



NEWS ROUNDUP

27 AUGUST 2024 [08:00 am]

- 2 LPAs may form near PH this week
- More investment urged to boost agri production
- ADB: Lack of localized data hinders investments vs climate change
- Michelle Cobb: Championing sustainability on and off the court
- Urban farming cultivates climate resilience, food security
- CHR supports House Bill on Climate Accountability
- Philippine businesses to tackle serious re-assessment of net zero pledges
- Climate risk management must be part of country's DNA — DENR
- Mangrove park leads Bauang's climate emergency initiatives
- 'A crisis entirely of humanity's making': UN chief issues climate SOS on trip to Pacific
- 11 dead, 14 missing in northeast China floods

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Green workers: Our modern heroes in ecological stewardship
- CCC calls for integration of global warming in curriculums

ABS CBN

[2 LPAs may form near PH this week](#)

Two low pressure areas might form near the country this week, according to weather bureau PAGASA.

BUSINESS WORLD

[More investment urged to boost agri production](#)

By: Adrian H. Halili

The Department of Agriculture (DA) needs to increase investment in research and development to make the Philippines self-sufficient in food.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[ADB: Lack of localized data hinders investments vs climate change](#)

By: Kathryn Jose

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is urging the Philippine government to deploy more detailed mapping tools for climate change-related problems in local communities to speed up inclusive socioeconomic growth through public and private investments.

[Michelle Cobb: Championing sustainability on and off the court](#)

By: Shaira Mae Cabañas

As an athlete, traveler, and public figure, Michelle Cobb integrates sustainability into every aspect of her life. Known for her volleyball career and social media presence, Cobb embodies a lifestyle that extends beyond her performance on the court to how she interacts with the world.

[Urban farming cultivates climate resilience, food security](#)

As the impacts of climate change continue to challenge global food security, innovative solutions are emerging. Among them is urban farming, a practice that has gained significance as cities become more populated and space for traditional agriculture dwindles.

MANILA BULLETIN

[CHR supports House Bill on Climate Accountability](#)

By: Czarina Nicole Ong Ki

The country needs to start reinforcing climate justice in the country and one of the best ways to do it is to support the passage of House Bill (HB) No. 9609, the proposed Climate Accountability (CLIMA) Act, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said.

[Philippine businesses to tackle serious re-assessment of net zero pledges](#)

By: Myrna M. Velasco

While many Philippine corporates are just riding the green energy wave with empty rhetoric and some have been merely using "net zero pledges" as superficial propaganda tool in their business playbook, the genuinely serious ones are promising to re-assess commitments with concrete baselines and tangible measures when it comes to their decarbonization journey.

PCO

[Climate risk management must be part of country's DNA — DENR](#)

By: Brian Jules Campued

The Philippines needs climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the effects of the looming La Niña phenomenon and prevent water shortages, particularly in island barangays that lack access to potable water, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said.

RAPPLER

[Mangrove park leads Bauang's climate emergency initiatives](#)

By: Sherwin De Vera

On August 16, Bauang town in La Union became the first local government in northern Luzon to declare a state of climate emergency. While various groups welcomed this as a crucial step in combating climate change, Mayor Eulogio Clarence Martin P. De Guzman III viewed it as a formality.

THE GUARDIAN

['A crisis entirely of humanity's making': UN chief issues climate SOS on trip to Pacific](#)

Pacific island nations are in "grave danger" from rising sea levels and the world must "answer the SOS before it is too late", the UN chief has warned during a visit to Tonga.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[11 dead, 14 missing in northeast China floods](#)

Eleven people have been killed and 14 more are missing after heavy rain in recent days lashed China's northeastern province of Liaoning, state broadcaster CCTV reported Friday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Green workers: Our modern heroes in ecological stewardship](#)

By: Secretary Robert E.A. Borje

History books celebrate heroes, their sacrifices immortalized in tales of valor. Traditionally, we view heroes as figures with remarkable qualities: steadfast courage, exceptional leadership, patriotism, personal sacrifices for others' well-being, a visionary outlook, resilience in times of adversity, and the ability to inspire greatness in others.

MANILA STANDARD

[CCC calls for integration of global warming in curriculums](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called on the academe to incorporate climate change-related learning areas into their educational curriculum.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

2 LPAs may form near PH this week

Two low pressure areas might form near the country this week, according to weather bureau PAGASA.

In its weekly weather outlook, the state weather bureau said one of the LPAs may form over the West Philippine Sea by Thursday.

