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REUTERS

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The El Nino weather pattern that can cause extreme events such as wildfires and tropical cyclones is forecast to swing back into generally cooler La Nina conditions later this year, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Monday.

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABANTE

BBM: Banta ng climate change dapat tutukan

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Ang problema sa climate change ang isa sa nangungunang banta sa buong mundo na dapat matutukan at matugunan ng bawat bansa.

Ito ang inihayag ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. sa kanyang talumpati sa Shangri-La dialogue sa Singapore matapos isa-isahin sa mga delegado ang pitong reyalidad sa Indo-Pacific.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na ang climate change ang pinakamapanganib na pagsubok sa rehiyon at sa buong mundo at nangungunang banta sa buong daigdig.

Ayon sa Pangulo, ang problema sa climate change ang isa sa matinding krisis na nakakaapekto sa bawat tao sa mundo.

“Climate change remains a deadly challenge for the region and for the world. It is the first truly global threat,” anang Pangulo.

Dahil dito, sinabi ng Pangulo sa dinaluhang defense forum na kailangan ang aksiyon sa bawat tao upang makasiguro ng kaligtasan sa epekto ng pagbabago ng klima sa mundo.

BBC

[Why a tool to tackle climate change is struggling for cash](#)

By: Kevin Keane

One of Scotland's most powerful weapons in tackling climate change is not being properly recognised, experts have claimed.

Restoring poor quality peatlands could cut Scotland's emissions by almost as much as decarbonising our entire housing stock.

But it is claimed that the most influential climate change body advising large corporations does not recognise peatland restoration as a legitimate means of offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.

A group of companies and charities has written to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) to say that decision is holding back the flow of private finance.

SBTi has insisted it does encourage companies to invest in peatland restoration on top of cutting their emissions.

Scotland's peatlands, which have developed over thousands of years, are formed by layers of mosses and other vegetation becoming trapped in the water as they die off.

The waterlogged ground prevents oxygen from decomposing the dead plants, which locks carbon into the landscape.

But damaged or poorly maintained peatlands - which make up the vast majority of those in Scotland - become dried out, which releases planet-warming greenhouse gases back into the atmosphere.

This can happen if the land is drained for agriculture or forestry.

The majority of the UK's peatlands are in Scotland's upland regions, which is home to the Flow Country, the most intact and extensive blanket bog system in the world.

It is estimated that peatlands make up at least 20% of Scotland's land mass but the vast majority is in a degraded condition.

Each year they release the equivalent of more than six million tonnes of carbon dioxide which is almost the same as emissions from heating our homes.

Home heating makes up about 15% of Scotland's overall emissions.

In 2020, the Scottish government pledged to restore 250,000 hectares of peatland by 2030 but has been slow to do so, with only about 18,500 being restored during the first three years of the decade.

Offsetting operates by companies buying "carbon credits". This allows them to emit greenhouse gases within their business knowing that they're being removed from the atmosphere elsewhere.

The main way to do that at the moment is through trees, although in the future technologies like carbon capture and storage will allow CO₂ to be removed from the atmosphere mechanically.

While many environmentalists are concerned that this gives businesses a licence to pollute, policymakers like the Climate Change Committee say high-integrity carbon credits can play "a small but important role" in supporting the transition to net-zero by the middle of the century.

It is generally felt that public funding alone will not be enough to protect the vast carbon stores locked up in peatlands and that private finance is needed.

Freddie Ingleby from Caledonian Climate Partners, a consultancy firm which helps estates restore peatlands, said the current system focuses too much on tree-planting and future carbon removal technologies.

He said: "What we would like SBTi to do is to allow emission reduction carbon credits from peatland projects to be included in businesses' net zero targets setting standard which it's not allowed to do today."

'Unscientific message'

SBTi works with about 5,000 businesses globally, including Tesco, Kellogg's and the BBC, to help them transition to being carbon neutral.

