



NEWS ROUNDUP

09 JULY 2024 [08:00 am]

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ABANTE TONITE

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By: Eileen Mencia

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MANILA STANDARD

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By: Rio N. Araja

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[\[Opinion\] The continuing global warming threat](#)

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SUNSTAR

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

DENR

[DENR reports PH climate action programs now at USD\\$13.5 billion](#)

With technical and funding support from its development partners, the country is making significant progress in its climate change action plan and support mechanisms amounting to \$13.5 billion as of end-June 2024, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported today.

MANILA STANDARD

[Embrace climate resilience to mitigate disasters — CCC](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) last week stressed the critical role of climate resilience in safeguarding the Philippines from the escalating impacts of severe weather fluctuations.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABANTE TONITE

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Sa usaping climate change action plan, tinutukoy dito ang mga proyekto at mga hakbang na ginagawa para ibsan ang epekto ng pag-iiba ng klima sa mundo tulad ng mas malalakas na mga bagyo sa Pilipinas at mga forest fires naman sa ibang mga bansa.

Sabi ng DENR, may 31 development partners ang Pilipinas na tumutulong sa 94 na proyektong maituturing na climate action initiatives ng bansa at 23 dito ay popondohan mula sa mga pautang at nagkakahalagang \$12.96 bilyon o P752 bilyon.

Ayon sa DENR, \$11.79 bilyon o P684 bilyon ay para sa 23 proyekto sa transportasyon: 21 na ginagawa na at 2 ang uumpisahan pa lamang.

Sabi ni DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, tinutukan ng National Adaptation Plan (NAP) at ng Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) ang aktibong pagtugon sa climate change at tulungan ang mga lokal na pamahalaan maging mas matatag at bawasan ang kanilang greenhouse gas emissions.

ABS CBN

'Last ecological frontier': Things you can do at the revamped La Mesa Ecopark

By: Kris Anne Mendoza and Jomari Gimongala

Surrounded by the urban hustle and bustle of Quezon City is a greener hub that guarantees a tranquil break to help citizens reconnect to nature.

La Mesa Ecopark, the 'last ecological frontier' of Metro Manila in Greater Lagro, Quezon City, combines conservation and tourism and, its tagline promises, offers "Wander. Wonder. Wow."

Joining the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month, it opened its gate once more after months of rehabilitation under new management led by Manila Water Foundation (MWF) on June 29.

WANDER in the greener sanctuary

Away from the long endured hazy atmosphere, get lost in the beauty of strolling the 33-hectare park that provides a sanctuary of fresher air and cleaner water as part of its vision of providing biodiversity in the city — or 'BiodiverCity'.

"But this 33 hectares is more than just a destination, it is a trail for us to appreciate, raise awareness and become environmental stewards to reinvigorate our passion in sustaining the La Mesa Watershed," Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Leonor "Bobby" Cleofas said.

Part of uplifting the city's ecotourism is encouraging collective effort in the ecopark's four main purposes: Watershed Conservation, Biodiversity Preservation, Forest Protection, and Climate Action.

WONDER at jam-packed recreation

La Mesa Eco Park offers a variety of recreational activities, including paintball, wall climbing, rappelling, and archery tag, for visitors.

The eco-tourist space has prepared activities to reawaken the park-goers' environmental consciousness.

Nature walks give visitors a chance to explore the "last lung of the city". The park, in partnership with Wild Bird Club of the Philippines and Wild Bird Photographers of the Philippines, also offers guided birdwatching.

The ecopark will reopen in phases, with the first phase featuring La Mesa Ecopark Administration Building, Eco Academy Pavilion, Viewing Deck, Souvenir Shop, Group Activity Area, and Picnic Area.

Phase 2, on the other hand, includes the lagoon, the Neptune garden, the flower hill, and Phase 3 will feature the greener aspect of the sanctuary or the forest area.

Campsites will be made available when these phases are opened to the public.

Be WOWed by nature's gift

Biodiversity reigns when hundreds of species coexist with humans, a lesson that the ecopark hopes to teach.

"We would to envision to transform the La Mesa Eco Park as a destination that offers experiential environmental learning and each visit will definitely reawaken or deepen our environmental consciousness by seeing there is harmonious existence and relationship among flora, fauna and human," MWF Executive Director Reginald Andal said during the reopening ceremony.

