



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- WED: CCC pushes collective action vs ecological degradation
- CCC Calls For 'Whole Country' Effort For National Adaptation Plan

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By: Ed Davey

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## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Marcos urges public, private sectors to invest in renewables](#)

By: Tiziana Celine Piatos

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has called upon both public and private sectors to invest in renewable energy projects to combat the country's worsening climate problems in a significant push towards addressing climate change and securing the Philippines' energy future.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **[Uphill road for Europe's climate plan after EU election](#)**

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## **MANILA BULLETIN**

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## **PCO**

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## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

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By: Sarwell Meniano

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## **THE BUSINESS STANDARD**

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the importance of collective action and solidarity to address ecological degradation and restore the health of Philippine ecosystems on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED).

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#### **[CCC Calls For 'Whole Country' Effort For National Adaptation Plan](#)**

An official of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday called for a “whole country effort” to carry out the Philippines’ national adaptation plan (NAP) to minimize risks related to climate change and its impacts.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **Natural gas boom in the Philippines: Economic boon or environmental bane?**

By: Ed Davey

Sea turtles still scramble from the waters off Batangas Bay, paddling up the sand to bury their eggs. Coral reefs that some marine biologists call the Amazon of the ocean lie just offshore, home to giant clams, nurturing small fish, which in turn are prey for manta rays.

But above the surface the land has changed. The fishing village of Santa Clara is now surrounded by four power-generating stations, all burning natural gas.

The construction isn't over. Four more power plants that burn natural gas are planned for the coastline. What was a string of fishing villages is now an industrial zone.

The Philippines is going all in for electricity made via climate-damaging combustion, with almost two dozen power stations planned and the ambition to become a gas hub for the entire Asia Pacific region.

When natural gas is super-chilled into a liquid, special tanker ships can transport millions of cubic feet of it at a time, and the global trade in liquified natural gas or LNG is growing fast.

It's one of the world's largest natural gas power buildouts and will contribute to climate change at a time when alternative, renewable electricity has never been cheaper.

"It's mind-boggling that the Philippines, a climate-vulnerable country, would still pursue dirty fuels which exacerbate climate disasters," said Gerry Arances, executive director of the Philippine nonprofit Center for Energy, Ecology and Development.

Natural gas causes warming of the atmosphere both when it leaks out, unburned, and when it is burned for heat or electricity. Experts who have studied the country found its future growth could be met entirely with renewables; reliance on natural gas will make power more expensive for Filipinos and there will be other environmental costs.

Rising production, falling fish stocks

Wilma Abanil, a grandmother of four, witnessed changes after the first plant opened in 2002. Within two years, the fish catch was falling, she said. It grew worse as more plants opened.

“Before when you worked really hard, you could send your children to school,” Abanil said. “We were happy. We could support our family. These days we have nothing.”

While Philippine fish exports are going up nationally, official records show the catch from Batangas Province in a slide. Many residents blame the power plants. There is overfishing, too.

“We heard they will build more,” Abanil said. “What will happen to us?”

### Government justifications and controversies

Philippine Department of Energy fossil fuels director Rino Abad defended the plans. “We just have to make our best choice which is natural gas,” he said in a Zoom interview, describing it as the least expensive energy source, flexible and very clean. “We cannot increase our energy capacity by RE [renewable energy] alone.”

He noted the country is not building any new power plants that burn coal, which is dirtier.

Abad disputed the size of the expansion, saying 14 plants are planned. But that appears to include only those in the department’s formal pipeline and not others that are at an earlier stage or more recently announced.

Today, the Philippines accounts for less than 4 percent of overall natural gas use in Southeast Asia, Abad said. Indonesia and Thailand use several times more.

### Environmental impact and marine life

Philippine environmental guidelines protect the coral reefs, he said, for example limiting the temperature of hot water discharged from power plants.

All the plants surrounding Santa Clara are owned by First Gen, the Philippines’ leading natural gas energy company. First Gen did not reply to requests for comment.

