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## **Marcos wants deeper ties with UAE**

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

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## **Widely used climate theory doesn't 'ring' true, according to new tree data**

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## **Global rich must pay more to tackle climate crisis, says architect of Paris deal**

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## **New 'citizen science program' to focus on protection of mangroves**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is pioneering disaster risk reduction by rolling out a citizen science program.

## **Philippines eyeing P31 trillion clean energy investment by 2040**

By: Brix Lelis

The Philippines is embarking on an ambitious goal of securing up to P31 trillion in renewable energy (RE) investments by 2040 to fuel the country's clean energy transition.

## **UNITED NATIONS**

### **[Break free from pollution, climate chaos and 'biodiversity decimation', UN chief urges](#)**

In a message marking Wednesday's World Environment Day, António Guterres emphasized that countries "must deliver" on all their commitments to restore degraded ecosystems and land, and on Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, the global agreement to protect biodiversity.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **PCO**

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The Philippines called for urgent and transformative climate action at the joint opening plenary of the 60th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

### **RAPPLER**

### **[Philippines submits climate adaptation plan to UN body](#)**

By: Iya Gozum

The Philippines has submitted its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate Change Commission (CCC) confirmed in a statement on Tuesday, June 4.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[DOST Davao explores renewable energy sites in Palawan for microgrid development](#)**

By: Vener Zygmund Rebuelta

TO advance renewable energy initiatives in the Davao Region, the Department of Science and Technology XI recently visited two pivotal community-based renewable energy sites in Palawan.

The activity is part of the “Microgridterprises in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) through Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST)” project which aims to enhance knowledge and strategies for implementing sustainable energy solutions that will significantly benefit local communities in the Region.

DOST XI Assistant Regional Director, Ms. Mirasol Domingo, highlighted the importance of benchmarking visits from successful projects and incorporating best practices into the Agency’s initiatives.

“The knowledge gained from these visits is invaluable as the project is in the early phase of developing renewable energy technologies. Learning from successful projects like those in Palawan will help implement effective and sustainable renewable energy solutions in the target communities,” she added.

The first site visited was the New Ibajay Multipurpose Cooperative (NIMC) in El Nido, Palawan. In 2018, Enervinci Philippines, Inc. and CEnAG Solar, Inc. launched a hybrid solar power plant to provide energy access to households in Barangay New Ibajay. The NIMC manages the daily operations, power distribution, and monthly collections. Discussions covered the cooperative’s establishment, governance, financial procedures, best practices, and challenges encountered.

The second visit was to the Sabang Renewable Energy Corporation (SREC) in Puerto Princesa. SREC operates the first government-approved hybrid power plant in the area, reducing diesel consumption and generating savings on rural electrification. Engr. Francis Glenn Ramos, the Plant Manager, presented information about the solar power plant initiatives in Barangay Cabayugan, which serves over 600 households.

Engr. Ramos highlighted the importance of sustainability and regulatory compliance which are essential for project monitoring and ensuring continuous, reliable energy services.

“Certifications and compliance measures are vital for guaranteeing the effective and efficient delivery of services to the community,” Ramos said.

Microgrids, which are localized power grids that can operate independently or in conjunction with the main electrical grid, play a crucial role in providing reliable energy to remote areas. These systems integrate various renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, to enhance energy access and sustainability.

The Microgridterprises in GIDA through the CEST project aims to foster inclusive development by incorporating environmentally friendly practices that convert raw agricultural produce into bioproducts. The visit to Palawan’s successful renewable energy projects is expected to greatly benefit DOST Davao’s efforts to implement similar solutions in the Region.

## GMA NEWS

### [Carbon capture must quadruple by 2050 to meet climate targets — report](#)

By Mathilde Dumazet

By 2050, humanity must durably remove four times as much CO<sub>2</sub> from the air as today to cap global warming below the crucial target of two degrees Celsius, researchers said Tuesday.

But massively expanding CO<sub>2</sub>-absorbing forests — 99 percent of current carbon removal — could claim land needed to grow food and biofuels, while it remains highly uncertain whether new technologies for sucking CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere can be scaled quickly enough, they warned in a major report.