Andal said there 220 species have been recorded in the ecopark, including 135 species of plants and 53 species of birds. La Mesa is also home to 22 kinds of reptiles and amphibians and seven types of mammals.

According to the park's Facebook page, a recent study by the Center for Conservation Innovations found that it is home to more than 30 small animal species, such as the Lesser Dog-faced Fruit Bat and the Many-lined Sun Skink.

Colorful plant species like the *Barringtonia asiatica* can be seen in the La Mesa Ecopark while the Scale-feathered Malkoha, a species endemic to the noerhern Philippines, leads the bird species.

A route to 'BiodiverCity'

Quezon City residents can enter the park for free while visitors from outside the city will be charged a minimal fee of P20 — a way to help the city give park-goers the best experience.

“There is a cutoff of 1,000 visitors per day,” Andal said, adding guests will have to accomplish an online reservation form prior to their visit.

Alongside limiting the number of visitors, the park is also restricting operating hours to 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Tuesdays to Sundays. The park is closed on Mondays.

By exploring the nature reserve, the public has the opportunity to witness the scenic beauty there, but also to become a part of the greater cause of biodiversity preservation and restoration.

“We are in a climate crisis, climate change, and it's high time we understand the vital role that forests play in sustaining our planet. So by visiting the La Mesa Ecopark, you are contributing to a greater cause, which is supporting biodiversity and enhancing the climate resilient,” Andal reiterated.

MANILA STANDARD

[PH climate plans get \\$13.5b funding from int'l partners](#)

By: Rio N. Araja

The Philippines' climate action programs have garnered \$13.5 billion from development partners as of last June, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

With \$13.5- billion technical and funding support, the country is making significant progress in its climate change action plan and support mechanisms, the DENR said.

Secretary Maria Antonia Loyzaga, who also represents President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in the Climate Change Commission, underscored the importance of strategic coordination with development partners and financial institutions to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

"This coordination ensures that adaptation and mitigation efforts are integrated across sectors, scales and regions," Loyzaga said.

DENR data showed the country's climate action initiatives were supported by the collaborative efforts of 31 development partners in 94 projects, 23 of which were loan-funded and comprising 96 percent of the total value of \$13.5 billion.

The projects are mainly in the transport, agriculture, waste and industrial processes, and energy sectors.

In a statement, the DENR said transport projects alone accounted for \$11.79 billion in loans with 21 ongoing and two upcoming projects, while the agriculture sector had \$81 million in grants support livelihood enhancements and smart agricultural technologies.

The waste and industrial processes sectors received \$11.79 million and \$9.22 million, respectively, in project funding.

On the other hand, the energy sector also saw significant investment with projects of \$1.08 billion.

The development partners are the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, GIZ, Japan International Cooperation Agency, United States Agency for International Development, European Union, United Nations Development Program and World Food Program, among others.

[Opinion] The continuing global warming threat

PAUSE, gaze and listen.

The effects of human-caused global warming are happening and being felt now, not only in the Philippines but elsewhere.

Earth's temperature has risen by an average of 0.06° Celsius (0.11° Fahrenheit) per decade since 1850, or about 2° F in total.

Modern global warming has been the result of an increase in magnitude of the so-called greenhouse effect, a warming of Earth's surface and lower atmosphere caused by the presence of water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, and other greenhouse gases.

Climatologists and other experts say the effects are irreversible for people alive today, and will worsen as long as humans add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

These gases are carbon dioxide which enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels; methane, emitted during the production and transport of natural gas and oil; nitrous oxide, emitted during agricultural, land use, and industrial activities, combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste; and fluorinated gases, emitted through a variety of household, commercial and industrial applications.

It is reassuring the Philippines, highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, has committed to reduce emissions by 75 percent by 2030, one of the most ambitious targets in Southeast Asia.

The Philippines, which aims to accelerate its transition to a green economy, also intends to increase the share of renewable energy to 35 percent of the power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

We are anticipative, though anxious, the country will be able to hurdle this climate change challenge which is, among others, changing water availability, making it scarcer in more regions.

Experts say global warming exacerbates water shortages in already water-stressed regions and is leading to an increased risk of agricultural droughts affecting crops, and ecological droughts increasing the vulnerability of ecosystems.

Rising sea levels, higher temperatures, and increased frequency of typhoons and extreme weather events can cause floods, landslides, and erosion that pollute water resources, damage infrastructure, destroy crops, and lead to loss of lives and livelihoods.