Many energy watchers disagree that in 2024, it’s essential to build new fossil fuel plants for electricity, or that it’s the least expensive. Natural gas plants require a constant supply of fuel that rises and falls in price on international markets, unlike solar, wind and geothermal electricity, which cost very little to run once they are built.

### The case for renewable energy

Relying on “very expensive, unreliable, imported fuel,” is a mistake, said Sam Reynolds of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, which analyzed the Philippines’ energy plan in several white papers. Electricity made from burning liquefied natural gas is between two and three times as expensive for Filipinos than electricity made from renewables, he found.

And coastal power plants can cause environmental damage in a number of ways. Their hot water discharge can kill corals; changing the coastline alters flows of seawater and sand, which can disrupt delicate ecosystems, and tanker ships risk importing invasive species.

The risk assessment for a San Miguel plant currently under construction next door described corals in the area surrounding the power station as already in a poor state.

President of the Philippine Association of Marine Science, Jayvee Saco and others are concerned that corals further offshore could suffer the same fate. In the worst case, “future generations will only see the beauty of the reef in books or museums,” he said in an interview at his laboratory at Batangas State University. Seagrass will die first, then sea cucumbers, then fish, he said, as a machine flipped vials containing samples behind him.

#### Resistance and human-rights concerns

A study by marine biologists at Ateneo de Manila University found coastal areas under stress from the five power plants that already operate in the area.

A spokeswoman for San Miguel said via email its monitoring shows marine life has not been affected and a “thriving marine ecosystem” remains. The company has created employment and liquefied natural gas is “internationally recognized as a transition fuel to cleaner energy,” she said.

But there is no such international recognition. For years, evidence has accumulated that natural gas power is not much better for the climate than coal, if at all. That’s because it’s made up mostly of methane. It burns cleaner than coal, as the industry claims, but when it leaks out, unburned, which it does, it is more than 80 times more harmful to the climate than CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### International influence and local consequences

The Philippines may have made its decision to invest heavily in natural gas in part on the advice of the US Agency for International Development, which encouraged the expansion, arguing in a 2021 paper that the country could realize “strong economic and environmental benefits” by using LNG to meet its energy needs.

The paper came out as US natural gas companies rapidly turned the United States into the world’s largest LNG exporter. US President Joe Biden has recently delayed consideration of new export terminals.

Twenty years ago, in this same part of the Philippines, communist insurgents took up arms against an earlier generation of power plants that had displaced them. The New People’s Army launched a pre-dawn assault on soldiers guarding a nationally owned power plant in Batangas. Several were killed on both sides in the gunfight.

There are echoes of that conflict today: Some protesters against the LNG buildout say they’ve been threatened. Aaron Pedrosa, a lawyer for the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, said in an interview in Manila that soldiers often round them up, then offer money to keep quiet.

If they refuse? “Some have been abducted,” he said. “You can be charged with anti-terrorism laws. Some leaders have been killed because they were, ‘resisting arrest.’”

The Philippine Army didn’t respond to requests for a comment.

Back in Santa Clara, Joseph Vargas, president of a fishing association and husband of Abanil, says most communities have seen no benefit from the power plants built so far, even though Philippine law requires financial support for livelihoods in affected areas. Residents in four villages visited by The Associated Press agreed. He too has experienced pressure against protesters. He said soldiers wouldn’t allow them to fish, as a punishment.

“We were harassed until we stopped,” he recalled, “and they said if we continue, something bad will happen to us.”

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### Marcos urges public, private sectors to invest in renewables

By: Tiziana Celine Piatos

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has called upon both public and private sectors to invest in renewable energy projects to combat the country's worsening climate problems in a significant push towards addressing climate change and securing the Philippines' energy future.

Marcos says the 440-Megawatt Peak (MWp) solar project is essential to bolstering the government's efforts to encourage the nation's usage of renewable energy sources and guarantee a steady supply of electricity for every Filipino.