Looking at varying emissions-reduction scenarios, between seven and nine billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> must be captured from the atmosphere by 2050, according to the second edition of the University of Oxford's report on the subject.

The first edition of The State of Carbon Dioxide Removal had reported that two billion tonnes were being removed mainly through reforestation, compared with the 40 billion tonnes emitted worldwide in 2023.

"Alongside rapidly reducing emissions", which remains the "most important mitigation strategy", eliminating CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere "is also necessary" to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, more than 50 researchers said.

Some of the scientists are also part of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has recognized the need for carbon capture but has given it a limited role in its scenarios for achieving "carbon neutrality".

The elimination of CO<sub>2</sub> recently "has undergone rapid growth in research, public awareness and start-up companies", the report said.

"Yet there are now signs of a slowdown" due to politics and a lack of public funding, the experts said.

They called on governments to create policies that will boost the industry's development.

According to the report, the market for carbon capture has been growing thanks to corporate demand for carbon credits -- a contested tool that allows companies to offset their emissions by financing carbon-reduction projects.

Carbon capture start-up Climeworks, which has an extensive underground storage facility in Iceland, is among those to benefit from the demand.

Its two plants currently capture and store 10,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year with financing from private funders and the sale of carbon credits.

To reach a million tonnes, Climeworks has said it will need several billion euros (dollars), as will other start-ups -- but the report warned such funding is highly uncertain at this stage.

To date, only the United States has announced a plan, worth \$3.5 billion, dedicated specifically to carbon capture.

#### Environmental risks

The Center for Environmental Law (CIEL) said the report "highlights a concerning trend where carbon dioxide removal (CDR) is increasingly being touted as a solution to climate change".

"This focus on carbon removal technologies represents a dangerous distraction from what is urgently needed to tackle the climate crisis: a full, fast, fair, funded phase-out of all fossil fuels," said CIEL expert Lili Fuhr.

The removal of CO<sub>2</sub> already in the atmosphere can be done through nature-based actions, such as planting forests, and also new technologies that store carbon underground or in repurposed material, but that only represents less than 0.1 percent of what is currently removed.

Technological removal methods include direct air capture with carbon storage (DACCS), capture after combustion of biomass (BECCS), the conversion of biomass into a bio-charcoal, or sprinkling crushed carbon-absorbing rocks on land or in the sea.

CIEL said some of these techniques, such as DACCS, "pose immense risks to ecosystems and communities".

Acknowledging the risks, the authors of Tuesday's report noted that some "methods have high environmental and ecosystem risks, while others have potential to generate co-benefits".

It acknowledged that conventional carbon dioxide removal, "if poorly executed", can pose risks to "biodiversity and food security".

While calling for rapid development of carbon capture technologies, the report said it should not deflect attention from efforts to reduce emissions.

"A failure to strongly reduce emissions from fossil fuels and from deforestation will put the Paris temperature goal out of reach, even if we have strong action on carbon removal," one of the report's authors, William Lamb, said at its presentation.



## Marcos wants deeper ties with UAE

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday expressed his intention to deepen ties with the United Arab Emirates as many Filipinos are working there.

Marcos made this assertion during the courtesy call of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE at the Malacañang Palace. He also thanked the UAE government for its aid and kindness to the Philippines especially during times of crisis.

"We owe you many expressions of gratitude for all the assistance and the kindness that UAE has extended to the Philippines and the Filipinos. And I hope that we are able to reciprocate somehow because we are very grateful for the assistance that you have done in terms of our, when there are crisis in the Philippines and then, especially to our Filipino nationals who are working in the Emirates," Marcos said.

There are an estimated 700,000 Filipinos living and working in the Middle Eastern country, with around 450,000 residing in Dubai.

"So, I hope we'll be able to extend that relationship further and make it deeper," the President added.

In response, Zayed Al Nahyan said he was honored to be back in the Philippines and that UAE is looking forward to having a "better" relationship with the country when it comes to trade.