In 2022, the World Risk Index ranked the Philippines as the country with the highest disaster risk.

The Philippines' rich but increasingly depleted natural resources provide critical protection against the impacts of climate change, offering shoreline protection, flood control, soil stability, and habitats for biodiversity.

Without action, the World Bank estimates annual economic harm from climate change in the Philippines could reach 13.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Using a mid-range emissions scenario, the climate projections done by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration for 2020 and 2050 indicate all areas of the Philippines will get warmer, with largest increase in temperatures in the summer months of March, April and May.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

[This Pacific island country is disappearing. What happens next?](#)

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When Taukiei Kitara was born, his parents cut his umbilical cord into two pieces, as is tradition in his native country of Tuvalu. They planted one piece at the base of a coconut tree about 30 feet from the shore and offered the other to the sea. Throughout his childhood, Kitara returned to the tree to check on its health and brush away any fallen fronds. Even as a kid, though, Kitara recognized that the shoreline was inching closer to his umbilical cord. The sea is getting hungrier and hungrier, he thought.

Tuvalu is an island nation of less than 12,000 inhabitants, located halfway between Hawaii and Australia. The country's average elevation is less than 10 feet above sea level, which makes it particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change. Scientists estimate that by 2050, 50 percent of Funafuti, the capital where more than half of the country lives, will become flooded by tidal waters.

Many see Tuvalu as an example of what other coastal communities will face in the years to come. Researchers predict that, by 2050, more than 216 million people may be forced to migrate due to climate change. Tuvalu's precarious position has forced it to reckon with an existential question: What happens to a country if it no longer has land?

The word for land in Tuvaluan, fenua, refers to both physical land and a sense of belonging rooted in one's identity. In Tuvalu, land is owned communally, and passed down through family lines. Tuvaluans bury their ancestors in mausoleums beside their front doors. The land holds their relatives, history, and tradition, which makes the question of whether to leave intractable.

"We cannot hold the perspective that migration is [a given]," Maina Talia, Tuvalu's Minister of Climate Change told me. "But what if we wake up in the morning and half the population has been wiped out by the ocean—who should we blame?"

In the shadow of this immense existential threat lies a personal question for Tuvaluans: Should I stay or should I go? Some Tuvaluans are considering leaving to pursue more security, but the majority of those I spoke to plan to stay.

"It's true climate change is affecting us, but we want to stay," Fenuatapo Mesako, a program officer at The Tuvalu Family Health Association, told me. "We don't want to be Tuvaluans in another country. We want to be Tuvaluans in Tuvalu."

The frontline of climate change

Arriving by plane, the atoll of Funafuti appears like a green crescent moon in a vast aqua sky.

In total, the nine islands that make up Tuvalu have a land mass of about 10 square miles. Besides being on the frontline of the climate crisis, Tuvalu is known for two things: it is one of the least visited countries in the world, and it owns the .tv domain suffix, which is the country's second greatest source of revenue after selling the rights to its fishing territories.

A few minutes before a plane lands at Funafuti International Airport, a siren goes off in town to encourage people to clear the runway. With land as a premium and only four flights in a week, the airstrip doubles as a multi-lane highway, volleyball court, and picnic destination depending on the time of day.

Climate change is embedded in almost every aspect of daily life. Sea water has infiltrated the island's soil and made it difficult to grow staples of the Tuvaluan diet like taro, breadfruit, and coconut. King tides, which have gotten progressively more intense in recent years, sweep from the ocean across the island once a month, flooding the airstrip and people's homes.

"When I was younger, life was different," 25-year-old Menimei Melton told me. "I learned about climate change when I was an infant, but I didn't really see how it was affecting us until I was older."

Although climate change helped raise the country's profile on the international stage, locals want to ensure that Tuvalu is not defined solely by its relationship to a crisis they did little to produce. According to Climate Watch, Tuvalu is one of the 25 countries with the smallest per-capita carbon footprint on the planet.

SUNSTAR

The price of convenience

By: Ralph Lawrence G. Llemit

Are we currently paying the price of convenience?

This has been what some scientists and experts have been stressing as the entire planet continues to experience an unusual pattern of weather. And the Philippines is not spared from it.

According to the United Nations (UN), the phenomenon is called climate change, which refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.

The shift in the climate can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the most recent scientific assessments have confirmed the warming of the weather system since the mid-20th century.

Pagasa said this is due to the observed increase in greenhouse gas concentrations from human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels and land use change.

