



## NEWS ROUNDUP

27 SEPTEMBER 2024 [ 08:00 am]

---

- Climate change supercharged Europe floods - scientists
- P3.74T of RE projects endorsed by BoI for 'green-lane' treatment
- Developing nations risk being sidelined from renewable energy boom, leaders say
- UN report: Urgent need for climate-friendly aircon
- Pagasa monitors 2 weather disturbances
- Global Innovation Index: Philippines rises to 53rd
- International tribunal recognizes environmental violation in Verde Island Passage for fossil fuel expansion
- Island nations unite at UN: 'Empty pledges' will not save future generations

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Pangangailangang protektahan ang bulubundukin ng Sierra Madre, muling binigyang-diin ng Climate Change Commission
- Urgent protection of Sierra Madre sought amid worsening climate crisis
- CCC highlights students' role in advancing climate action and gender equality
- CCC lauds Legarda for Legion of Honor Award
- CCC pushes for protection of Sierra Madre
- CCC calls for urgent protection of Sierra Madre

### BBC

#### [Climate change supercharged Europe floods - scientists](#)

By: Mark Poynting and Greg Brosnan

Central Europe's devastating floods were made much worse by climate change and offer a stark glimpse of the future for the world's fastest-warming continent, scientists say.

### BUSINESS WORLD

#### [P3.74T of RE projects endorsed by BoI for 'green-lane' treatment](#)

By: Justine Irish D. Tabile

The PHILIPPINES' Board of Investments (BoI) on Thursday said it had endorsed P3.74 trillion worth of renewable energy (RE) projects for green-lane treatment as of Sept. 25, in line with a state goal of boosting RE capacity, reducing carbon emissions and creating local jobs.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Developing nations risk being sidelined from renewable energy boom, leaders say](#)**

By: Valerie Volcovici and Simon Jessop

World leaders on Tuesday said that developing nations risk missing out on a push to triple the amount of renewable energy worldwide without financial support from rich countries.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[UN report: Urgent need for climate-friendly aircon](#)**

An explosion in demand for cooling systems in developing countries could worsen climate change unless sustainable solutions are prioritized, according to a United Nations report published Wednesday.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[Pagasa monitors 2 weather disturbances](#)**

By: Juralyn B. Baldomaro

The state weather bureau was monitoring a low-pressure area (LPA) outside the country's area of responsibility and another weather disturbance that could become an LPA.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Global Innovation Index: Philippines rises to 53rd](#)**

By: Louella Desiderio

The Philippines was among the fastest risers in a decade in the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), moving up three places this year to 53rd out of 133 economies.

### **[International tribunal recognizes environmental violation in Verde Island Passage for fossil fuel expansion](#)**

By: Dominique Nicole Flores

Fossil fuel expansion projects along the Philippines' Verde Island Passage, a biodiversity hotspot, were recognized as a case of ecological destruction during an international tribunal session in New York.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DWIZ

#### [Pangangailangang protektahan ang bulubundukin ng Sierra Madre, muling binigyang-diin ng Climate Change Commission](#)

By: Gilbert Perdez

Muling binigyan diin ng Climate Change Commission o CCC ang pangangailanganprotektahan ang bulubundukin ng Sierra Madre.

### NEWS5

#### [Urgent protection of Sierra Madre sought amid worsening climate crisis](#)

By: Rodolfo Dacleson II

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday stressed the importance of protecting Sierra Madre for ecological conservation and the survival of local communities against the worsening climate crisis.

### PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

#### [CCC highlights students' role in advancing climate action and gender equality](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the vital role of students in advancing gender equality and climate action during a forum at the Philippine Women's University (PWU). The event aimed to inspire youth participation in addressing climate change and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### [CCC lauds Legarda for Legion of Honor Award](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) congratulates Senator Loren Legarda on being awarded the prestigious title of Officier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur by the French Government.