They advise on how to reduce the bulk of their greenhouse gases and then buy "carbon credits" which finance schemes which "offset" residual emissions, primarily through tree planting.

The letter to the SBTi has been signed by several companies who are already part of the scheme, although their details have not been disclosed.

Several charitable organisations have also signed the letter.

It accuses the organisation of constraining international efforts to restore peatlands and sending an "unscientific message to investors that peatland restoration is not a legitimate way to tackle the climate crisis".

It calls on them to allow peatland restoration to be used to offset unavoidable emissions.

Among the signatories is the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) UK Peatland Programme.

Dr Renée Kerkvliet-Hermans, peatland code manager, describes restoration as "crucial" in tackling climate change.

She said about 80% of the UK's peatlands are degraded and actively emitting more carbon each year than all our trees and forests are soaking up.

"We are seeing active sales falling through or companies not even wanting to look at peatland carbon credits because of SBTi," she said.

SBTi said its main aim is to encourage companies to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the first place before considering "counterbalancing residual emissions".

It said: "We also strongly encourage and enable companies to restore natural ecosystems, including peatlands."

It added that "this must be in addition to and not instead of" measures which prevent peatlands being damaged in the first place.

BUSINESS WORLD

[PHL must make case for emission reductions to mobilize climate finance, UNESCAP says](#)

By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

The Philippine government must tap climate financing to fast-track its transition towards greener modes of transport, but before it can do so, it needs to commit to a certain level of emissions reduction over the medium term, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) said.

“Green financing and climate financing are tied to emission reductions,” Madan B. Regmi, who heads UNESCAP’s sustainable mobility, transport and climate change and low carbon transport portfolio, said in a video interview.

“So the (government) needs to develop projects to demonstrate that it is planning to reduce emissions within five years or 10 years after implementation (by quantifying) how much emissions can be saved so they can qualify (for the financing),” he said.

Adopting electric vehicles (EVs) would be cost efficient in the long run after an initial period of high costs, Mr. Regmi said.

The Department of Finance has said it is planning to tap the Green Climate Fund to support four priority projects in the pipeline worth \$124 million.

The government has been promoting “greener” forms of transport as it committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030 under the Paris Agreement.

To achieve this, the government should also fast-track the inclusion of renewables in its energy mix to ensure sufficient power supply for EVs, Mr. Regmi added.

The Philippines hopes to bring the share of renewables in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and to 50% by 2040.

It is also a key producer of critical minerals like nickel, chromite, cobalt, and copper for EVs.

The National Economic and Development Authority Board has expanded tariff cuts to electric motorcycles (e-motorcycles), electric bicycles (e-bicycles) and hybrid EVs.

However, the adoption of safe and environment-friendly public transport is hampered by the lack of coordination between local officials, especially in the capital region.

“Many things are done in isolation,” he said, noting that local governments as well as the Department of Transportation should come up with a development master plan that would be applicable across changes in leadership.

He also cited the need to develop critical infrastructure that would encourage a shift from a “car-centric” behavior to public modes of transport.

EURONEWS

[Halfway to COP29: What is the Bonn Climate Change Conference and why does it matter?](#)

By: Rosie Frost

Delegates from 198 countries are meeting in Bonn, Germany this week to prepare for COP29.

Marking a midway point to the UN Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, this November, the Bonn Climate Change Conference will help pave the way for the major decisions to be made there. Thousands of people will gather in the home of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to discuss the most pressing environmental issues.

But what is the Bonn Climate Change Conference and what topics will be up for discussion in Germany this week?

What is the Bonn Climate Change Conference?

Around 6,000 people - mostly from national delegations and civil society groups - will meet in Bonn from 3 to 13 June. These inter-sessional meetings are hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its headquarters to ensure that each COP can continue to effectively address the most pressing issues.

It is the only other regular climate summit that the UNFCCC hosts.

The annual conference provides an important waypoint as COP29 approaches. Typically, Bonn sees parties negotiate mechanisms for implementing the agreements made at the previous COP. They will work on language, moving towards draft conclusions that are then submitted as formal recommendations at the next COP.