Hence, Marcos also told the private sector, including the NGCP, to collaborate closely with the government to maintain a secure, reliable, and adaptable energy infrastructure that can meet the increasing demands.

"Having more initiatives like this project will be a catalyst for our country's positive transformation. For one, it will pave the way for a brighter future for all Filipinos by providing more clean energy to light our homes, to invigorate our schools, power our businesses, and fuel our industries," Marcos said.

"It will also help us in realizing our renewable energy ambitions, which is the inevitable way forward," he added, stressing that "renewable energy is a crucial step for a country and a world grappling against climate change," Marcos added.



## MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

### [Uphill road for Europe's climate plan after EU election](#)

A more rightward-leaning European Parliament will make it harder to pass ambitious EU climate policies, but the majority of Europe's current world-leading green policies are likely to stay put, lawmakers, officials and analysts said.

Provisional results in the European Parliament election on Sunday night showed centrist parties holding a majority, but gains for right-wing and far-right parties skeptical of the EU's "Green Deal" package of environmental policies, and heavy losses for Green parties.

"I don't think that we'll be rolling back on (climate) policies. But I do think that it will be more complicated to get new policies off the ground," Bas Eickhout, head of the European Parliament's Greens lawmaker group, told Reuters.

EU climate measures over the next five years will depend on the incoming European Commission, which is responsible for proposing EU laws. But the newly-elected European Parliament will get a say on every new green policy.

Sunday's election result signals tougher maths to approve new EU climate measures.

"All new policies will be harder to pass. But backsliding is very unlikely," Krzysztof Boleska, Poland's secretary of state for climate, told Reuters.

"It is possible that new ambition will be delayed, mostly for populist reasons," agreed Julian Popov, who until April was EU member Bulgaria's environment minister.

That could have consequences for an upcoming 2040 EU climate target, needed to steer the EU towards its 2050 net zero emissions target. The EU Commission has suggested the 2040 goal should be an ambitious 90% emissions cut, but it needs approval from both EU countries and the Parliament.

The upcoming European Commission and Parliament will also face tough decisions on whether to introduce new policies to push industries towards that 2040 target.

That includes farming, a sector whose emissions have barely fallen since 2005. But after months of protests across Europe by angry farmers, there is little political appetite to target the sector with new rules, especially if the cost of complying with them would

drive up food prices for citizens already dealing with the biggest jump in living costs in a generation.

Shares in renewable energy companies were knocked lower by concerns the election results could slow the green energy transition.

Wind turbine makers, Vestas and Nordex, were down more than 3% on Monday. Orsted was down 0.5%.

## NO BIG U-TURN

While new climate measures might face a tougher ride, a full-scale reversal of the dozens of EU climate policies passed in the last five years would be legally difficult.

Those policies – which include renewable energy targets and a strengthened carbon pricing regime on power and industry – are fixed into EU law and already being rolled out across the bloc's 27 member states.

Many are already working. EU emissions are down by nearly a third from 1990 levels, and Europe is installing wind and solar energy capacity at record speed.

Still, the election campaign saw mounting calls from the right to scrap some Green Deal policies – with a prime target the EU's 2035 ban on new petrol and diesel cars. That policy has a 2026 review clause, on which the Parliament will get a say.

“It was an ideological folly, which absolutely must be corrected,” Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni told the online magazine Open last week.

Three EU diplomats singled out the 2035 car policy as one that European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will face significant pressure to weaken, including from some lawmakers in her center-right European People's Party who want it scrapped. Von der Leyen needs support from a majority of lawmakers in the new European Parliament to win a second term.

But broad climate policy rollbacks are unlikely, officials and analysts said. That's partly because the EU's existing climate measures add up to deliver its 2030 climate target – to cut net greenhouse gas emissions 55% from 1990 levels – which national governments and lawmakers both approved into EU law.