Currently, warming has increasingly posed quite considerable challenges to man and the environment and will continue to be in the future. Some autonomous adaptation is taking place, but more proactive adaptation planning is needed in order to ensure sustainable development.

Due to climate concerns, the UN established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body that evaluates the risks of climate change and provides objective information to governments and various communities such as the academe, research organizations, private sector, etc.

In 2007, the IPCC made its strongest statement yet on climate change in its Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), when it concluded that the warming of the weather system is unequivocal and that most of the warming during the last 50 years or so is due to the observed increase in greenhouse gas concentrations from human activities. It is also very likely that changes in the global climate system will continue.

Scenarios

Research showed that there has been a 0.74 degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) increase in global mean temperature during the last 150 years compared with the 1961-1990 global average temperature. It is the steep increase in temperature since the mid-20th century that is causing worldwide concern, particularly the vulnerability of poor developing countries, like the Philippines, to the adverse impacts of even incremental changes in temperatures.

The IPCC AR4 further states that the substantial body of evidence that supports the recent global warming includes rising surface temperature, sea level rise, and decrease in snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere.

Experts also noted changes in extreme events globally and these include widespread changes in extreme temperatures; cold days, cold nights and frost becoming less frequent; hot days, hot nights and heat waves becoming more frequent; and observational evidence for an increase of intense tropical cyclone activity in the North Atlantic since about 1970, correlated with increases of tropical sea surface temperatures (SSTs). However, there are differences in some parts of the planet.

In some Southeast Asia countries, including the Philippines, temperature increases have been observed although magnitude varies from one country to another. There have also been observed changes in rainfall patterns, characteristically defined by changes in monsoon performance.

According to a 2001 research by MJ Manton, there has been a spatial coherence in the increase of hot days, based on the trends of extreme daily events, including temperatures and rainfall, in the Asia Pacific region. Based on the trend, there has been an increase in hot days, warm nights, and heat waves, and a decrease in cold days, cold nights, and frost; although, there is no definite direction of rainfall change across the entire region.

PH not spared

Just like some parts of the world, the Philippines is at risk of suffering the dire consequences of climate change.

Pagasa reported that the country has also exhibited increasing temperatures. In the country's weather bureau study, during the period 1951 to 2010, there had been an increase of 0.648 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ or an average of 0.0108 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ per year.

During the last 60 years, maximum and minimum temperatures are seen to have increased by 0.36 °C and 1.0°C, respectively.

The agency added that based on the analysis of trends of tropical cyclone occurrence or passage within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), it showed that an average of 20 tropical cyclones form and/or cross the PAR per year. The trend shows a high variability over the decades but no indication of an increase in frequency. However, there is a very slight increase in the number of tropical cyclones with maximum sustained winds of greater than 150 kilometers per hour (kph) and above (typhoon category) being exhibited during the El Niño phenomenon.

Moreover, the analysis of tropical cyclone passage over the three main islands (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao), the 30-year running means show that there has been a slight increase in the Visayas during the 1971 to 2000 period as compared with the 1951 to 1980 and 1960-1990 periods.

The trends of increases or decreases in extreme daily rainfall are not statistically significant; although, there have been changes.

In terms of the summer season, all areas of the country will get warmer as mean temperatures are expected to rise by 0.9 °C to 1.1 °C in 2020 and by 1.8 °C to 2.2 °C in 2050. Likewise, all seasonal mean temperatures will also have increases in these time slices, and these increases during the four seasons are quite consistent in all parts of the country. The largest temperature increase is projected during the summer (MAM) season.

Generally, there is a reduction in rainfall in most parts of the country during the summer (MAM) season. However, rainfall increase is likely during the southwest monsoon (JJA) season until the transition (SON) season in most areas of Luzon and Visayas, and also, during the northeast monsoon (DJF) season, particularly, in provinces/areas characterized as Type II climate in 2020 and 2050. There is, however, a generally decreasing trend in rainfall in Mindanao, especially by 2050.

There are varied trends in the magnitude and direction of the rainfall changes, both in 2020 and 2050. What the projections clearly indicate is the likely increase in the performance of the southwest and the northeast monsoons in the provinces exposed to these climate controls when they prevail over the country. Moreover, the usually wet seasons become wetter with the usually dry seasons becoming drier; and these could lead to more occurrences of floods and dry spells/droughts, respectively.