"Our relationship is growing, but not enough. We could do much better. It could be much better because I think we have an interest to further enhance it. But also the Philippines has shown that it's been welcoming investors, we would like to do more trade, we are on the path to finalize and sit down with the Philippines," he said.

"And finally, I would say Sir when the Emiratis... when they come to the Philippines they never feel leaving UAE. You really make them feel at home," he added.

The Philippines and the UAE established diplomatic relations on August 19, 1974.

The UAE and the Philippines are key partners in peace efforts, development, combating climate change, among other fields. The Emirates also gives considerable attention to

assisting the development programs of the Philippine government, especially those associated with the peace process.

## PHYS ORG

### [Widely used climate theory doesn't 'ring' true, according to new tree data](#)

New data on over 1,500 trees across nearly 1,000 sites shows that an existing theory of how individuals within a species will respond to a changing climate might not be true.

The data, in the form of tree rings from an aridland pine, contradicts the assumptions underlying climate envelope forecasting, which uses the set of climate conditions or "envelope" under which a species can live to predict how it will respond to climate change.

When looking at temperature, individuals of a species in the coolest area—known as the "leading edge"—are forecasted to benefit from warming while those in the warmer area or "trailing edge" will suffer. If this is true, species' geographic distributions can track changing climate.

When examining the tree ring data, research—published Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and conducted by Margaret Evans and her team at the University of Arizona—found that the trailing edge encompasses the entire geographic distribution of common piñon, a tree endemic to the Colorado Plateau.

Instead of half the distribution benefiting from warming, all trees at all sampled locations suffer with warming. Without evolutionary change of individual-scale climate tolerances, common piñon faces a risk of extinction as the climate warms.

Evans shares co-first authorship on the paper with a former postdoctoral researcher in her lab, Kelly Heilman, and Sharmila Dey, who first came to the lab as a high school volunteer and is now an undergraduate at Harvard University.

## THE DAILY GUARDIAN

### [Global rich must pay more to tackle climate crisis, says architect of Paris deal](#)

Rich individuals in all countries must pay more to tackle the climate crisis, whether through taxes or charges on consumption, one of the architects of the Paris agreement has said.

There is a growing consensus on the need for some kind of global wealth tax, with Brazil, which will host the Cop climate summit next year, an enthusiastic supporter.

Meanwhile, poor countries are struggling to raise the estimated \$1tn (£785bn) a year of external finance needed to help them cut emissions and cope with the impacts of the climate crisis.

Another proposal is for a frequent flyer levy, as the richest people tend to take far more flights – in any year about half of the people in the UK do not fly, for instance. Laurence Tubiana, the chief executive of the European Climate Foundation, said a levy could be targeted at business class and first class seats.

Other possible sources of revenue include a carbon tax on international shipping, which could raise billions without disrupting global trade, according to research from the World Bank. Levies on fossil fuels could also play a role.

The richest 1% of people in the world are responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than the 66% at the other end of the scale, yet they experience little of the vulnerability to climate shocks that are causing suffering and death, mainly among poorer people.

Tubiana said: “This inequality is true not only between developed countries and developing ones, but within each country – the 1% of rich Chinese, or the 1% of very rich Indians, or the US citizen – they have a lifestyle which is very, very similar, in terms of overconsumption. That’s where your carbon footprint comes in.”

Failing to address these inequalities could damage public acceptance of the measures needed to tackle the climate crisis, she said in an interview with the Guardian. “If you want to avoid a real conflict, we have to put the social justice element upfront. It’s legitimate to talk about taxation, with the immense elements of climate impact, and the need to mobilise more funding to respond to the transition [to a low-carbon economy] and adaptation [to the impacts of extreme weather].”

Tubiana is co-chair of the International Tax Task Force (ITTF), an initiative spearheaded by the governments of Barbados, France and Kenya, and set up at last year's UN climate summit, to examine ideas for raising the sums needed.

Climate finance will be the key focus of this year's UN climate summit, Cop29, in Azerbaijan. Government representatives were gathering on Monday in Bonn, Germany, where the UN framework convention on climate change secretariat is based, for a fortnight of preliminary talks, where officials will test the waters for some of the key proposals.