#### [CCC pushes for protection of Sierra Madre](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the urgent need to protect the Sierra Madre mountain range, as its preservation is vital for ecological conservation and the survival of local communities.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[CCC calls for urgent protection of Sierra Madre](#)**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday issued a strong call to preserve and protect the Sierra Madre Mountain range, underscoring its role in ecological conservation and survival of local communities while protecting millions of Filipinos from climate change-induced disasters.

## **UNITED NATIONS NEWS**

### **[Island nations unite at UN: 'Empty pledges' will not save future generations](#)**

By: By Vibhu Mishra

Separated by oceans, the leaders were united in their call on the international community to prioritize urgent action and financial support to combat the climate crisis, emphasizing that their nations are in crosshairs of the emergency and already bearing its impacts.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**BBC**

**[Climate change supercharged Europe floods - scientists](#)**

By: Mark Poynting and Greg Brosnan

Central Europe's devastating floods were made much worse by climate change and offer a stark glimpse of the future for the world's fastest-warming continent, scientists say.

Storm Boris has ravaged countries including Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Austria and Italy, leading to at least 24 deaths and billions of pounds of damage.

The World Weather Attribution (WWA) group said one recent four-day period was the rainiest ever recorded in central Europe - an intensity made twice as likely by climate change.

On a positive note, the storm was well forecast, meaning some regions were better prepared for it, likely avoiding more deaths.

Scientists at WWA work out how much of a role climate change played in an extreme weather event by comparing it with a model of how bad that storm, drought or heatwave might have been in a world where humans hadn't been burning fossil fuels for nearly 200 years.

The kind of rainfall unleashed by Boris is thankfully still rare – expected to occur about once every 100-300 years in today's climate, which has warmed by about 1.3C due to greenhouse gas emissions.

But if warming reaches 2C, similar episodes will become an extra 5% more intense and 50% more frequent, the WWA warned.

Without more ambitious climate action, global warming is expected to reach around 3C by the end of the century.

“This is definitely what we will see much more of in the future,” said Friederike Otto, senior lecturer in climate science at Imperial College London and co-author of the WWA study.

“[It] is the absolute fingerprint signature of climate change [...] that records are broken by such a large margin.”

The record rains fit into the broader pattern of how Europe's climate is changing in a warming world.

Europe is the fastest-warming continent. The last five years were on average around 2.3C warmer than the second half of the 19th Century, according to the Copernicus climate service.

This not only brings much more frequent and intense heatwaves, but also more extreme rainfall, particularly over north and central Europe. The picture is more complicated in southern Europe, due to shifts in large-scale weather patterns.

The simplest reason for more intense rainfall in a hotter world is that a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture – about 7% for every 1C. This extra moisture can lead to heavier rainfall.

#### 'Stalling' weather systems

One reason Boris has produced so much rain is that the weather system got 'stuck', dumping huge amounts of water over the same areas for days.

There is some evidence that the effects of climate change on the jet stream - a band of fast-flowing winds high up in the atmosphere - may make this 'stalling' phenomenon more common. But this is still up for debate.

Even if we don't get more 'stalled' weather systems in the future, climate change means that any that do get stuck can carry more moisture and therefore be potentially disastrous.

“These weather patterns occurred in a warmer climate because of our greenhouse gas emissions, [so] the intensity and volume of rainfall was larger than it would have otherwise been,” explains Richard Allan, professor in climate science at the University of Reading.

Weather forecasts are continually improving, and in this case the huge levels of rainfall that triggered the floods were forecast several days in advance.

That meant flood preparations could be put in place.

That's partly why the death toll was not as bad as previous major flooding in 1997 and 2002, even though the recent rain was heavier in many places and the floods covered a larger area.

“There has been a lot of money spent after the previous two floods to [install and update] the flood defences,” explains Mirek Trnka of the Global Change Research Institute in the Czech Republic, one of the countries most affected by the flooding.

In the city of Brno, for example, where Prof Trnka is based, not all of the flood defences had been completed, but the advanced warning allowed authorities to strengthen areas where there was still work to be done.

Not everywhere in Europe has been as fortunate. The EU has pledged €10bn (£8.3bn) in emergency repairs to help affected areas.

“It shows just how expensive climate change is,” says Dr Otto.