Hot temperatures will continue to become more frequent in the future. The number of days with maximum temperature exceeding 35 °C (following value used by other countries in the Asia Pacific region in extreme events analysis) is increasing in 2020 and 2050.

Heavy daily rainfall will continue to become more frequent, extreme rainfall is projected to increase in Luzon and Visayas only, but the number of dry days is expected to increase in all parts of the country in 2020 and 2050. Heavy daily rainfall will continue to become more frequent, extreme rainfall is projected to increase in Luzon and Visayas only, but the number of dry days is expected to increase in all parts of the country in 2020 and 2050.

Climate change in Davao

Davao Region is also not spared from the detrimental effects of climate change.

The City Agriculturist's Office (Cagro) of Davao reports that the changing climate has affected the production of industrial crops.

Cagro focal person on industrial crops Dario Divino said production has been unstable since the changing weather patterns as of late disrupted the usual schedule of the harvest season. Divino said the rainy weather earlier in 2022 replaced what was supposed to be the vital dry season.

Before, the dry months of March to April of the year prepare the crops for flowering before the arrival of the wet season around May to June and harvesting will come just in time for the month of August.

This phenomenon was evident when the city only harvested a low yield of 3,000 metric tons of durian for the first half of 2022, compared to the usual harvest of at least 12,000 metric tons.

On the other hand, Divino said the unusual weather patterns also affect the health of the crops as plant diseases and pests or insects thrive in prolonged dry weather.

“Ang mga insekto dali lang sila mudaghan, mag-proliferate sila sa init na klima (The insects proliferate in warm climate). (At the same time) pagtaas ang moisture unya mag-init og kalit, ang mga fungal og sakit, mukusog (the weather changes from humid to wet allow fungal and plant disease to grow),” he said.

The tourism industry in the town of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur is also significantly impacted by climate change, according to its Provincial tourism officer, Julius Paner.

PAner said that while Sta. Cruz has been preparing for the expected long dry spell, continuous rainfall has been the unexpected outcome.

Paner highlighted that the tourism industry continues to flourish in Sta. Cruz due to its fair weather, noting that “El Niño mitigation programs have been prepared in advance to prevent wildfires in the event of no rain for a month. Failure to do so would result in the closure of Mt. Apo to climbers, causing an impact on the tourism industry.”

He said that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, a considerable increase in tourist arrivals (11 percent) occurred in 2023, with Mt. Apo hosting 5,000 climbers, Mt. Loay hosting 3,720 climbers, Mt. Denor hosting 4,118 climbers, Bamboo Peak hosting 3,369 climbers, and Marine Waterfalls averaging 2,000 visitors.

He said that the shearline weather experienced in mid-January resulted in the displacement of 24 families residing in Barangay Astorga in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

The Department of Agriculture-Davao Region (DA-Davao) is supporting the agricultural and fisheries sectors in improving adaptation and mitigation initiatives to address challenges brought by the ongoing climate change.

DA-Davao Supervising Science Research and Specialist Simeon Fernandez explained the significant role of the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) in farmers as this enhances their productivity and provides the basic needs of people, which is food.

“Kining AMIA, or climate resilience agriculture, nagatumbok ni siya sa, una, ma-enhance ang productivity sa atong mga mag-uuma ug mangingisda kay ang source sa atong pagkaon kay gikan sa kaumahan ug sa kadagatan, mao gyud na ang basic nato. Dapat ma-develop ang ilahang panginabuhian kay mao na atong source of food,” the official said.

Fernandez also said that there is a need to adjust for the weather patterns as they widely affect the production of the agricultural and fisheries sectors.

The Davao City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) also underscored the vital role of trees in mitigating rising temperatures.

Christopher Asibal, chief of the Cenro Upland Community Project & Forest Management Section, said in a radio interview on October 17, 2023, that there exists a symbiotic relationship between trees and humans. He explained that humans rely on trees for oxygen, while trees benefit from humans by absorbing their carbon dioxide.

He noted various environmental ordinances in the city, particularly emphasizing the recent Heritage Tree Ordinance, which aims to protect trees that hold significant value for both the city and the environment.

THE GUARDIAN

[Temperatures 1.5C above pre-industrial era average for 12 months, data shows](#)

The world has baked for 12 consecutive months in temperatures 1.5C (2.7F) greater than their average before the fossil fuel era, new data shows.

Temperatures between July 2023 and June 2024 were the highest on record, scientists found, creating a year-long stretch in which the Earth was 1.64C hotter than in preindustrial times.