Because of this, the current COP presidency (Azerbaijan) will likely send a bigger delegation. Intergovernmental organisations and UN agencies as well as youth, Indigenous and industry representatives will also attend as observers.

What is on the table at the Bonn Climate Conference?

The results of these negotiations will be highly influential on the decisions made at COP29 this November.

Issues up for discussion at Bonn this year include, among many other topics, climate finance, countries' national climate action plans, ensuring a just transition away from fossil fuels and national adaptation plans.

So what are some of the hottest talking points in Bonn this year?

Climate finance is once again in focus

Setting a new goal for climate finance from developed nations to developing nations will be a key task at COP29 later this year.

At the conference in Bonn, countries are tasked with reaching agreements that will serve the negotiations at the UN climate conference in Azerbaijan. It will help to narrow down what the climate finance goal could look like post-2025 and intermediary goals for spending on things like mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. It will also help determine what form this finance takes - grants or loans.

The Climate Action Network (CAN) says the EU must make clear moves in Bonn in support of an ambitious climate finance agreement at COP29 as a "cornerstone" of transforming the current "unjust financial system".

"The EU must be a driving force for agreeing a robust new climate finance goal for post-2025 that centres public finance and is needs-based, fair and equitable, and reflects developed countries' particular legal obligations," says Emilia Runberg, Climate & Development Policy Coordinator at CAN Europe.

Can progress be made on loss and damage at Bonn?

Adjacent to discussions about climate finance are decisions on loss and damage funding. The third and final session of the Glasgow Dialogue is expected to happen in Bonn this June.

This series of dialogues was set up at COP26 in Glasgow in 2022 to "discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimise, and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change."

At COP28 last year, the Loss and Damage Fund was operationalised. The decision was controversial as it entails having the World Bank host the fund and developed countries having no obligation to contribute.

There are no specific goals for this final session of the dialogue in Bonn, however. Parties and non-party stakeholders are expected to continue talking about the fund.

National climate plans and phasing out fossil fuels

Probably the biggest pledge to come out of COP28 was the global agreement to transition away from fossil fuels towards renewables and energy efficiency. It was billed as the “beginning of the end” but now come the talks that will hopefully make that pledge a reality.

Countries are due to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) - commitments they make to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions - early next year. Bonn is a chance for further discussions about integrating the COP28 fossil fuel pledge into these commitments before they are finalised.

Following the first Global Stocktake (GST) which measured collective progress towards Paris Agreement goals, this is an opportunity to work out what a good NDC looks like. Bonn provides an opportunity to interpret the outcome of the GST in a way that puts the world on track to limit global warming to 1.5C.

It's also a chance for ambitious, early movers to get ahead, deliver their NDCs early and help accelerate the global shift to renewable energy.

The EU is one of these potentially ambitious early movers as it discusses its next 2040 emissions reduction target. But, currently lacking a clear way forward and with European Elections imminent, it remains to be seen what progress the bloc can make at the conference in Bonn.

FINANCIAL TIMES

[La Niña switch expected to fuel extreme weather later this year](#)

By: Kenza Bryan and Steven Bernard

The El Niño Pacific Ocean warming effect that has contributed to a spike in global temperatures is expected to swing to its opposite La Niña cooling phase from late summer, say weather experts, but without slowing long-term climate change.

A rapid transition from one extreme to the other in the tropical Pacific would see more parts of the world battered by weather events, not long after the strong El Niño warming event has wreaked havoc on rainfall patterns and commodity prices.

The World Meteorological Organization of the UN said there is now a 70 per cent chance of La Niña occurring between August and November.

The cyclical La Niña effect is “likely” to start later this year, the WMO said, while El Niño shows signs of ending after driving deadly flooding in Brazil last month.

La Niña is typically linked to its own cascade of localised knock-on effects including a surge in Atlantic hurricanes, flooding in Canada and western North America, and drought conditions in parts of South America.