Although there is no clear agreement on the way forward, Tubiana said there was widespread acknowledgment among governments that new ways must be found. "At the G20 meetings, there was quite a consensus on, yes, we should do better, we have to reform our tax system," she said.

Discussing revenue raising under the Paris climate agreement will be tricky, however. Governments are particularly touchy about national sovereignty when it comes to taxation.

One of the first tasks of the ITTF will be to come up with a new name. The term tax is inaccurate for some of the ideas under discussion, and could be a hindrance, as it is highly loaded and has specific legal resonance in some countries – the US, for instance, has rules over tax negotiations in an international context.

Tubiana said she hoped the very rich would cooperate with governments on paying for the climate crisis. "I'm optimistic that some of them can speak up, in particular the younger generation," she said. "But we have to convince them as well."

While most of the discussion at Cop29, and in Bonn, will focus on how to raise the money needed, but questions over how it should be spent also need to be resolved.

While the poorest countries have a clear claim, that should not be the only criterion, said Patricia Scotland, the director general of the Commonwealth, which represents many developing countries. She said many small island developing states that were particularly at risk from the climate crisis were already in debt, and needed help with debt forgiveness or restructuring. And there were some that appeared to be better off, with growing GDP or thriving economies, which may not meet the usual criteria for aid but when a climate-related disaster struck, they could be devastated and left in dire need of assistance.

Lady Scotland called for a “universal vulnerability index” to take account of this. “It would really take into account the exogenous shocks to which countries will be subject.”

She added that the climate crisis had rewritten the old standards by which countries were judged, and countries were being penalised for problems they had not created. “In the old days, they were talking about fiscal rectitude, that GDP was an indicator of your ability, your acuity, your good management of your income and being able to budget. It was all about your prudence. What we now know is it is not necessarily about fiscal prudence, it is your inability – or anybody’s inability, really – to manage the exogenous shocks.”

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [New 'citizen science program' to focus on protection of mangroves](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is pioneering disaster risk reduction by rolling out a citizen science program.

Spearheaded by DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, the program aims to manage and protect the Philippines' vital mangrove cover as part of the "BakaJuan Project", with volunteers and stakeholders actively implementing it.

The agency reported a reduction of the Philippine mangrove forests from 450,000 hectares in 1918 to 303,373 in 2015. Recognizing an urgency, the DENR and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) established the Nationwide Mangrove Mapping initiative, which utilizes the National Mangrove Map 2023, a satellite-derived map designed to detect and validate mangrove cover in the country.

Yulo-Loyzaga has emphasized the power of citizen science in the initiative, urging public participation in tracking and protecting mangroves. Individuals can use the ODK Collect app to verify the presence of mangroves in coastal barangays and send drone-taken photographs to PhilSA.

Citizen scientists, called "BakaJuan" volunteers, are critical to the project's success.

"Amid the climate emergency and destruction of mangroves, everyone has the ability to make a difference by tracking and protecting our natural resources," Yulo-Loyzaga said.

As of May 22, 2024, 81% of the soft target — 4,955 out of 6,110 validation points — has been met, rising to 95% on May 26, 2024, with 5,828 entries. DENR hopes to finish the field validation of over 600 sites and 30,000 validation points around the country by June 2024.

But days shy of the target schedule, the DENR, through a post on its official Facebook page, has announced a 100% completion rate of its 6,000 soft target. The milestone is only Phase One of the campaign. Further announcements shall be made by the department to kick off the campaign's Phase Two.

According to the DENR, validating the National Mangrove Map is critical for appropriately assessing the country's natural resources, which contribute to climate resilience and sustainable development. This endeavor is consistent with Secretary

Yulo-Loyzaga's appeal to "measure what we treasure," and the government's dedication to protecting vital ecosystems is in line with this endeavor.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself recognizes the importance of mangrove preservation, describing it as a "very big" issue. "It is a very important point for the Philippines because of all the waterways that we have," he said.

The Philippines' coastlines thrive with a unique ecosystem: mangroves. The country has 35 kinds of these salt-tolerant trees, mostly located in Palawan and Sulu, according to state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). But mangroves are more than just coastal flora; they are the Philippines' natural protection against typhoons.