The findings do not mean world leaders have already failed to honour their promises to stop the planet heating 1.5C by the end of the century – a target that is measured in decadal averages rather than single years – but that scorching heat will have exposed more people to violent weather. A sustained rise in temperatures above this level also increases the risk of uncertain but catastrophic tipping points.

Carlo Buontempo, director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, which analysed the data, said the results were not a statistical oddity but a “large and continuing shift” in the climate.

“Even if this specific streak of extremes ends at some point, we are bound to see new records being broken as the climate continues to warm,” he said. “This is inevitable unless we stop adding greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and the oceans.”

Copernicus, a scientific organisation that belongs to the EU’s space programme, uses billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations to track key climate metrics. It found June 2024 was hotter than any other June on record and was the 12th month in a row with temperatures 1.5C greater than their average between 1850 and 1900.

Because temperatures in some months had “relatively small margins” above 1.5C, the scientists said, datasets from other climate agencies may not confirm the 12-month temperature streak.

Whether pumped out the chimney of a coal-burning power plant or ejected from the exhaust pipe of a passenger plane, each carbon molecule clogging the Earth’s atmosphere traps heat and warps weather. The hotter the planet gets, the less people and ecosystems can adapt.

“This is not good news at all,” said Aditi Mukherji, a director at research institute CGIAR and co-author of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. “We know that extreme events increase with every increment of global warming – and at 1.5C, we witnessed some of the hottest extremes this year.”

Some ecosystems are more vulnerable than others. In its latest review of the science, the IPCC found that 1.5C of warming will kill off 70-90% of tropical coral reefs, while warming of 2C will wipe them out almost entirely.

A Guardian survey of hundreds of IPCC authors this year found three-quarters expect the planet to heat by at least 2.5C by 2100, with about half of the scientists expecting temperatures above 3C. The increments sound small but can mean the difference between widespread human suffering and “semi-dystopian” futures.

Mukherji compared 1C of global heating to a mild fever and 1.5C a medium-to-high grade fever. “Now imagine a human body with [that] temperature for years. Will that person function normally any more?”

“That’s currently our Earth system,” she added. “It is a crisis.”

François Gemenne, an IPCC author and director of the Hugo Observatory at the University of Liège, said the climate crisis is not a binary issue. “It is not 1.5C or death – every 0.1C matters a great deal because we’re talking about global average temperatures, which translate into massive temperature gaps locally.”

Even in a best-case scenario, he said, people need to prepare for a warmer world and “beef up” response plans. “Adaptation is not an admission that our current efforts are useless.”

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DOST, DOE partner for renewable energy research](#)

By: Rainier Allan Ronda

Project proposals for renewable energy research and development will be funded by the Department of Energy and managed by the Department of Science and Technology.

The DOST and DOE's cooperation agreement aims to further develop and utilize renewable energy sources amid the impact of climate change and the demand for a transition to clean, affordable and reliable energy.

A call for proposals on July 15 will be opened for the Renewable Energy Science, Technology and Innovation (RESTI) program by the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD).

The DOE will fund the program through the Renewable Energy Trust Fund (RETF).

"We will manage the funds and the projects," DOST-PCIEERD executive director Enrico Paringit told The STAR.

The DOST is looking for research proposals under the following priority areas: Integrated Renewable Energy Information and Mapping Systems, Local Market Assessment of Solar Photovoltaic Systems and Sustainable Aviation Fuel Production.

A P50-million budget for three years has been allocated for Integrated RE Information and Mapping Systems, which would streamline and automate the monitoring and operation of renewable energy initiatives.

A P5-million budget has been set aside by the DOE for a proposal centered on conducting a market study to assess the volume of key components of Solar PV Systems in the Philippine market.

A P35-million fund has been earmarked by the DOE for a project that would produce eco-friendly fuels, supporting the International Civil Aviation Organization's goal of zero carbon emissions from international flights by 2050.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

[DENR reports PH climate action programs now at USD\\$13.5 billion](#)

With technical and funding support from its development partners, the country is making significant progress in its climate change action plan and support mechanisms amounting to \$13.5 billion as of end-June 2024, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported today.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) are actively addressing climate change impacts and helping local governments become more resilient through greenhouse gas emissions reduction and capacity-building.

The NDCIP is a document containing the country's contribution to the goals of the Paris Agreement on greenhouse gas emissions, while the NAP is the country's plan to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change.