It will exit the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by Saturday.

Another LPA may form east of the Philippines on Thursday. It is projected to enter PAR Friday and eventually dissipate during the early part of the following week, said PAGASA.

Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon will continue to affect Southern Luzon, Visayas, and western Mindanao throughout the week.

It will slightly intensify between Tuesday and Friday before waning by weekend.

This will bring scattered rains in MIMAROPA and Western Visayas, especially in the morning. Tuesday through Friday will have the most rains.

PAGASA said Bicol, western CALABARZON, the rest of Visayas, Sulu Archipelago, and Zamboanga Peninsula will be mostly cloudy and have periods of sun and occasional rains.

Northern and Central Luzon, Northern Mindanao, SOCCSKSARGEN, and the rest of BARMM will have intense afternoon and evening thunderstorms due to the monsoon.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila will be mostly overcast with short periods of sun in the morning and midday and heavy rains in the afternoon due to thunderstorms brought by Habagat.

BUSINESS WORLD

[More investment urged to boost agri production](#)

By: Adrian H. Halili

The Department of Agriculture (DA) needs to increase investment in research and development to make the Philippines self-sufficient in food.

“Invest in research and development as well as extension (RDE). This is often underinvested in, but we must do so as RDE is the means by which we improve productivity,” Geny F. Lapina, an agricultural economist at the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, said in an e-mail interview.

As domestic production cannot meet demand, the Philippines typically imports commodities like rice, meat, sugar, and dairy, among others.

“What needs to be improved is execution, monitoring, and strategic thinking. Much of what we do still leans more towards what is popular,” Mr. Lapina added.

He said that the effects of climate change on agricultural production warrants constant monitoring and evaluation of ongoing farm programs.

Droughts and dry spells, mainly due to El Niño, caused a drop in agricultural production during the first half of the year.

“In general, food will always be political. We need more leaders that can think strategically and rally the various competing interests in the food and agriculture sector,” he added.

He said that the Agriculture department remains subject to pressure from farmers and consumers.

“If they focus on consumers that translates to lower retail prices, then farmers complain. However, if they focus on producers and farmgate prices go up, then consumers complain,” Mr. Lapina added.

He said that too much of a burden is placed on the DA in terms of achieving food security.

He called for a “whole of government approach” in the various departments dealing with technology, infrastructure, trade policy, environment, and human health.

Mr. Lapina said food security has now become a much more complex challenge.

He added that nutrition should be part of the food security discussion, “given the rise of non-communicable diseases where the food we eat is one contributing factor.”

“There is also increasing recognition of the impact of food production on the environment,” he said.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[ADB: Lack of localized data hinders investments vs climate change](#)

By: Kathryn Jose

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is urging the Philippine government to deploy more detailed mapping tools for climate change-related problems in local communities to speed up inclusive socioeconomic growth through public and private investments.

Countries in the region posted an overall regression on climate action between 2015 and 2023 while overall incidences of hunger, decent work for citizens, industry innovations, and responsible consumption of goods and production improved, said the ADB.

These are based on the 55th edition of Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2024 on Climate Action that the ADB released this week.

The ADB report showed that the Philippines has already posted nearly 408 parts per million (ppm) of carbon emissions above the global average of 406 ppm from the years 2014 to 2021.

Using existing but limited tools on satellite imaging, data gathered by the ADB showed that 75 percent of Mindanao residents belonging to the poorest in the country last year experienced medium-to-high risk of water stress.

A total of 16.1 million Filipinos were considered poor during the period, according to the ADB.

Resource allocation

“In general, by identifying localities where high water risk coincides with significant poverty, policymakers can ensure that resources are allocated where they are needed most,” the bank said.

“Granular or localized data can point to good practices among locally initiated mitigation measures, which in turn attract greater interest and support from stakeholders, including investors, for the expansion of such measures,” added the multinational lender.

Likewise, the ADB said that while 80 percent of local government units (LGU) already adopted certain strategies on disaster risk reduction (DRR) “there were disparities in implementation rates for different localities.”

For example, 2022 data showed that 100 percent of LGUs in MIMAROPA (Southern Tagalog Region comprising Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) implemented DRR strategies compared to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao’s 50 percent.

Michelle Cobb: Championing sustainability on and off the court

By: Shaira Mae Cabañas

As an athlete, traveler, and public figure, Michelle Cobb integrates sustainability into every aspect of her life. Known for her volleyball career and social media presence, Cobb embodies a lifestyle that extends beyond her performance on the court to how she interacts with the world.