“We’ve really been swinging back and forth between one extreme to the other,” said Nathaniel Johnson, a meteorologist who works on the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s forecasting of Pacific Ocean temperature changes.

There was some evidence that climate change had contributed to the strength and speed of these naturally-occurring swings, he added.

La Niña describes cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in parts of the vast Pacific Ocean and associated changes to winds, pressure and rainfall.

It has the potential to cause temporary dips in global average temperatures. But this would “not mean a pause in long-term climate change as our planet will continue to warm due to heat-trapping greenhouse gases”, said WMO deputy secretary-general Ko Barrett.

The agency highlighted that the past nine years had been the warmest on record in spite of a long and rare “triple-dip” La Niña effect that took place between 2020 and early 2023.

Land temperatures are expected to keep exceeding historical averages this year after 12 consecutive months of record temperatures, while sea surface temperatures outside the affected parts of the Pacific Ocean also remain “exceptionally high”.

The WMO said while the chances of La Nina were increasing, it was still too early to predict the phenomenon’s strength and duration with certainty.

It anticipated more rainfall than normal this year in parts of the Caribbean, the Horn of Africa and south-west Asia, consistent with the typical start to La Niña cycles.

MANILA STANDARD

[DENR launches initiative to curb biodiversity loss, climate change](#)

The government is bolstering efforts to lower biodiversity loss, make communities more resilient to disasters and temper resource exploitation.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last week launched the “Sukat ng Kalikasan” (SnK) framework and toolkit during the International Day for Biological Diversity as part of a science-based approach in the management of natural resources and upgrade of climate and disaster resilience.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga is optimistic over the effective implementation of the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act with the SnK launch.

The PENCAS Act, or Republic Act No. 11995, is the law establishing a system to measure the country’s natural resources and stop unchecked development and resource exploitation.

Under the law, the DENR will work with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Interagency Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Statistics (IACENRS) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The PENCAS law will serve as a tool for determining the contributions of ecosystems to economic development.

The DENR, with the establishment of the Geospatial Database Office, is encouraging a science-informed and risk-based approach to address the complex and interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, energy transition and sustainable development.

The environment chief noted that SnK would strengthen PENCAS’ implementation, as it would allow for “more effective natural resource management to reduce biodiversity loss, increase private sector engagement and investment, and make more resilient communities and a more resilient economy.”

Stressing that SnK will bridge the gap between economic planning and environmental conservation, Loyzaga said SnK is “customized for the Philippine context” and its adoption places the government “in a more resilient position to manage our natural resources sustainably while achieving our development goals.”

The SnK provides diverse applications in conservation areas, both in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, with its available assessment tools and mechanisms that will enable planners and policymakers to craft evidence- and science-based management plans and decision-making tools for biodiversity conservation areas and prioritize the use of limited resources, address climate mitigation, adaptation and good governance.

SnK is also designed to measure and assign monetary value of the country's natural assets and the services they contribute to the society and economy.

SnK is a joint undertaking of the DENR with the United States Agency for International Development's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) Project, a five-year natural resource management and biodiversity conservation project launched in 2020.

Other national government agencies involved in the SnK initiatives include the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippine Statistics Authority, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Tax incentives up for infra owners with 'green spaces'

By Liza Agoot

Property owners in the city who devote their rooftop as a green area or the building walls as vertical garden are eyed to be entitled to a maximum of 20 percent discount on their real property tax for 10 years for their contribution to abating global warming.

Authored by Councilor Leandro Yangot, the proposed ordinance, which was approved on first reading during Monday's regular session said, "All buildings that devote their roof area for plants and trees, either with an extensive or intensive soil player or devote their wall area for green one shall be entitled to a discount on their real property tax based on certain schemes: 25 percent of the roof or wall area shall be equivalent to 5 percent discount; 50 percent of the roof or wall area shall be equivalent to 10 percent discount; 75 percent of the roof or wall area shall be equivalent to 15 percent discount and 100 percent of the roof or wall area shall be equivalent to 20 percent discount."