“There might well be changes in individual pieces of legislation, but what will be important to watch is how this adds up,” said Mats Engström, senior fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations think-tank.

## DON'T CALL IT A 'GREEN' DEAL

Contrary to the last EU election in 2019, when millions of young climate protesters took to Europe's streets, this year's campaign saw climate change usurped by issues including immigration, economic woes and struggling European industries.

Meeting the EU's 2030 climate target will require investments of 1 trillion euros per year, a jump of around 356 billion per year compared with 2010-2020, according to the European Investment Bank.

Investing in local industries was a campaign pledge across the political spectrum, as competition sharpens with the U.S. and China to produce green tech like low-carbon steel and electric cars.

Some analysts said this focus would see the EU pass more funds and policies to support climate-friendly projects – but with a focus on helping industry, rather than being “green” and “clean”.

“If it's about scaling up manufacturing of green technologies here in Europe, then that may be done in the name of ‘industrial competitiveness’ and not for the climate,” said Linda Kalcher, Executive Director at think-tank Strategic Perspectives.

“It might be that we see the rhetoric shifting, but the action on the ground being the same,” Kalcher said.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [France to offer Philippines low-interest development loans](#)

By: Chino Leyco

The Philippines and France have inked a financial and development cooperation agreement aimed at tackling poverty and fostering inclusive growth for Filipinos, the Department of Finance (DOF) announced.

On June 7, Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Philippines Marie Fontanel signed the Agreement on Financial and Development Cooperation (AFDC).

Under the AFDC, the Philippines will gain access to concessional official development assistance (ODA) and blended financing from France to support the execution of key projects and programs by the Marcos administration.

“With the broad range of development areas covered, this agreement will certainly serve as a key poverty-fighting force that will help us establish a solid foundation for a thriving, inclusive future for Filipinos,” Recto said in a statement on Monday, June 10.

Recto noted that the agreement is more than a mere financial collaboration as it stands as a commitment to ensure continuous implementation of initiatives that will positively impact all Filipinos.

He, meanwhile, conveyed his appreciation to the French government for standing as an ally to the Philippines in this initiative, which is poised to play a key role in enhancing economic stability and prosperity for Filipinos.

“With the agreement now in place, we anticipate strengthened cooperation with France across high-impact sectors crucial to our country’s development,” Recto said.

These sectors include agriculture, agro-industry, mining, water sanitation, infrastructure, transportation, and renewable energy.

“We are very enthusiastic about the numerous pioneering and exciting projects that will be developed through this agreement, especially those that have never been done before in the Philippines,” Recto said.

He reiterated his commitment to lead the DOF in ensuring the efficient implementation of the agreement, as well as the full compliance of all relevant agencies with the processes and protocols agreed upon.

In her remarks, Fontanel stated that France is eager to enhance the level of its partnership with the Philippines, particularly in defense, security, energy, food, maritime, and climate change.

She also expressed France's commitment to help with the roll-out of the Build Better More program and thanked the DOF and the DFA for a job well done in finalizing the agreement.

## PCO

### [PBBM to NGCP: Help gov't secure PH energy infra, meet demand for power](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. asked the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) on Monday to collaborate further with the government to secure the country's energy infrastructure.

At the same time, President Marcos urged the NGCP to help meet the country's growing demand for electricity.

"I urge the NGCP to work closely with the government to ensure our energy infrastructure remains secure, reliable, and capable of meeting our growing demands," President Marcos said during the signing in Ilagan City of the Connection Agreement between the NGCP and San Ignacio Energy Resources Development Corporation (SIERDC) for the Isabela Ground Mounted Solar Project (IGMSP).

"This collaboration that we have formalized today is key to achieving our renewable energy goals and to ensure a stable power supply for all Filipinos, not just for today but for the future. Having more initiatives like this project will be a catalyst for our country's positive transformation," he said.

The tie up, he pointed out, will pave the way for a brighter future for all Filipinos by providing more clean energy to light homes, invigorating schools, powering businesses, and fueling industries.