Sustainability in sports and travel

Cobb emphasizes the importance of small, consistent actions in promoting sustainability.

“I always bring my own water bottles and avoid impulse buying, especially when it comes to clothing,” she shared.

She is also a staunch supporter of local businesses, particularly those that prioritize sustainability.

“I support a lot of local artists and farmers. As a local business owner, I understand the value and quality of their products, and it’s important to patronize such businesses.”

Beyond her personal lifestyle, Cobb serves as the pollution control officer of her family’s business. On the job for four years, she is responsible for ensuring that they comply with environmental regulations, such as water discharge permits. This role has deepened her understanding of environmental responsibility, which she incorporates into her daily life.

One of the aspects of Cobb’s sustainable lifestyle is her choice of period care products.

“I use a reusable menstrual cup, which is a factor in my sustainable lifestyle, and I’ve influenced my friends to try it as well.”

Inspiration from early lessons

Cobb credits her commitment to sustainability to values instilled in her from a young age, including lessons on the 5Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose) and influences from her family.

“A big factor is the people you’re surrounded by — how you’re taught at home and in school.”

She acknowledges that while her parents were not always aware of sustainable practices, they have been influenced by her advocacy.

“I educated them about using shampoo and conditioner bars instead of products in sachets and plastic bottles. It’s important to spread awareness within our own families.”

Social media has also played a vital role in Cobb’s sustainability journey.

“I was introduced to sustainable markets and zero-waste pop-ups through social media. It’s where I see my peers using eco-friendly products, and it motivates me to do the same.”

Harnessing social media for change

With a substantial following on Instagram, Cobb recognizes the potential of her platform to inspire change.

“Social media is about engagement. You have to make people interested in what you’re sharing.”

During the pandemic, Cobb partnered with WWF for a campaign video that showcased her sustainable practices. This collaboration highlighted the importance of using her social media platform to engage her audience in meaningful ways.

A future of advocacy

Looking ahead, Cobb is eager to expand her advocacy, especially in animal welfare, where her passion currently lies.

“If given the opportunity, I’d love to partner with different communities and organizations to create programs that help both animals and the environment,” she shared.

Her message to others is simple but profound: “Small steps add up. Sustainability is a preference, but you’ll only open yourself to it if you’re willing to embrace change. Let’s embrace new ways of living that are better for ourselves and our communities.”

Through her actions and influence, Michelle Cobb exemplifies what it means to be a climate hero. Her story continues to inspire others to live sustainably and embrace the changes that lead to a better future for the planet.

Urban farming cultivates climate resilience, food security

As the impacts of climate change continue to challenge global food security, innovative solutions are emerging. Among them is urban farming, a practice that has gained significance as cities become more populated and space for traditional agriculture dwindles.

With climate change altering weather patterns and reducing arable land, urban farming offers a resilient alternative, helping to reduce the risk of supply chain disruptions.

A notable example of this is the City Ordinance SP-2972, passed by the local government of Quezon City in 2020. This ordinance encourages property owners to transform idle lands into productive urban farms. Rather than leave their lands unused while still paying taxes, many property owners have embraced urban agriculture and food production.

To qualify for the idle land tax exemption, the entire land must be devoted to urban agriculture for a minimum of three years and must yield agricultural produce for either personal or public consumption. As a result, these farms now supply fresh vegetables to the community, reduce the need for long-distance transportation, and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

As of 31 December 2023, there are 1,026 urban farms in Quezon City. Beyond providing food, this program has also created livelihoods for around 25,650 urban farmers, who are now engaged in green jobs.

MANILA BULLETIN

[CHR supports House Bill on Climate Accountability](#)

By: Czarina Nicole Ong Ki

The country needs to start reinforcing climate justice in the country and one of the best ways to do it is to support the passage of House Bill (HB) No. 9609, the proposed Climate Accountability (CLIMA) Act, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said.

HB 9609 was introduced by Reps. Edgar Chatto, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Fernando Cabredo, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Christian Tell Yap, and Jose Manuel Alba.

The CHR said the proposed CLIMA Act seeks to establish policies that would combat climate change, protect communities from related harms, and hold responsible parties, such as carbon majors, accountable and liable for their actions.

"If passed into a law, this bill will pave the way for the establishment of a legal framework which will ensure that remedies for climate-related human rights violations will be made accessible for every Filipino," it said in a statement.

It warned that climate change threatens numerous human rights, such as one's right to life, access to water and sanitation, food, health, and housing, among others. This is why HB No. 9609 signals a "crucial step" towards the advancement of both climate justice and human rights, it stressed.