Over recent decades, improved flood protection has largely shielded communities from increased impacts.

But there are concerns that rising temperatures - and so ever increasing extreme rainfall - could make them ineffective.

“The [severity of the] flood events is going to increase considerably in the future, so if you keep the flood protections at the same level as they are today, the impacts may become unbearable for societies in Europe,” explains Francesco Dottori of IUSS in Pavia, Italy.

There is of course a clear way to stop these rainfall events from getting ever worse - cutting emissions of planet-warming gases such as carbon dioxide.

“Our simulations show that if you are able to keep future global warming below 1.5C, which is one of the targets of the Paris agreement, then future flood damage will be cut by half compared to the [business as usual] scenario,” Dr Dottori adds.

Otherwise, we know what will happen to these events in the future, Prof Allan says.

“The intensity of rainfall and these weather events will only get worse.”

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **P3.74T of RE projects endorsed by Bol for 'green-lane' treatment**

By: Justine Irish D. Tabile

The PHILIPPINES' Board of Investments (BoI) on Thursday said it had endorsed P3.74 trillion worth of renewable energy (RE) projects for green-lane treatment as of Sept. 25, in line with a state goal of boosting RE capacity, reducing carbon emissions and creating local jobs.

In a statement, the investment promotion agency said 114 RE projects had been endorsed to the One-Stop Action Center for Strategic Investments since February 2023.

Of the total, P1.64 trillion worth of investments covering 36 projects were registered with the BoI, while the registrations for the remaining projects worth P2.1 trillion were still being processed.

In September alone, the BoI endorsed 11 RE projects for expedited processing, which include a P289-billion offshore wind power project in Ilocos Norte in northern Philippines.

The recent endorsements brought the total number of projects under green-lane status to 126, with an estimated cost of P4.13 trillion.

"The green-lane initiative ensures that the Philippines remains competitive on the global stage, attracting investors who prioritize innovation and sustainability," Trade Undersecretary and BoI Managing Head Ceferino S. Rodolfo said in the statement.

"With over P4 trillion in investments already certified, we are setting a clear path towards renewable energy growth, job creation and reducing our carbon footprint," he added.

Investments in RE projects increased after the government allowed full foreign ownership in the sector, which used to be cap at 40%.

Besides RE projects, green-lane-endorsed investments also include six digital infrastructure projects worth P346.33 billion, four food security projects worth P4.14 billion and two manufacturing projects worth P29.61 billion.

"Out of the 126 green-lane-certified projects, 43 have been registered with the BoI, representing P1.91 trillion in investments, while the remaining 83 worth P2.22 trillion are in the pipeline for registration," the BoI said.



“These projects are seen as vital to supporting the Philippines’ goals of increasing renewable energy capacity, reducing carbon emissions and creating local jobs,” it added.

The Bol had set an internal target of approving P1.25-1.5 trillion in investment pledges this year.

But the upper limit of the target was increased to P1.6 trillion in July due to the increasing number of projects in the pipeline being endorsed for green-lane status.

The latest report from the Bol showed that it had approved 225 investment pledges worth P1.35 trillion as of Sept. 15.

These surpassed full-year approvals last year worth P1.26 trillion and represented 84% of the agency’s target this year.

Meanwhile, the Bol said that two projects granted green lane certifications have started operations.

One is PV Sinag Power, Inc.’s 94.717-megawatt peak Cayanga-Bugallon Solar Power project in Pangasinan province. The other is Nexif Ratch Energy Investments Pte. Ltd.’s Calabanga Solar Power Plant in Camarines Sur.

“With the Bol’s green-lane endorsement, the provisional authority to operate was fast-tracked, significantly reducing the usual 60-day processing period required by the Energy Regulatory Commission,” the agency said.

It added that the endorsement of the Calabanga project in June 2024 was among the reasons why the project had a quicker deployment. The project was inaugurated on Sept. 12.

In February 2023, the government established through Executive Order No. 18 the “green-lane” system at all government agencies to speed up approvals and permits for investments.