It will also help the country realize its renewable energy ambitions, which is the inevitable way forward, he said, adding renewable energy is a crucial step for a country and a world grappling against climate change.

Through renewable energy, the Philippines could have a greener, more secure, and sustainable future for the next generations of Filipinos, he stressed.

"Let us continue to pursue extraordinary opportunities like this to give ourselves and the next generations to come a fighting chance to succeed in reversing our exacerbating [climate problems]," the President stated.

With an investment of P18 billion, the IGMSP could generate about 440 gigawatt-hours of clean energy each year, which is enough to power nearly two million households.

In addition, its construction phase will create jobs for around 4,000 workers, boosting the local economy and improving the lives of many families.

The project is also seen to strengthen the entire national grid and move the Philippines closer to a resilient and renewable energy-secure future.

President Marcos expressed appreciation to the Provincial Government of Isabela, the NGCP, and the SIERDC for their dedication and hard work to the groundbreaking project.

He also thanked the French government and TotalEnergies for their invaluable contribution to such undertaking, stressing their commitment to renewable energy development in the Philippines shows the importance of international cooperation in tackling global challenges.

The SIERDC, a joint venture between TotalEnergies and Nextnorth Holdings Corp., is the project implementer.

The IGMSP is located at a 392-hectare industrial land in Barangays Cabannungan 2nd, Arusip, Bagong Silang, and Pilar in Ilagan City, Isabela.

Its construction could commence in the fourth quarter of 2024 and is expected to be ready for commercial operations by second quarter of 2026.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Borongon City survival fund project draws Makati's attention](#)

By: Sarwell Meniano

Local government officials here welcomed their counterparts from Makati City to discuss the PHP118.86-million Lo-om River Flood Protection, Reforestation and Livelihood project supported by the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

The city government here shared Monday that officials from Makati visited this city on Friday to learn the strategies employed by Borongan that gained approval from the PSF board.

"They solicited important advice on how to go about the PSF application process, recognizing Borongan's efficacy in securing the highly sought-after board approval," Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda said in a statement.

The Borongan project seeks to address the downtown area's susceptibility to flooding due to the river's location and coverage.

Application for the PSF grant began in March last year and was approved eight months later after an assessment by the PSF board.

The fund was turned over on Nov. 29, 2023.

Recently, Agda signed a financing agreement with Department of Finance Secretary and PSF Chair Ralph Recto, formally setting the tone for the implementation of the project.

Makati City Councilor Ed Marquez led the visitors who went to the Lo-om River within Siha and San Gabriel villages.

"Getting the right people to do the job, along with a dedicated team leader, is a paramount consideration when entering into such undertaking," Agda added.

The drafting of the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), according to Agda, should also be given the extra care and attention.

He said that the PSF board is very particular with the LCCAP, ensuring that it is unique, feasible, and reflective of the local government's true needs.



The city government said Makati's visit is a strong manifestation of what partnership between cities can bring to their respective endeavors.

"This was highlighted by Makati City Councilor Marquez, who said that the purpose of their visit was to learn from Borongan, while at the same time, sharing relevant ideas as regards their achievements for Borongan to learn from," Agda said.

The PSF was created by Republic Act (RA) 10174, which amended RA 9729 or the Climate Change Act.

It is an annual fund intended for local government units and accredited local/community organizations to implement climate change adaptation projects, supplementing the annual appropriations for climate-change-related programs and projects.

## THE BUSINESS STANDARD

### [Extreme weather since COP28 causes over \\$41 billion in global damage: Report](#)

A new report by Christian Aid reveals that extreme weather events have caused over \$41 billion in damage worldwide in just six months since COP28.

This alarming figure underscores the urgent need for global climate action as countries face increasingly severe weather patterns linked to climate change, reads a press release.