"As such, governments and corporations both hold the obligation to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights in the context of climate systems, even within the context of international human rights standards," the CHR pointed out.

It noted that the filing of HB No. 9609 is in alignment with its National Inquiry on Climate Change (NICC) report, which encourages businesses to engage in practices that respect, protect, and uphold human rights in addressing climate change. The report also outlined the responsibility of the state to prevent harmful impacts to the environment through effective legislation, it also said.

"The Commission acknowledges the House of Representatives' efforts in filing this bill. We believe that HB 9609 is a crucial step toward both climate justice and the advancement of human rights. To ensure a sustainable future, we must tackle climate change to create a safe, thriving, and just environment for all generations," it added.

Philippine businesses to tackle serious re-assessment of net zero pledges

By: Myrna M. Velasco

While many Philippine corporates are just riding the green energy wave with empty rhetoric and some have been merely using "net zero pledges" as superficial propaganda tool in their business playbook, the genuinely serious ones are promising to re-assess commitments with concrete baselines and tangible measures when it comes to their decarbonization journey.

In particular, the Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA), which is an aggrupation of private sector players and organizations that have been advancing concretization of their net zero goals - will be gathering anew this year to track specific progress of their demarcated targets on lowering carbon emissions.

As announced by the organizers, the Net Zero Conference 2024 happening on September 19 at the Fifth in Rockwell, "will gather policy leaders, financial institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders to discuss strategies guiding the Philippines' private sector toward a meaningful, equitable, and sustainable net zero transformation."

According to Allan V. Barcena, executive director of NZCA and assistant vice president and head of Corporate Support Functions of Lopez-led Energy Development Corporation (EDC), "this momentum, which will help the nation reduce emissions and mitigate climate-induced impact down the line, will prove crucial for the country to maintain."

NZCA pioneer and main convenor EDC emphasized that "the Philippines is on the cusp of a massive low-carbon economic transformation, with current regulations aimed at galvanizing finance for developments aligned with the country's sustainable development goals—a transition requiring a swift move away from coal towards the rapid adoption of renewable energy."

At this year's 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) on Climate Change diplomacy to be hosted by Azerbaijan, capital formation for clean energy financing would be top of the agenda; and this will also be a key development that will greatly aid businesses and organizations on their net zero ambitions.

COP stocktake is similarly being taken on a 'troika approach' so that the gains achieved from COP28 in Dubai, UAE could also be judiciously considered and will be continued in the debates and negotiations at the COP29 in Baku; then on the forthcoming COP30 to be held in Brazil's Amazonian city of Belem next year.

To get to net zero, countries, organizations or businesses must guarantee that their ongoing level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions based on the three-tiered scoping provided under the GHG Protocol must be balanced or equal to the scale of carbon emissions reduction that shall be achieved within their specified timeframes.

Manifestly, there are not too many corporations in the Philippines yet that have laid down science-based targets on their net zero ambitions; and while talk is cheap, local corporations still have to concretely pursue clear and transparent reporting metrics on what they have been achieving so far on lowering their carbon footprints.

Beyond having it as part of a glossy brochure on their sustainability reports, Philippine businesses still typically use 'net zero goal' as image-boosting public relations tool, instead of really having it as a realistic measure of managing their carbon emissions – that's the reason why the country is rated internationally to have weak environment social and governance (ESG) reporting performance.

For many companies, they would just typically claim that they have 'net zero goal' but those are often bereft of measurable, verifiable, transparent and granular data that have detailed breakdown on the scale of emissions already pared from their operations as well as on the contribution of their entire organization.

Businesses have not also reached the point yet that they make their net zero progress as publicly available data; and most if not all, are not giving information on the formula used in calculating their emissions data and whether these have been subjected to third party audits for accountability and accuracy.

Owing to these hurdles, the NZCA indicated that they will tackle how Philippine enterprises can “scale up their net zero ambitions and actions, and how can they gain from the economic opportunities arising from this transition?”

As stated by EDC, one policy anchor that will help companies advance net zero targets would be the passage of the “Low Carbon Economy Bill” which primarily requires the establishment of 'decarbonization fund' that covered institutions can utilize for their CO2 emissions reduction initiatives.

The company added that the proposed legislation has mechanisms that will “enable the country to seize economic opportunities as it transitions,” while also citing that even prior to the enactment of such policy into law, “the private sector is increasing its net zero ambitions, driven by mandates from global headquarters, geopolitical pressures and cross-border policies.”

