”.

“I welcome the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the ICJ’s advisory opinion on climate change – a powerful affirmation of international law, climate justice, science + the responsibility of states to protect people from the escalating climate crisis,” Guterres said in a post on X.

A woman poses on a hike

Eva v Goliath: the 20-year-old climate activist taking on Trump and the fossil fuel industry

[Read more](#)

The resolution, brought by the Pacific island Vanuatu, affirms a July 2025 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that states are obligated to reduce fossil fuel use and tackle global warming.

While not legally binding, the court’s advisory opinion is already being used in climate litigation around the world and judges are starting to reference it in their climate-related rulings.

But it has proved more intractable as a diplomatic lever. It failed to make a mark at last year’s UNFCCC climate talks in Belem; Saudi Arabia called its inclusion in final texts a “red, red line”.

The US joined Saudi Arabia, Russia, Israel, Iran, Yemen, Liberia and Belarus in opposing the resolution on Wednesday. Cop31 climate summit host Turkey, India, and oil producers Qatar and Nigeria were among those abstaining.

Australia, Germany, France and the UK were among the 141 voting in favour of the resolution.

The Trump administration has removed the US from the Paris climate agreement and other major environmental accords, and has pursued policies to boost fossil fuel production.

“The resolution includes inappropriate political demands relating to fossil fuels,” the US deputy ambassador to the UN, Tammy Bruce, said. Washington saw no basis for requiring the secretary-general to report on the legal issues raised, Bruce added.

The Associated Press reported in February that the Trump administration had been urging other nations to press Vanuatu to withdraw the resolution from consideration.

Before the vote, Odo Tevi, the Vanuatu ambassador to the UN, said: “We should be honest with one another about why this matters ... It matters because the harm is real and it is already here, along our islands and coastlines, for communities facing drought and failed harvests.

“The states and peoples bearing the heaviest burden are very often those who contributed least to the problem,” he said.

Vanuatu’s minister of climate change, Ralph Regenvanu, said: “In the current geopolitical context, sustained commitment to the rule of law is more important than ever” and that climate change “is no exception”.

“Upholding the court’s clarification of existing obligations is essential for the credibility of the international system and for effective collective action,” he said.

For decades, Pacific nations have watched their homelands slowly disappear.

In Tuvalu, where the average elevation is just 2 metres (6.6 feet) above sea level, more than a third of the population has applied for a climate migration visa to Australia, although only a limited number are accepted each year. By 2100, much of the country is projected to be underwater at high tide.

In Nauru, the government has begun selling passports to wealthy foreigners – offering visa-free access to dozens of countries – in a bid to generate revenue for possible relocation efforts.

The Paris climate agreement in 2015 set a goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius since preindustrial times, or the mid-1800s, giving rise to the mantra “1.5 to stay alive,” but now scientists say even their best-case scenario still shoots past that signature temperature mark.

Vishal Prasad, the director of Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, which led the campaign for an ICJ opinion, called the vote a commitment to “making it a reality”.

THE STAR

[Prepare for El Nino risks](#)

By: Gerard Gimino

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) says weather conditions are increasingly pointing to the El Nino phenomenon becoming dominant by August.

It said rising sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean, weakening easterly winds and the effects of global warming could cause El Nino to develop more intensively.

MetMalaysia said the development of El Nino and positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions, which are expected to persist until September, could potentially reduce rainfall across most parts of Malaysia.

“This is particularly expected during the south-west monsoon period,” said MetMalaysia in its long-term weather outlook for May to October.

It said the south-west monsoon, which lasts until September, is also expected to result in drier weather conditions.

There is also the potential for severe and prolonged dry spells during this period if El Nino and the positive IOD remain active.

“Average rainfall nationwide is expected to be slightly below normal from June to September.

“Significant rainfall reduction will peak between June and August, in line with the south-west monsoon and El Nino’s influence.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Centre has also found there is an 82% chance of El Nino emerging between this month and July.

It also forecast a 96% chance of the phenomenon persisting between December this year and February next year.

Experts are urging Malaysians to prepare for months of blistering heat, prolonged dry spells and shrinking water supplies due to the coming El Nino phenomenon.

They say El Nino, expected to start in July, may intensify into an extreme event on par with the 1997/98 and 2015/16 episodes.

Academy of Sciences Malaysia fellow Prof Emeritus Dr Fredolin Tangang said the focus now is on how strong the El Nino phenomenon will be.