## GMA NEWS

### [Developing nations risk being sidelined from renewable energy boom, leaders say](#)

By: By Valerie Volcovici and Simon Jessop

World leaders on Tuesday said that developing nations risk missing out on a push to triple the amount of renewable energy worldwide without financial support from rich countries.

Speaking at a Global Renewables Summit held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Kenyan President William Ruto warned that while the technologies exist to achieve the goal set at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai last year to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, without investment and support, developing nations will not reap the benefits of clean electricity.

"Africa receives less than 50% of global investment in renewable energy despite being home to 60% of the world's best solar opportunities," Ruto said at the summit. "Although the continent is resource rich, unreliable or expensive, energy limits our ability to harness these resources for development."

With global energy demand on the rise, countries will need to use more renewable energy in order to avoid burning more fossil fuels.

Recent reports, including by the International Energy Agency, have shown that the goal of tripling renewable energy is feasible this decade, but requires strong permitting rules and regulations, as well as investments in building out transmission and battery storage.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told the summit that this will require "massive investments" from the public and private sector, especially for "countries and regions where there is a lack of affordable energy and capital, and where costs are so high that is an obstacle to electrification."

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said that fossil fuel subsidies outnumber renewable energy subsidies, which makes it more expensive for small states to develop clean energy projects.

"Small states face the reality that the cost of renewable energy ... will probably be higher than traditionally fossil fuels," she said.

Earlier in the day, a coalition of some of the world's biggest companies, finance houses and cities called Mission 2025 urged governments to adopt policies that they said could

unleash up \$1 trillion in clean energy investments by 2030, such as setting new capacity targets and offering tax credits or long-term electricity contracts would boost the industry's case for investment.

Separately, U.S. President Joe Biden is set to address to the U.N. General Assembly for the final time as president, and a separate event will discuss his administration's climate achievements, particularly the boom in renewable energy production and manufacturing spurred by the \$360 billion Inflation and Reduction Act passed in 2022.

"What he will show is how the United States has changed the playbook fundamentally -- not focused on the doom and gloom, focused instead on the massive economic opportunity, a chance to build U.S. manufacturing and infrastructure, and a chance to build the American middle class," White House National Climate Adviser Ali Zaidi.

African leaders are especially anxious to find ways for growing their electricity portfolios, both to fuel development and to reach hundreds of millions of people who still have no access to electricity at all.

The African Development Bank and World Bank presidents spoke Monday about their project to expand electricity access to more than 300 million people on the continent, for which the banks were seeking \$30 billion in private sector investment.

"You cannot really grow the global economy without energy," said Africa Development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina, during an event hosted Monday by the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet.

"You cannot industrialize in the dark."

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [UN report: Urgent need for climate-friendly aircon](#)

An explosion in demand for cooling systems in developing countries could worsen climate change unless sustainable solutions are prioritized, according to a United Nations report published Wednesday.

By 2050, demand for air conditioning, refrigerators, and refrigerated transport will increase seven-fold in Africa and four-fold in Asia, according to the UN Environment Programme and the World Bank's private sector arm IFC.

"These nations are especially vulnerable to the deadly effects of rising temperatures and are urgently in need of cooling solutions," said IFC head Makhtar Diop in a statement.

Rising temperatures as well as increasing populations and urbanization in many developing countries are boosting demand for cooling devices.

The cooling sector already sucks up a fifth of the world's electricity and demand is on track to triple by 2050, with the developing world accounting for 80 percent of total demand, the report said.

A balance is needed between the impact on climate change and the vital need for refrigeration to keep vital goods such as crops and vaccines from spoiling.

"As record temperatures continue to be broken across the world, keeping cool is an essential need for both healthy communities and a healthy environment," said Inger Andersen, executive director of UN Environment Programme, which is based in Nairobi.

"However, we must avoid creating a vicious cycle of meeting cooling demands through solutions that further heat up the planet," she added.

UN Environment Programme and IFC, united in a "Cool Coalition" of 130 partners, stressed the need to develop sustainable and energy-efficient solutions that can halve related emissions and reduce electricity bills.