Bangladesh also has been severely impacted by record-breaking heat waves and cyclones since the last COP. The extreme heat has forced school closures, withered crops, and worsened conditions for displaced Rohingya people.

According to scientific studies, this extreme heat, which has claimed numerous lives across Asia, would have been impossible without human-induced climate change.

In April, Bangladesh experienced temperatures over 40°C for 24 days, shattering a 76-year record. The heat wave caused significant agricultural damage, with crops such as chillies, pulses, sunflowers, almonds, and rice suffering greatly.

Rohingya refugees, living in tarpaulin structures, faced temperatures of 42°C, the hottest in 35 years in the area.

The heat wave has resulted in the deaths of twenty-eight people in Bangladesh.

Observational analysis suggests that the heat in South Asia was made 45 times more likely and 0.85°C hotter.

Under the current climate, this type of extreme heat could now happen every 10 years in West Asia, every 20 years in the Philippines (or every ten years with El Niño), and every 30 years in the wider South Asia region.

The heat wave will hit Asian economies hard, leading to higher inflation and a slowdown in economic growth.

The Christian Aid report, published amid the 60th Bonn climate talks, highlights four extreme weather events scientifically linked to climate change since COP28: floods in Brazil, Southwest Asia, and East Africa, and heat waves across large parts of Asia.

These events have killed over 2,500 people and caused immense economic damage.

Bangladesh has also been hit hard by Cyclone Remal, a devastating storm that killed multiple people and destroyed or damaged over 150,000 homes.

This disaster is part of an ongoing series of extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change.

Nushrat Chowdhury, Climate Justice Advisor at Christian Aid in Bangladesh, said, "This is the kind of climate chaos we've been experiencing this year, and I worry it will only get worse until the world begins to cut its carbon emissions. The people of Bangladesh are not responsible for this disaster, yet they are faced with huge losses. That is why it's so important the Loss and Damage Fund gets proper funding so that people can receive support to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after such awful cyclones."

The 60th Bonn Climate Conference (3-13 June) aims to operationalise the Loss and Damage Fund.

As the second week of conference begins, negotiators are working to unblock financial flows to lower-income countries hit by extreme weather. This funding was a major sticking point at COP28, with wealthier nations slow to agree to the necessary financing.

The UN estimates that \$290-580 billion will be needed for loss and damage annually from 2030 onwards, yet only \$600 million has been delivered so far.

Rich countries, which have burned fossil fuels for centuries, need to increase their funding to help the world cope with current and future disasters.

The Bonn climate talks represent a halfway point between the last COP and the upcoming one.

At last COP in Dubai, countries agreed to take action on the climate crisis, but implementation remains slow despite the worsening effects of climate change.

The countries most vulnerable to climate change cannot afford further delays in delivering COP pledges.

Mariana Paoli, Christian Aid's Global Advocacy Lead, emphasised the need for immediate action and said, "We need rich countries who are largely responsible for causing the climate crisis to massively scale up funding for action on climate change."

They need to show real creativity and political will, and tax polluters and the super-rich in order to finance real climate action."

The \$41 billion in damage is an underestimate according to the charity.

Only insured losses are typically reported, and many of the worst disasters have hit countries where few people or businesses have insurance.

The human cost of disasters is also missed in these figures, from those who lost their lives to those whose homes are destroyed, or who lose out on work or education.

Christian Aid also calls for governments and development banks to halt new investments in fossil fuels and to scale up renewable energy.

The charity advocates for the cancellation of historic debts owed by poor countries to rich ones, directing those funds towards improving climate resilience and equity.

Davide Faranda, a researcher at the Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace in Paris, highlighted the urgency stating, "In 2024, global warming caused by human-caused carbon emissions has reached the 1.5°C temperature threshold identified in the Paris Agreement. This planetary fever is causing widespread heatwaves, droughts, cyclones, and floods which can be directly attributed to human greenhouse gas emissions and that are causing enormous human and economic damages."