He said an “extreme” El Nino episode is categorised when sea surface temperature anomalies in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean region exceed 2°C.

According to him, El Nino episodes in this category include the events of 1972/73, 1982/83, 1997/98 and 2015/16.

“The 1997/98 and 2015/16 events are regarded as the strongest in modern observational record.

“Based on my observations, I believe that the coming El Nino has the potential to evolve into an event comparable to the past two episodes,” said Fredolin, who has researched the phenomenon over three decades.

During the 1997/98 episode, Malaysia experienced a water crisis and recorded its highest temperatures, namely in Chuping, Perlis, at 40.1°C.

The 2015/16 episode meanwhile, brought about a devastating haze.

Fredolin warned of prolonged droughts, heatwaves and increased risk of forest and vegetation fires in both local and neighbouring countries, which are often associated with extreme El Nino episodes.

“We are also expected to face impacts on water resources, declining agricultural yields and adverse effects on public health.

“The question is – are we truly prepared?” he said.

Universiti Malaya’s Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Azizan Abu Samah said the weather is expected to be drier by June if El Nino materialises, alongside possible heatwaves and droughts in July.

He said models currently predict that El Nino will strengthen by the year-end, before shifting to neutral by the start of 2027.

“We may have to be on the lookout for coral bleaching events during a strong El Nino.

“There is also the possibility of regional haze if open burning occurs in neighbouring countries,” he said, adding that this may last until October when the north-east monsoon begins.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Where the tide turns: Confronting a growing ocean crisis](#)

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

For generations, Filipinos understood the ocean as a source of life. It fed communities, connected islands, carried trade, and shaped cultures built around the sea. For an archipelagic country like the Philippines, the ocean was never just a background scenery. It was livelihood, identity and continuity.

But today, something deeper and more systemic is changing: The ocean is no longer simply sustaining us. Increasingly, it is transmitting risk back into our communities, economies, and national systems.

The numbers are clear. The Philippines' ocean economy contributes around P787 billion annually and supports over 2.24-million Filipinos across fisheries, transport, tourism and related industries. Yet the same waters supporting these sectors are under mounting strain from warming temperatures, pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction and sea-level rise.

At least 150,000 Filipinos are projected to face displacement from rising seas by 2040, with potential economic losses reaching P18 billion. At the same time, plastic pollution continues to flow into marine ecosystems already under growing stress. Coral reefs continue to bleach. Mangroves disappear in vulnerable areas. Fish stocks face growing pressure.

These are often discussed separately, as environmental or coastal concerns. But for a country surrounded by water, ocean instability does not remain at sea for long.

When the tide turns, the impacts move quickly into food systems, public finance, infrastructure vulnerability, migration pressures, and local economies. When ecosystems weaken, storm surges become more destructive. When fish stocks decline, livelihoods and food security become more fragile. When reefs collapse and coastlines degrade, communities lose natural protection that once quietly reduced risk for generations.

The ocean has long buffered humanity from even worse climate impacts by absorbing heat and storing carbon. But that protective function has limits. And when it weakens, the risks do not arrive one at a time. They begin interacting.

This is one of the deeper governance challenges today. Many institutions still rely on incremental and stop-gap responses to risks that are no longer isolated or temporary, but increasingly large-scale, recurring and systemic.

The ocean reflects this reality clearly: What once protected us is now also becoming a channel through which climate risks are amplified.

This growing recognition is no longer confined to scientists or vulnerable coastal communities. Across international discussions, including recent action at the United Nations General Assembly on climate change and intergenerational responsibility, there is increasing acknowledgment that climate risks are interconnected pressures affecting economies, food systems, displacement, cultural continuity and long-term stability.

For the Philippines, the ocean sits at the center of that convergence. And yet, what is at risk is not only economic.

Across the country, coastal communities carry traditions and identities anchored in the sea. Knowledge of tides, navigation, fishing grounds and stewardship have been passed across generations. Coastal life shaped not only livelihoods but memory and culture. And the ocean shaped regional and national identities many communities carry today.

The experience of the Badjao (Sama-Bajau) communities makes this visible. Long known for lives shaped by mobility across marine ecosystems, many now face increasing difficulty sustaining traditional seafaring practices as fish stocks decline and marine environments degrade. Movement toward more permanent settlements is not simply geographic transition nor adaptation. It is also cultural disruption.

When ecosystems collapse, heritage often erodes quietly alongside them.