According to DENR data, the country's climate action initiatives are supported by the collaborative effort of 31 development partners in 94 projects, of which 23 are loan-funded and comprising 96% of the total value of \$13.5 billion. These projects are mainly in the transport, agriculture, waste and industrial processes, and energy sectors.

Transport projects alone account for \$11.79 billion in loans, with 21 ongoing and two upcoming projects. In the agriculture sector, \$81 million in grants support livelihood enhancements and smart agricultural technologies, while the waste and industrial processes sectors received \$11.79 million and \$9.22 million, respectively, in project funding. The energy sector also sees significant investment, with projects totalling \$1.08 billion.

Secretary Loyzaga, who also represents the President Bongbong Marcos in the Climate Change Commission (CCC), emphasized the importance of strategic coordination with development partners and financial institutions to achieve mitigation and adaptation goals. "This coordination ensures that adaptation and mitigation efforts are integrated across sectors, scales, and regions," she said.

Secretary Loyzaga led and presided over the "Development Partners' Forum on Climate Action: Mobilizing Support for the NDC Implementation Plan and National Adaptation Plan" on June 20 in Makati City.

Represented by H.E. Laure Beaufile and Asian Development Bank's (ADB) ASEAN Green Catalytic Finance Lead Scott Roberts, the UK and ADB have been key

supporters of the Philippines' climate action efforts in line with fulfilling the country's commitments to the Paris Agreement. The UK provided financial, scientific and technical support towards drafting the NAP, while the ADB assisted the country in identifying the strategies and targets towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and cost of sectoral transitions in the NDCIP. The development partners forum then aimed to sharpen the focus and accelerate the roles and contributions of partners from the World Bank, GIZ, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Food Program and others in addressing the NAP and NDCIP targets in line with the implementation of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

Present at the Forum were representatives from the CCC, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Finance (DOF). These agencies highlighted the need to target support towards the specific priorities, strengths, gaps and needs in the country's journey to inclusive, resilient and sustainable development. Agency representatives such as Undersecretary Carlo Abad Santos and CCC Vice-chairperson Robert Borje are also lead members of the Philippine Delegation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

MANILA STANDARD

Embrace climate resilience to mitigate disasters — CCC

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) last week stressed the critical role of climate resilience in safeguarding the Philippines from the escalating impacts of severe weather fluctuations.

The CCC highlighted the climate adaptation as the Philippines started observing the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) in July.

Under the theme *Bantayog ng Katatagan at ang Pagbubuklod sa Layuning Kahandaan* (Pillar of Resilience and Uniting for Preparedness), this year's observance cited the necessity of proactive measures to enhance the country's ability to withstand and recover from climate-related disasters.

As the impacts of climate change become more evident, embracing climate resilience is crucial, the CCC said.

The agency advocates for preparedness by urging individuals and communities to stay informed about climate-related risks and integrate climate considerations into their disaster plans. Families are encouraged to create emergency plans that account for climate hazards and to prepare disaster supply kits with essentials, such as water, food, medication and important documents.

Adaptation plays a pivotal role in enhancing climate resilience. The CCC called for support for climate-resilient infrastructure improvement and the adoption of sustainable practices, including recycling, energy conservation, and sustainable transportation.

Engaging in local disaster risk reduction programs and integrating climate adaptation strategies into community planning are vital steps in building resilient communities.

Solidarity and collective action are fundamental to climate resilience. Building strong connections with neighbors and community organizations, participating in local volunteer efforts focused on climate-related disaster response and recovery, and spreading awareness about climate resilience through schools, workplaces and social networks are also important.

The CCC encouraged everyone to support climate initiatives that enhance disaster resilience, educate others about the importance of climate resilience and take proactive steps to reduce vulnerability to climate-induced disasters.

“Effective climate resilience measures can save lives, reduce economic losses, and protect livelihoods. They contribute to the preservation of natural resources and biodiversity. As we observe National Disaster Resilience Month, let us commit to integrate climate considerations into our preparedness efforts, enhance our adaptive capacities, and foster solidarity,” said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director.

The observance of the National Disaster Resilience Month, as mandated by Executive Order 29, shifts focus from disaster awareness building to disaster resilience. The transition underscores the importance of equipping individuals, communities, organizations and local government units with the capacity to adapt to and recover from the effects of hazards and disasters through effective risk management.

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