This archipelago is frequently battered by storms. In 2013 alone, Super Typhoon Yolanda killed over 6,000 people and cost \$2 billion in damages.

Here's where mangroves come in: World Bank's WAVES Program report emphasized its importance in reducing flood threats. According to the report, mangroves provide communities with protection from the worst of storm surges and typhoons, with its trunks and canopies lessening the effects of waves and storm surges, reducing floods; its aerial roots stabilizing sediments, avoiding erosion.

With the possibility of a La Niña phenomenon looming in the country, foreseen to bring stronger winds and heavy rainfall, healthy mangrove forests become even more crucial. State weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration predicts a 62 percent possibility of La Niña emerging between June and August this year.

To address the diminishing coverage of the country's mangrove forests, the BakaJuan campaign requires the feasible and relevant participation of the people to help arrest the decline, an endeavor that reflects the Marcos administration's "whole-of-society" paradigm in nation-building.

The DENR spearheads the mindset for building the country's resilience to climate change's extreme weather impacts. The Department encourages more volunteers to join the campaign.

The BakaJuan project complements existing science-based projects led by the DENR to improve disaster resilience and management throughout the country.



It recently launched Project TRANSFORM, a multi-stakeholder initiative empowering communities to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development. This project has been implemented in several locations, including Ormoc City in Leyte, and various towns in Surigao del Norte, Bataan, Rizal province, and Quezon City.

Yulo-Loyzaga also worked with local executives to integrate hazard maps into decision-making, thereby averting disasters and protecting lives and livelihoods.

"A hazard does not have to become a disaster," Yulo-Loyzaga said, emphasizing the need for data-driven indications for early warning and response, such as the exceptionally heavy rainfall.

To promote early disaster readiness, the DENR, through its Mines and Geosciences Bureau, regularly updates hazard maps and conducts information, education, and communication initiatives. The agency provides tailored geohazard advisories for local governments and barangays.

By utilizing hazard maps and advisories, the DENR also collaborates with the Office of Civil Defense to improve the country's disaster risk reduction and management program by promoting proactive disaster preparedness.

DENR's science-based initiatives demonstrate a comprehensive approach to disaster resilience, bringing together the government, communities, the private sector, and individuals in efforts to protect the environment and reduce the impact of climate change.

## Philippines eyeing P31 trillion clean energy investment by 2040

By: Brix Lelis

The Philippines is embarking on an ambitious goal of securing up to P31 trillion in renewable energy (RE) investments by 2040 to fuel the country's clean energy transition.

"To achieve our targets, the country needs a total of P20 trillion to P31 trillion," Energy Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara said at a forum hosted by the Asian Development Bank yesterday.

"When we talk about renewable energy, we are needing a total investment of P20 trillion to P31 trillion," Energy Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara said at an Asian Development Bank forum yesterday.

By 2040, Guevara said the country wants to achieve five percent energy savings, 10 percent electric vehicle penetration and 50 percent RE share in the generation mix.

Based on the demand, the target is to achieve a total capacity of over 52.8 gigawatts of RE, with 27 GW of solar, 16.6 GW of wind, six GW of hydro, 2.5 GW of geothermal and 360 megawatts of biomass.

The official, however, said the Philippines has encountered several challenges in hitting the targets, including financing.

The Department of Energy (DOE) was said to have awarded over 1,300 service contracts totaling 130 GW of RE by 2040, but many of the developers were not able to proceed with the development stage.

While there is a sustainable finance taxonomy, Guevara is still seeing the need to encourage the local banking sector to "engage in renewable energy investments."

Citing a study by the US-based Rockefeller Foundation, she said local lenders need to be "very liquid" to boost the country's green energy transition.

Apart from limited access to financing, the country's RE development is also facing complex permitting processes and grid interconnection issues, she said.

On the government side, Guevara said the DOE has been helping the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) get its right of way and all transmission projects completed on time.

“Currently, our transition system is able to support about 28 GW of generation, but in order to move 52.8 GW of RE by 2040, we have to almost double our transmission system,” she added.