They called for the private sector to invest in a market that is expected to double to \$600 billion a year by 2050 in developing countries.

They also highlighted the importance of developing so-called "passive" solutions, such as reflective materials or planting trees to provide shade.

## SUNSTAR

### Pagasa monitors 2 weather disturbances

By: Juralyn B. Baldomaro

The state weather bureau was monitoring a low-pressure area (LPA) outside the country's area of responsibility and another weather disturbance that could become an LPA.

The LPA outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) was located around 2,700 kilometers east of Central Luzon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Pagasa said that while the LPA is unlikely to enter the country, it may strengthen into a weak storm within the next 24 to 48 hours as it moves towards the northern part of the Pacific Ocean.

A second weather disturbance, currently a cloud cluster within the PAR, was also under observation.

Although it has a low chance of intensifying into a cyclone, Pagasa said there is a possibility of it developing into an LPA in the coming days.

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continues to affect Palawan, Visayas, and Mindanao, bringing cloudy skies and isolated rains to these areas.

Pagasa Visayas chief Alfredo Quiblat Jr. said Cebu City is expected to experience partly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to the ITCZ.

Residents in Mindanao, particularly in Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, and Caraga, were also advised to prepare for localized thunderstorms and scattered rain showers within the next 24 hours.

As for the LPA outside PAR, rough seas are anticipated around northern Luzon, especially near Batanes and Cagayan.

Pagasa has issued a warning of possible gale conditions over the weekend, which could disrupt sea travel for small vessels.

The weather bureau continues to monitor these systems closely and advises the public to stay updated with the latest weather information and advisories.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Global Innovation Index: Philippines rises to 53rd](#)

By: Louella Desiderio

The Philippines was among the fastest risers in a decade in the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), moving up three places this year to 53rd out of 133 economies.

The report released yesterday showed the country was among the fastest 10-year climbers starting from 90th in 2013.

Other economies that have made the biggest advances in the GI in the past decade are China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Turkey, Vietnam and Morocco.

Aside from the Philippines moving up three ranks from the previous year's 56th, the WIPO said it has also attained third position in the lower middle-income group.

The Philippines' 2024 GI rank is also better than the government's target of placing 54th this year under the Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

The GI ranks economies based on their innovation ecosystem performance and tracks global innovation trends. It is intended to guide policymakers, business leaders and others in unleashing human ingenuity to improve lives and address shared challenges, like climate change.

"Notable areas in which it excels are trade-related indicators, including high-tech exports (first globally), high-tech imports, creative goods exports and ICT (information communications technology) services exports," WIPO said.

It said the Philippines has also made advances, albeit at lower levels, in intangible assets, driven by its strong global brand value and the intangible asset intensity of its companies.

The Philippines moved up in almost all pillars tracked by the report. In particular, it ranked 65th in the institutions pillar, up from 79th in the previous year.

In human capital and research, the Philippines moved up to 84th from 88th last year.

As for infrastructure, the Philippines climbed to 85th from 86th in 2023.

The Philippines, however, saw its ranking go down to 77th in market sophistication from 55th last year.

In terms of business sophistication, the Philippines rose to 37th from 38th in 2023.

It also moved up in knowledge and technology outputs to 42nd place from the previous year's 46th.

In creative outputs, the Philippines' rank remained at 60th.

Under the PDP, the aim is for the Philippines to rank 43rd in the GII by 2028.

## [International tribunal recognizes environmental violation in Verde Island Passage for fossil fuel expansion](#)

By: Dominique Nicole Flores

Fossil fuel expansion projects along the Philippines' Verde Island Passage, a biodiversity hotspot, were recognized as a case of ecological destruction during an international tribunal session in New York.

During Climate Week in New York, the International Rights of Nature Tribunal convened its sixth session on Sunday, September 22, to explore how countries can strengthen efforts to protect environmental resources, marine ecosystems and wildlife by holding key actors accountable amid an expanding fossil fuel industry.

The Philippines was featured as one of the tribunal's case studies, as fossil fuel activities threaten the health and safety of communities near the Verde Island Passage. This includes poorer water quality, marine ecology and quality of life.