PCO

Climate risk management must be part of country's DNA — DENR

By: Brian Jules Campued

The Philippines needs climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the effects of the looming La Niña phenomenon and prevent water shortages, particularly in island barangays that lack access to potable water, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said.

In an interview on Malacañang Insider last Aug. 23, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) chief emphasized the need for the government to focus on building such structures through a combination of “gray and green engineering.”

“So, we used both nature-based and the combination of those structural interventions in order to balance water supply where we need most and also deliver it where, presumably, before there was no water to be had,” Loyzaga said.

According to Loyzaga, many barangays across the country have to travel by boat and pay multiple times just to get drinking water.

“We need to understand what rainfall they get. Whether they have streams that are alive. In that case, we need to provide filtration, whether they have water or not, and will determine whether desalination is the only option,” she said.

“So, all of these, combined with the science and technology associated now with climate risk management, need to be part of our DNA in terms of country as far as...we need managing disaster risk for our own Philippine development,” she added.

Meanwhile, Loyzaga also outlined the agency's three key measures in addressing climate change: the greenhouse gas inventory, the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The NDCIP, likewise, takes stock of greenhouse gas emissions by sector to provide a framework towards a low carbon future. In the Philippines, Loyzaga mentioned there are emissions from the sectors of energy, transportation, and agriculture.

“So, in terms of strategy to bring down those emissions are what we called climate mitigation—we actually need to address the way we use fuels, the way we actually plant rice because a lot of the methane comes from the way we use wet and dry rice growing, and the way we manage solid waste because methane comes from that as well,” she said.

“And of course, at the end of the day, industry and its consumption of energy and its use of materials would also be one of those principal contributors,” she added.

The NAP, on the other hand, looks at several hazards being enhanced or affected by climate change—such as the rising sea levels or intense rainfalls—and its impact on different sectors.

According to Loyzaga, the NAP also identifies the measures the government should take in terms of investment in natural or structural solutions as well as social programs to become a more climate-resilient nation.

“Taken together, these are a combination of strategies that we need to put forward in terms of interjecting in all the different mandates of the different governments, a climate resilience approach,” the Environment chief said.

“That’s actually happening now because we are climate tagging our investments now and we’re also working on the Program Convergence Budget,” she added.

RAPPLER

[Mangrove park leads Bauang's climate emergency initiatives](#)

By: Sherwin De Vera

On August 16, Bauang town in La Union became the first local government in northern Luzon to declare a state of climate emergency. While various groups welcomed this as a crucial step in combating climate change, Mayor Eulogio Clarence Martin P. De Guzman III viewed it as a formality.

"We declared a climate emergency with the first planting of bakawan (mangrove)," he said, reflecting on the town's decade-long reforestation program.

The announcement took place at the Bauang Mangrove Ecotourism Park, a 163-hectare nature and tourism hub. The place spans the barangays of Parian Oeste and Pudoc, which features a tourist center, a boardwalk through the mangroves, a tree-lined camp site, and boat rides along the river.

The protection and development of this hub are among the ten points outlined in the executive order to address the climate crisis.

"At first, we didn't know what benefits we would get from the mangroves, but since they told us to plant, we planted," said Ernesto Miranda Jr., a resident of Parian Oeste and president of the Bauang Fishing Group and Consumers Cooperative (BFGCC).

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) boosted the LGU's reforestation when it offered BFGCC and Pantawid Familyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries 25,000 seedlings in 2012 for the project.

At the time, Miranda said, they planted mangroves mainly for the ₱2 per seedling pay from BFAR, with an additional ₱3 if the seedling survived. Other agencies and institutions also pitched in through the years.

From an initial 5 hectares, the area has expanded to 83 hectares, hosting 12 species of mangroves, with an additional 52 hectares covered by trees such as Bani, Agoho, and Talisay.

However, this success came with challenges. The community faced issues such as garbage dumping and the cutting of mangroves for firewood and charcoal.

"This changed over time, and as the mangroves grew, we realized their potential and the benefits they bring," Miranda said.

Ecotourism hub

Even before its official launch as an ecotourism site, the residents began benefiting from the project. As the mangroves grew, they helped reduce damage from storm surges, flooding, and strong winds during typhoons.

“Now we see the benefits. Different kinds of crabs live there, and fish lay their eggs among the roots. The ecotourism park has also made a big impact, with many visitors now coming to see it,” Miranda shared.