Fiona Nunan, Professor of Environment and Development at the University of Birmingham, said, "This year we've seen communities across the world struck by cyclones, inundated with flooding, and baked by terrible heatwaves. The economic and social harm they have caused is clearly huge. This extreme weather is to be expected unless the world takes urgent action on rising greenhouse gas emissions."

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [WED: CCC pushes collective action vs ecological degradation](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the importance of collective action and solidarity to address ecological degradation and restore the health of Philippine ecosystems on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED).

The CCC highlighted the urgency of involving all Filipinos in efforts to restore and protect the country's natural resources, particularly its forests, wetlands, flat lands, and marine ecosystems.

As one of the 18 mega-biodiverse countries in the world, the Philippines is home to a wide variety of biodiversity-nurturing ecosystems, such as wetlands, tree forests, mangrove forests and coral reefs, which nurture between 70 and 80 percent of the world's plant and animal species.

These ecosystems are essential to the livelihoods of many Filipinos, supporting agriculture and aquaculture. However, the country faces several issues that contribute to ecosystem degradation, such as climate change, pollution, sea and land-use conversion, sea-level rise, illegal mining, deforestation and droughts.

The aquaculture and agriculture sectors continue to face challenges. According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' Comprehensive Post-Harvest, Marketing, and Ancillary Industries Plan 2018-2022, factors such as the degradation of fishery habitats and climate change have caused a decline in the fishing sector in recent years.

In 2023, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. raised concerns as the country continues to lose 457 tons of quality soil annually due to erosion and degradation.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director, explained that the active involvement of all Filipinos in ecological and climate change issues allows climate plans to accumulate diverse perspectives, ultimately helping with the development of sustainable solutions.

"Collective action on climate change and ecological protection and restoration is crucial for a sustainable and climate-smart Philippines. Involving everyone in the climate agenda ensures a whole of society approach to address climate change and ecological

degradation. We need to work together to promote the development of long-term solutions and strengthen the resilience and cohesiveness of Filipino society in the face of climate change challenges,” he said.

Borje also noted that “engaging all sectors in climate action fosters ecological literacy and empowers Filipinos of all ages and backgrounds to contribute to sustainable practices, programs, initiatives, and policies.”

Borje also urged support for policies and programs under President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. meant to establish an enabling environment for a more climate resilient Philippines.

## PAGEONE

### CCC Calls For 'Whole Country' Effort For National Adaptation Plan

An official of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday called for a “whole country effort” to carry out the Philippines’ national adaptation plan (NAP) to minimize risks related to climate change and its impacts.

In a news forum in Quezon City, CCC Assistant Secretary Rommel Cuenca reported that the Philippines has submitted its NAP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Cuenca said the NAP integrates climate change adaptation into policies, programs, and activities within all relevant sectors, necessitating a whole-of-country approach that involves not only the CCC, but all national government agencies, the private sector, science organizations, the academe, and local governments.

“Sa lahat ng mga sektor na iyan – private sector, academe, national government – may kaniya-kaniyang plano iyan para sa kaniya-kaniyang mandato (In all sectors – private sector, academe, national government – they each have plans based on their respective mandate). The National Adaptation Plan will allow us to make sure that all these plans are guided and aligned and integrated so that it becomes a whole-of-country effort and not just panukala lang iyan ni (a proposal of the) Climate Change Commission,” Cuenca said.

The NAP aims to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience and facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into policies and programs.

“Adaptive capacity is the ability of a community, a region, a city, a country to be able to reduce the harm and to exploit the benefits that can come out of adaptation action,” he said.

He said the NAP seeks to identify priority high-risk, climate change-vulnerable areas of the Philippines.

It also provides guidance on integrating adaptation considerations into planning, coordination, and implementation processes at all levels of government and across society, as well as harmonizes national strategies with international commitments.

Cuenca cited the need to identify the sectors involved, the areas of the country that are highly vulnerable to climate change, and the risks of climate change.

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