The proposed measure said installing green walls and green rooftop are key strategies in achieving the benefits of having environment-friendly buildings, thus reducing urban heat and noise, improving exterior air quality, improving energy efficiency, and increasing aesthetic variation.

Yangot said the local government aims to promote the preservation, protection and revival of the ecosystem through the prevention, control and abatement of pollution, alongside the development of the city.

He said the city exerts efforts to prevent and fight global warming as its contribution to the protection of the people.

REUTERS

[El Nino weather pattern likely to swing back to La Nina this year: UN weather agency](#)

The El Nino weather pattern that can cause extreme events such as wildfires and tropical cyclones is forecast to swing back into generally cooler La Nina conditions later this year, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Monday.

El Nino is a naturally occurring warming of ocean surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific, while La Nina is characterised by cold ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific region and is linked to floods and drought.

WMO said there was a 60% chance that La Nina conditions would take hold between July to September, and a 70% chance of them occurring between August and November.

"The end of El Nino does not mean a pause in long-term climate change as our planet will continue to warm due to heat-trapping greenhouse gases," said WMO Deputy Secretary-General Ko Barrett.

"Exceptionally high sea surface temperatures will continue to play an important role during the next months."

The past nine years have been the warmest on record despite the cooling effect of La Nina that spanned from 2020 to early 2023, according to WMO.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DoLE, DSWD team up to fight climate change](#)

By: William B. Depasupil

The Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) have agreed to use a whole-of-nation approach to mitigate the impact of climate change on water and food sufficiency.

Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma and Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian signed over the weekend a memorandum of understanding for the joint implementation of their department's respective programs to address concerns on water insufficiency and food security brought about by El Niño and La Niña in vulnerable communities.

Tupad provides temporary wage employment to disadvantaged workers through engagement in the community, disaster recovery and rehabilitation projects.

LAWA at Binhi implements activities focused on addressing water insufficiency and food security through community projects such as the construction or rehabilitation of water harvesting facilities, small farm reservoirs, water infrastructure repair, community-based vegetable farming, and planting of disaster-resilient crops.

As a point of collaboration, the DoLE will extend Tupad to the disadvantaged workers identified by the local government units nationwide. The target beneficiaries include farmers, fishers, Indigenous peoples, and families vulnerable to disasters and climate change.

The beneficiaries, upon engagement in labor-intensive community work through Tupad, will receive minimum wage based on the highest prevailing minimum wage in the region.

They will also be provided with micro-insurance, personal protective equipment, and orientation on safety and health prior to the work engagement.

The convergence program, a direct intervention contributing to the El Niño and La Niña Preparedness and Mitigation Risk Resiliency Program, is in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive for a whole-of-nation approach in addressing the impacts of climate change.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC, Japan's environment agency seek stronger cooperation](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with the Japanese Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ) and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in climate change action using best available science and data-based modalities.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje met MOEJ vice minister for global environmental affairs Yutaka Matsuzawa with both emphasizing the need to evaluate and assess science-based models currently used and their applications in the Asia-Pacific region.

Borje underscored the importance of bilateral and regional partnership for a comprehensive and integrated assessment of climate change impacts as well as its mitigation and adaptation strategies for nations, individually and collectively.

“With Japan, we can consider and assess the utility of models and identify those that can best support individual and joint efforts to develop strategies that enhance climate resilience, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure sustainable development,” Borje stated.

One of those identified during the discussions, the Asian-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) developed by the National Institute for Environmental Studies in Kyoto in collaboration with Asian researchers and Mizuho Research & Technologies, streamlines the assessment of climate change measures at the country level. Since its inception in 1990, the AIM has supported national climate policies in Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

MOEJ expressed its commitment to support the Philippines' transformative climate change action agenda and to further strengthen bilateral cooperation that aims to produce more effective climate policies tailored to the Philippines' unique vulnerabilities and needs.

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