The dense mangrove roots have become home to fish and other marine life, increasing the local catch. Twelve species of birds have also made the thick foliage their permanent home, attracting tourists and bird enthusiasts.

Ferrying tourists has provided additional income for the community. Visitors can rent a boat for a 2-hour tour for ₱450, but the boatmen are currently asking for a raise to cover the increase in fuel prices. The tourist center also sells locally-made products like bagoong (fish paste).

Miranda noted that their monthly net earnings used to be around ₱3,000. Since offering boat tours, their income has increased to ₱5,000 during the regular season and up to ₱7,000 during peak tourism periods.

Residents also sell mangrove seedlings for ₱3 each. Miranda said that when the Department of Environment Natural Resources ordered 50,000 seedlings, they distributed the work among various groups to share the benefits. Their contract with the agency ended last year.

Meanwhile, the LGU has started collecting ₱30/person for Filipino tourists and ₱50/head for foreign visitors on August 10. The proceeds are for park maintenance, with 40% going to the barangay. Buang residents are free to enter.

Earth's safeguard

In a 2022 report, the Global Mangrove Alliance highlighted that mangroves are the most efficient carbon capture system, currently storing carbon equivalent to over 21 billion tons of carbon dioxide.

The report noted that 4.1 million small-scale fishers and communities would benefit if half of the 8,183-square-kilometer restorable area, particularly in Southeast Asia, is restored by 2030. They also reduce storm damage by \$65 billion annually and lower flooding risk for 15 million people.

In a 2017 policy brief, the World Bank-led Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services noted that a hectare of mangroves provides over US \$3,200 per year in direct flood reduction benefits in the country.

Mangroves also offer effective storm protection, preventing more than US \$1.6 billion in damage across the country. “Based on the Philippines’ current population, the mangroves lost between 1950 and 2010 have resulted in increased flooding for over 267,000 people each year. Restoring these mangroves would bring over US \$450 million per year in flood protection benefits,” the document stated.

The paper also emphasized that when combined with built infrastructure, mangroves provide an effective defense against storms and coastal flooding.

As of 2020, the country’s mangrove habitat spans 2,848 square kilometers. This translates to a linear coverage of 33.34 percent of our coastline according to Global Mangrove Watch.

In April, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources called on the public to assist in the ground validation of a 2023 mangrove map created from satellite data through a mobile app.

THE GUARDIAN

['A crisis entirely of humanity's making': UN chief issues climate SOS on trip to Pacific](#)

Pacific island nations are in “grave danger” from rising sea levels and the world must “answer the SOS before it is too late”, the UN chief has warned during a visit to Tonga.

The UN secretary general, António Guterres, urged the world to “look to the Pacific and listen to the science” as he released two new reports on the sidelines of the Pacific Islands Forum, the region’s most important annual political gathering.

Sea-surface temperatures in the south-west Pacific have risen three times faster than the global average since 1980, according to a regional report compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and released on Tuesday.

It also found that marine heatwaves in the region had roughly doubled in frequency since 1980 and become more intense and longer-lasting.

The report said 34 mostly storm or flood-related “hydrometeorological hazard events” in the south-west Pacific last year led to more than 200 deaths and affected more than 25 million people.

In a second report published on Tuesday, the UN’s climate action team warned that the climate crisis and sea-level rise were “no longer distant threats”, especially for the Pacific’s small island developing states.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded with high confidence in 2021 that the global mean sea level was rising at rates unprecedented in at least the last 3,000 years as a result of human-induced global warming.

But the new UN report, titled *Surging Seas in a Warming World*, said: “Since then, emerging research on climate ‘tipping points’ and ice sheet dynamics is raising alarm among scientists that future sea-level rise could be much larger and occur sooner than previously thought.”

Sea-level rise is caused by melting land ice and the expansion of seawater as it warms. Guterres told reporters in Tonga on Tuesday that it had “unparalleled power to cause havoc to coastal cities and ravage coastal economies”. He said Pacific islands were “uniquely exposed” because 90% of people lived within 5km of the coast and about 50% of infrastructure was located within 500 metres of the sea.

If the world heated to 3C above preindustrial levels, which is roughly what is expected under current policies, Pacific islands “can expect at least 15cm of additional sea-level rise by mid-century, and more than 30 days per year of coastal flooding in some places”, Guterres said.

“ I am in Tonga to issue a global SOS – Save Our Seas – on rising sea levels,” he said.