According to Guevara, the NGCP recently energized the Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection and the Cebu-Negros-Panay projects and expects to complete the Hermosa-San Jose transmission line by next month.

## UNITED NATIONS

### [Break free from pollution, climate chaos and 'biodiversity decimation', UN chief urges](#)

In a message marking Wednesday's World Environment Day, António Guterres emphasized that countries "must deliver" on all their commitments to restore degraded ecosystems and land, and on Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, the global agreement to protect biodiversity.

"They must use their new national climate action plans to set out how they will halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. And we must drastically scale-up finance to support developing countries to adapt to violent weather, protect nature, and support sustainable development."

The UN chief further highlighted that prompt and effective action makes economic sense.

"Every dollar invested in ecosystem restoration creates up to thirty dollars in economic benefits," he said.

'It's time to break free'

Failure to curb runaway pollution, climate chaos and biodiversity destruction are clear for all to see. Healthy, fertile lands are transforming into deserts, thriving ecosystems into dead zones and rising carbon dioxide emissions.

"That means crops failing, water sources vanishing, economies weakened, and communities endangered – with the poorest hit hardest ... It is time to break free," the UN chief said.

"We are Generation Restoration. Together, let us build a sustainable future for land, and for humanity," he added.

Celebrated by millions around the world, World Environment Day has been held annually since 1973 and has grown to be largest global platform for environmental outreach ever.

This year, it is being commemorated under the overarching theme "land restoration, desertification and drought resilience".

Address 'triple planetary crisis'

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), called on everyone to join the global movement on putting those words into action.

“By restoring ecosystems, we can slow the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss, including desertification, and the crisis of pollution and waste.”

In addition, by doing so, the world can get closer to limiting global temperature rise in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement by increasing carbon storage, and reduce poverty and hunger, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she added.

“Land restoration can be a golden thread that ties these together, ties together action and ambition across all these three important gatherings.”

#### Commemorative events

Kicking off the commemorations, in Asia and the Pacific, the UN's regional development arm (ESCAP) alongside UNEP will bring together key stakeholders to identify priority actions.

Broad solutions under discussion include circular water resource use, sustainable food production and resilient urban development.

Saudi Arabia is the host for the 2024 global commemoration. The country is also hosting the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16), the global framework addressing land degradation and desertification, in December.

#### UN chief's special address

In New York, Secretary-General António Guterres will deliver a special address at the American Museum of Natural History on climate change on Wednesday morning local time, where he will set out some hard-hitting truths about the state of the climate.

He will also share new data from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service. He will be joined by his Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, Michael Bloomberg, and Sean Decatur, President of the Museum.

The event is scheduled to start at 10 am (New York time) on Wednesday, 5 June, UN News will be at scene to bring you the latest. We will start our live coverage about an hour ahead of the event.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PCO

#### [PH Calls for Urgent and Transformative Climate Action at SB60](#)

The Philippines called for urgent and transformative climate action at the joint opening plenary of the 60th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

“We are now at a point of no return,” said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the Climate Change Commission, and Co-Head of the Philippine Delegation to the 60th Sessions of Subsidiary Bodies (SB60) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

He emphasized the need for stronger and sustained momentum for climate action rooted in science, evidence, and indigenous and local knowledge. Underscoring the critical decade ahead, Borje called for significant progress towards enhanced resilience and low-carbon, sustainable development.

Under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., the Philippines has aligned its economic and prosperity agenda with climate change goals. Climate change is now integral to national policies, guiding planning, implementation, and decision-making at all levels.

Borje urged nations to build on COP28 outcomes, including the Global Stocktake (GST-1) results, the UAE Global Climate Resilience Framework, and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.

He emphasized the urgency of advancing all agenda items, particularly the determination of a new collective quantified goal on climate finance.

"The Philippines expresses grave concerns over the destruction caused by extreme weather events in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and other regions. We need to change these stories of developing countries from fragility to agility," Borje said.

The Philippines has recently completed its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP), becoming the third ASEAN country and the 56th in the world to submit a NAP.