This is why ocean governance can no longer be treated as a narrow environmental agenda. It is increasingly a question of national resilience.

Under President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., the Philippines has already begun building important policy foundations through the National Adaptation Plan 2023–2050. The NAP identifies coastal and marine ecosystems as critical to reducing climate risks and strengthening long-term resilience.

Efforts to restore mangroves, expand marine protected areas, improve coastal adaptation, reduce pollution and support vulnerable communities are necessary steps.

At this point, scientific evidence and enabling policies are no longer the primary constraints. Institutional speed increasingly is.

The challenge now is whether implementation can move with the same urgency as the risks reshaping coastlines and communities across the country.

Local government units will play a decisive role. Coastal protection, resilient land-use planning, sustainable fisheries management, and ecosystem restoration cannot remain secondary

concerns. They are becoming central components of economic stability and disaster risk reduction and management.

We must remember that for an archipelagic nation, the condition of the oceans and seas surrounding us eventually return to shore.

Perhaps this is deeper warning emerging from today's climate realities. The ocean is showing us, with increasing clarity, the accumulated consequences of how our nation builds, consumes, governs, and delays difficult decisions.

As the Philippines observes both the Month of the Ocean and National Heritage Month, we are reminded that protecting our oceans and seas is not only about conserving ecosystems. It is about securing the systems that sustain Filipino life itself — our food, our communities, our economy and our heritage, all of which will be far harder to rebuild or replace once lost.

[CCC pilot tests gender action checklist](#)

The Climate Change Commission convened national government agencies, development partners, and members of the Gender and Climate Change Advisory Group (GCAG) to finalize their roles and coordination mechanisms as well as pilot test the Harmonized GAD (gender and development) Guidelines Checklist for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

The pilot test aims to assess the checklist's usability in helping agencies in integrating gender considerations into the design, implementation and monitoring of climate-related programs and projects.

“The pilot testing, alongside the establishment of the advisory group, strengthens efforts to translate gender and climate commitments into coordinated and implementable action. It reflects our commitment under the Marcos administration to ensure climate action is inclusive, science-based, and effectively integrated across government systems,” CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje said.

MANILA BULLETIN

[The clock is ticking: Bernos prods LGUs to apply for climate project funding](#)

By: Ellson Quismorio

Abra lone district Rep. JB Bernos knows a way for local government units (LGUs) to make the local agriculture sector more climate-resilient--but they must act fast.

According to him, LGUs must access the government's People's Survival Fund or PSF to bankroll and implement climate projects.

"With two weeks left until deadline, we still have time to apply for the PSF for projects that could protect the food security of our communities and make our agriculture sector better able to withstand the effects of our worsening climate," Bernos, a member of the House Committee on Agriculture said.

The Department of Finance (DOF) earlier announced that LGUs may submit applications for the PSF until May 29.

The PSF is a national financing mechanism designed for climate adaptation projects that are beyond the regular budget capacities of LGUs, thus enabling them to tackle climate-related challenges through targeted interventions.

LGUs that are selected may access funding for various adaptation projects involving water resource management, land management, agriculture and fisheries, health, infrastructure, and the protection of natural and coastal ecosystems.

Bernos said that the PSF is a crucial tool in helping LGUs mainstream climate adaptation policies.

"The harsh reality is that despite recognizing the importance of climate adaptation programs, many LGUs, especially those most vulnerable to extreme weather events, simply do not have the funds to implement these projects," noted the solon for Northern Luzon.

"Kaya't napakahalaga po ng PSF sa pagtulong sa mga LGU na makalikha ng mga proyektong poprotekta sa mga komunidad nila," the Ilocano said.

(That is why the PSF is very important in helping LGUs create projects that will protect their communities.)

He said that LGUs may also seek the help of the Climate Change Commission, the academe, and even non-government organizations who have technical expertise in drafting their proposals.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC drives capacity building for PhilDel to ensure unified stance in global climate talks](#)

To ensure that the Philippines speaks with a singular, data-driven voice on the global stage, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) recently convened key government agencies for a comprehensive capacity-building and consultation meeting for the Philippine Delegation (PhilDel).

As the lead policy-making body of the government on climate change, the CCC is tasked with orchestrating a whole-of-government approach to international climate diplomacy. A core part of this mandate is ensuring that the lived realities of highly vulnerable Filipino communities—and the country’s grassroots resilience strategies—are accurately translated into national priorities and global policy demands.