“This is a crazy situation. Rising seas are a crisis entirely of humanity’s making, a crisis that will soon swell to an almost unimaginable scale, with no lifeboat to take us back to safety. But if we save the Pacific, we also save ourselves.”

Seeking to build momentum for action before the Cop29 climate summit in Azerbaijan in November, Guterres called on global leaders to drastically slash global emissions and pursue a “fast and fair” phase-out of fossil fuels.

He called for a “massive” increase in finance and support for vulnerable countries, arguing: “We need a surge in funds to deal with surging seas.”

The issue is expected to be one of the key items on the agenda at Cop29 due to the imminent expiry of the previous commitment by wealthy countries to mobilise US\$100bn of climate finance a year.

On Tuesday, an alliance of civil-society groups called on Australia to “step up and support our Pacific neighbours on the frontlines of the climate crisis”.

The groups, which include ActionAid Australia and Oxfam Australia, urged Australia to declare its support for a new US\$1tn global climate finance goal, arguing this could prompt other wealthy nations to step up.

“Australia and New Zealand’s climate finance contributions are falling short of need,” the organisations said in a new report, *Seizing the Moment: A New Climate Finance Goal that Delivers for the Pacific*.

The report said Australia had committed to provide \$3bn in the five-year period to 2025, but this was “well short of its estimated fair share of the US\$100bn goal, which is A\$4bn per year”.

Rufino Varea, the regional director of the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network, said Pacific communities were “enduring some of the world’s worst climate impacts despite contributing the least to the crisis”.

The executive director of ActionAid Australia, Michelle Higelin, said: “We can’t tinker around the edges when it comes to climate finance. The climate crisis is already pushing Pacific countries into excruciating debt and deepening gender inequality.”

The Australian prime minister, Anthony Albanese, is due to arrive in Tonga on Tuesday evening for the annual Pacific Islands Forum leaders’ meeting. The regional grouping brings together Australia, New Zealand and 16 other Pacific nations.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[11 dead, 14 missing in northeast China floods](#)

Eleven people have been killed and 14 more are missing after heavy rain in recent days lashed China's northeastern province of Liaoning, state broadcaster CCTV reported Friday.

China is enduring a summer of extreme weather, with deadly torrential rains and scorching heat waves.

The world's biggest emitter of the greenhouse gases that scientists say are driving climate change and making extreme weather more frequent and intense declared July the hottest month in China since records began six decades ago.

In Liaoning, heavy rainfall over several days this week disrupted travel and hindered emergency response efforts.

The inundation forced tens of thousands of people in areas administered by the coastal district of Huludao to evacuate, with officials launching an "all-out search" for missing persons, according to CCTV.

"This round of heavy rainfall caused extremely serious damage to Huludao City, especially Jianchang County and Suizhong County. Roads, electricity, communications, houses, crops, etc. were severely affected," CCTV reported on Friday night, citing a press conference in Huludao.

"After several rounds of checking households and persons, it was found that the disaster has caused 10 deaths with 14 people missing," the state broadcaster said, adding that an official also died "while saving people".

Deadly summer weather

State media had reported Thursday that over 50,000 people in Huludao fell under evacuation orders due to the heavy rains.

Pictures published by state news agency Xinhua on Friday showed people in Huludao wading through water to higher ground, guided by emergency response personnel donning bright red vests and helmets.

Another image showed an elderly man clinging to the back of a younger man who was carrying him away from a residential building, its foundation submerged in water.

"According to preliminary statistics, the affected population in Huludao City reached 188,757, and the loss due to the disaster was 10.3 billion yuan (\$1.45 billion)," CCTV said Friday.

In addition, 187 bridges were damaged and 40 power lines were shut down in Huludao, according to CCTV.

The latest disaster comes after downpours in late July triggered by Typhoon Gaemi killed dozens in central China.

And in July, the Earth experienced its warmest day in recorded history.

China has pledged to bring emissions of carbon dioxide to a peak by 2030, and to net zero by 2060, but has resisted calls for bolder action.

It has long depended on highly polluting coal power to fuel its massive economy but has emerged as a renewable energy leader in recent years.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Green workers: Our modern heroes in ecological stewardship](#)

By: Secretary Robert E.A. Borje

History books celebrate heroes, their sacrifices immortalized in tales of valor. Traditionally, we view heroes as figures with remarkable qualities: steadfast courage, exceptional leadership, patriotism, personal sacrifices for others' well-being, a visionary outlook, resilience in times of adversity, and the ability to inspire greatness in others.