Driven largely by domestic resources and bilateral partnerships, the Philippines is working on the NDC Implementation Plan, Just Transition Work Programme, Biennial Transparency Report, Long Term Strategy, and NDC updating.

Borje called for collective action to:

- Close mitigation and adaptation gaps and support the development and implementation of NAPs and NDCs by developing nations.
- Urgently operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund, with the Philippines ready to participate in the decision-making process.
- Implement the Just Transition Work Programme to uphold human rights, create green jobs, enhance livelihoods, and develop green and blue economies.
- Accelerate the provision, mobilization, and delivery of finance, technology, and capacity from developed to developing countries.
- Ensure transformative climate action for all vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples, local communities, women and girls, children and youth, the elderly, and differently-abled individuals.

With the evolving needs of developing nations, Borje underscored the need for collective action, that is transformative, long-term, and sustainable.

“But we must be clear: in our joint work, we cannot be satisfied with providing temporary reprieve for the weak, the least, and the last. This approach will only lead us to a permanent retreat, and certain perdition. This cannot and must not happen,”

Borje also stressed the need for inclusive processes and universal participation to restore trust and confidence in the multilateral process of the UNFCCC. He reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to engage all Parties and stakeholders to achieve global climate goals.

“There is no turning back. We must forge ahead and move forward together for humanity’s sake, particularly for the most vulnerable and at-risk. Let us work together and create the results we want and need,” Borje declared.

As one of the 198 Parties to the UNFCCC, the Philippines participates in SB60 intersessional climate negotiation.

The Philippine delegation is composed of 11 agencies, namely: CCC, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines (DFA), Department of Energy Philippines (DOE), Department of



Finance (DOF), Department of Agriculture - Philippines (DA), Department of Labor and Employment - DOLE, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG Philippines), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Presidential Communications Office (PCO), and Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

SB60 held in Bonn, Germany from 3 to 13 June 2024 provides a crucial platform for dialogue and negotiation leading up to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

## RAPPLER

### [Philippines submits climate adaptation plan to UN body](#)

By: Iya Gozum

The Philippines has submitted its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate Change Commission (CCC) confirmed in a statement on Tuesday, June 4.

According to the CCC, the Philippines is the third ASEAN country and the 56th in the world to submit a NAP. The document, submitted on May 30, covers a 30-year period from 2030 to 2050.

Earlier in May, Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga said that “the cost of inaction on adaptation within the 2030 decade is estimated to be around P1.4 trillion.”

A NAP covers a country’s medium- and long-term plans on how it will adjust to current and future effects of climate change. This could include improving early warning systems, developing agricultural crops that can withstand extreme weather events, and protecting forests and coastal wetlands.

The submission was made ahead of the 60th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SB60) held in Bonn, Germany.

National delegates and civil society representatives typically meet in these sessions as part of the preparations before the annual climate summit of the Conference of Parties.

During these sessions, the Philippines called to “close mitigation and adaptation gaps” and “support development and implementation of NAPs and NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) by developing nations.”

“We need to build stronger and sustained momentum for transformative climate action, based on science and evidence, indigenous and local knowledge,” CCC Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said on Monday, June 3, in Bonn.

NAP looks at eight key sectors for adaptation action, including agriculture, health, and livelihoods. It outlines the following strategies across sectors:

1. Strengthen infrastructure resilience.
2. Safeguard livelihoods with social protection and regulations.

3. Empower local governments and communities to take adaptation action.
4. Mainstream integrated adaptation governance.
5. Scale up nature-based solutions.

Environmental groups welcomed this development. Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, a civil society network of organizations working towards climate action, said they had “successfully lobbied” key principles in the final version of the text.

Among these, the coalition said, are the inclusion of food self-sufficiency and organic agricultural practices as priority outcomes, as well as putting emphasis on the “unique circumstances of indigenous peoples and their ties to their ancestral lands.”

The Philippine government had initially presented its NAP during the Conference of Parties (COP) last year in Dubai.

After the COP in 2023, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. instructed his Cabinet to “focus on high-risk regions” in the implementation of NAP.

In 2010, COP created the process to formulate NAPs. The Philippines’ adaptation plan can be accessed [here](#).

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