To achieve this, the CCC utilizes preparatory meetings not merely for administrative coordination, but as intensive capacity-building platforms. The primary objective is to arm Philippine negotiators with the advanced technical expertise, legal frameworks, and strategic negotiation skills required to navigate complex multilateral discussions.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje underscored the importance of early, coordinated, and strategic preparation to ensure that the country’s positions are well-defined and responsive to national needs and global realities.

“As we prepare for these vital international negotiations, it is essential that we take a coordinated approach that brings together diverse perspectives from across government and society, so we can clearly define and prioritize the country’s needs and ensure that our positions effectively advance our climate goals and strengthen our engagement in the negotiations,” he said.

The discussions covered key expected outcomes, priority areas, and cross-cutting issues, with emphasis on strengthening policy coherence, enhancing partnerships, and expanding access to climate finance.

This capacity-building initiative is especially critical as the PhilDel prepares for highly technical engagements this year, including the 64th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) and the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31).

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera emphasized that the country’s preparations must remain firmly anchored in national policy frameworks to ensure continuity and impact.

“Our preparations for SB64 and COP31 must also focus on strengthening implementation partnerships, institutional coordination, and investment readiness in support of our national

climate priorities, particularly those set out in our National Adaptation Plan and our Nationally Determined Contribution,” she said.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), developed under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., provides a comprehensive roadmap for building climate resilience across sectors and communities. By grounding the country’s negotiating positions in the NAP, the Philippines seeks to advance solutions that reflect local realities while securing stronger international support for adaptation.

The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), on the other hand, outlines the country’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pursue a low-carbon development pathway.

The consultation forms part of the government’s standard preparatory process ahead of international negotiations. This process is where priorities are set, capacity-building and institutional strengthening needs are identified, and the concerns of communities are assessed to advance strategic and responsive climate positions.

As the lead agency for climate negotiations, the CCC convened a meeting that brought together representatives from key national government agencies comprising the PhilDel, including the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Energy, and Department of Finance.

The PhilDel also includes representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, underscoring the Philippines’ whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to climate action and international engagement.

[CCC: Local Climate Change Action Plans key to water security amid declining dam levels](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the importance of Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) in water security amid the declining water levels in several dams due to prolonged dry conditions and high heat indices.

The major dams in Luzon have recorded lower water elevations based on recent monitoring by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), reinforcing the CCC's warning that climate risks are no longer distant projections, but realities already affecting communities and critical resources across the country.

Angat Dam in Bulacan, which is the primary water source for Metro Manila, fell to 177.41 meters on May 19 from its normal water level of 210 meters. Ambuklao, La Mesa, San Roque, Pantabangan, Ipo, and Magat dams have also recorded lower water levels.

The CCC emphasized that water stress and prolonged dry periods are among the climate-related hazards that local government units (LGUs) must anticipate and address through science-based, forward-looking planning, particularly through the formulation and implementation of LCCAPs.

“For a water-stressed, disaster-prone country, climate change is not simply an ecosystem issue with economic consequences. It is an existential issue for our economy, for our communities, and for our families,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

“Buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan nating lahat ang nakataya, and water sits at the center of that reality,” he added.

Under the Climate Change Act, LCCAPs serve as the primary mechanism for mainstreaming climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction into local development planning. These plans are intended not only for disaster response, but more importantly for preparedness, risk prevention, and long-term resilience-building.

The current situation highlights the need for proactive adaptation measures, including sustainable water resource management, watershed protection, rainwater harvesting systems, climate-responsive land use planning, early warning systems, and strengthened community preparedness during periods of extreme heat and reduced water supply.

The CCC encouraged LGUs, particularly those in highly urbanized, agricultural, and water-dependent areas, to ensure that climate risks such as drought, El Niño conditions, and water scarcity are fully integrated into their LCCAPs, Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), and local development investment programs.

The Commission also underscored that these local actions are aligned with the Philippines' National Adaptation Plan (NAP) developed under the administration of President Ferdinand

Marcos Jr., which identifies water security, food security, ecosystem resilience, and climate-resilient infrastructure among the country's priority adaptation areas.

The NAP emphasizes anticipatory and preventive action to reduce climate-related losses and damages, especially at the local level where climate impacts are most directly experienced.

As climate variability continues to intensify, the CCC called for stronger whole-of-government and whole-of-society action to strengthen adaptive capacity and safeguard communities from the cascading impacts of extreme weather conditions.

SUNSTAR

[CCC prepares PH team for global climate talks](#)

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