In popular culture, heroes are often portrayed as larger-than-life figures, who don capes and colorful costumes, save lives and demonstrate deep compassion. They inspire audiences to pursue their dreams and ambitions with bravery and hope.

However, as the world evolves and new challenges arise, so does our understanding of heroism. Today, our concept of heroes includes those who contribute in equally vital ways. From soldiers on the battlefield and fire volunteers in communities to teachers in far-flung areas and our fellow Filipinos working overseas — these modern heroes share a common desire to make a positive impact on people's lives and contribute to our country's socio-economic well-being.

In the fight against climate change — the most pressing governance challenge of our time — modern heroes have also surfaced. The Philippines ranks high among the most vulnerable nations to the global climate crisis. The country faces some of the world's most severe climate-related hazards — rising sea levels, intensifying storms, floods and droughts. We have witnessed and experienced firsthand the impacts of extreme weather events that threaten food security, displace communities and worsen social inequalities. These hazards disrupt ecosystems and endanger humanity's very existence.

Amid the climate crisis, a new kind of hero has emerged: the "green workers."

Green workers — environmental activists, scientists and farmers — lead the fight against climate change, each contributing to the shared goal to protect our planet and secure our future. These unsung heroes play a crucial role in our collective effort to enhance adaptation and build resilience against climate challenges and preserve ecosystems that regulate temperatures, absorb carbon dioxide and reduce the severity of disasters.

Whether scientists in universities, activists in cities or farmers in the countryside, they bring the reality of the climate crisis to the forefront.

Environmental activists push for stronger climate policies, educate communities on sustainable practices, and advocate for policies that address the root causes of

ecological degradation. Their activism drives change by holding governments and corporations accountable and rallying public support for climate action.

Scientists, on the other hand, develop innovative solutions to mitigate climate impacts as they provide the foundation for understanding climate change and developing strategies to combat it. Their research guides the development of technologies and practices that can mitigate climate impacts.

Equally important are the farmers who manage our green spaces that serve as vital carbon sinks, ensuring ecosystems remain healthy, support biodiversity and provide essential resources for survival.

However, these heroes cannot succeed alone. Their efforts require broad societal commitment. Governments, businesses, educational institutions, and individuals must all contribute to environmental sustainability. Policies promoting renewable energy, conservation and sustainable development are crucial for advancing climate governance, while businesses must adopt practices that minimize environmental impact. Education is key to this process, with schools, media and community organizations playing a vital role to build a more informed and engaged public.

While not everyone can be a green worker in the traditional sense, each of us can contribute to transformative climate action. Individuals can make lifestyle choices that reduce their carbon footprint. At the household level, promoting simple yet impactful ways to reduce energy consumption, support environmentally friendly policies, and spread awareness about the importance of climate action are all ways to make a difference. It's crucial to help people understand the stakes at hand and see how their actions contribute to the broader effort.

This day offers a moment to honor both historical figures and modern-day heroes. It also provides an opportunity to recognize those shaping our future — the green workers fighting for an equitable and sustainable world.

Recognizing the heroism of green workers reminds us that the path to a sustainable future hinges upon our collective effort. It demands courage, resilience, and a willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good — qualities that define true heroes.

As we celebrate National Heroes Day, let us celebrate green workers who tirelessly dedicate their lives to provide us with food, secure our livelihoods and strive for a sustainable world. Their contributions are heroic in every sense, underscoring the importance of the ongoing battle against climate change, which requires sustained effort, innovation, and collaboration.

Together, we can build a world where heroism is not just a quality of the few but a responsibility of us all.

National Heroes Day is commemorated on the last Monday of August under Republic Act 9492.

MANILA STANDARD

CCC calls for integration of global warming in curriculums

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called on the academe to incorporate climate change-related learning areas into their educational curriculum.

The CCC stressed the need to address climate change within the academic framework during the recent National Teachers' Convention at the Philippine Science High School System. The agency cited the implications of climate change on humanity and natural ecosystems, such as poverty, food insecurity, displacement and biodiversity loss caused by climate-related disasters.

The convention covered topics such as gender-responsive climate action and the integration of climate change into various subjects, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), social studies, economics, health and the arts.

It also discussed the need for critical thinking skills to evaluate climate information and encouraged evidence-based and action-oriented learning to empower students to take meaningful climate action.

The CCC said digital literacy would play a role in engaging students with climate efforts. It includes initiatives to raise awareness through digital platforms and educate students on how climate change affects their local communities, as well as teach strategies to adapt to climate-related disasters.

=END=