Advocacy group Protect Verde Island Passage served as a case witness, with its lead convenor, Edwin Gariguez, testifying before the tribunal on the growing dominance of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the Philippines' economic activities.

"The right of people and nature to water as a source of life, and the right to be free from pollution are being violated by the chemical and thermal pollution from these plants," Gariguez said.

The advocacy group stated that the Verde Island Passage is home to about 1,736 shore-fish species and around 300 to 500 coral species.

Gariguez noted that its diverse marine life has led scientists to refer to it as the "Amazon of the Oceans."

With the increase in fossil fuel plants, Gariguez warned of a higher likelihood of intensified shipping activities, freshwater shortages, loss of flora and thermal pollution that disrupts the reproductive processes of marine life.

Affected provinces. The provinces that are most at risk include Batangas, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro and Romblon. These are all located in Luzon as the waterway can be found between Batangas and Mindoro, alongside the Mindoro Strait and Tayabas Bay.



The Philippine-Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI), a social development and advocacy network, informed the tribunal of an oil spill in 2023, which impacted over 200,000 people and resulted in environmental and socio-economic damages estimated at P42 billion in the Verde Island Passage.

On March 1, 2023, the MT Princess Empire tanker fully capsized in the Verde Island Passage, spilling 900,000 liters of oil.

“The richness of this biodiversity hotspot is not just a local treasure, it’s not just for the Philippines, but a global asset that we must all strive to protect,” PMPI National Coordinator Yolanda Esguerra said.

Esguerra shared that in recognizing the rights of nature through law, there is a need to look beyond the numbers of those affected as it “does not begin to capture the real-life impacts and violations suffered by local communities and nature.”

Location of gas power plants. Gariguez reported that their organization has identified five operational fossil gas plants and two LNG terminals near the Verde Island Passage, along with over 12 proposed gas power plant projects.

“One cannot even begin to imagine just how catastrophic impacts of fossil fuel expansion of this scale will be for nature and local communities,” he said.

The Protect Verde Island Passage group mapped out both existing and proposed fossil gas power plants, including the proposed LNG terminals, on their website, with several located in Batangas.

Fossil fuel actors. Gariguez and Esguerra identified San Miguel Corporation as one of the key players behind the largest fossil fuel projects in the Philippines.

They also call to hold accountable Linseed Field Power Corporation and Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Company as major contributors to environmental degradation in the at-risk provinces, reporting that these companies had leveled the coastline of two barangays in Batangas.

What the government has done. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) signed a memorandum on May 7, 2024 with San Miguel Corporation, Aboitiz Equity Ventures and Metro Pacific Investments Corporation to ensure the conservation of the Verde Island Passage.

The business conglomerates were urged to collaborate with local government units (LGUs), coastal communities and other sectors of society for this purpose.

However, environmental groups and LGUs want the Verde Island Passage to be protected by law and not just by DENR's word that it is a marine protected area.

At the tribunal, the United States, Mozambique, India and Mexico also presented their testimonies and cases of fossil fuel expansion. Judges providing advice to countries were composed of climate change experts, environmental defenders and advocates.

The International Tribunal plans to hold a second session before the 30th Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Brazil in November 2025.

The UNFCC COP is an international climate summit where world leaders convene annually to craft collaborative solutions in addressing climate change impacts.

## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

### [Island nations unite at UN: 'Empty pledges' will not save future generations](#)

By: By Vibhu Mishra

Separated by oceans, the leaders were united in their call on the international community to prioritize urgent action and financial support to combat the climate crisis, emphasizing that their nations are in crosshairs of the emergency and already bearing its impacts.

As the small island States continue to fight for their survival, their united message to the world on Wednesday was clear, the time for action is now, and the global community must be united.

We understand what it means to be vulnerable

Wavel Ramkalawan, President of Seychelles – off the African coast, in the Indian Ocean – stressed that climate change “remains the foremost challenge facing humanity” and failure to address its effects will devastate current and future generations.

“As a small island State, Seychelles understands what it means to be vulnerable. We are on the frontlines of the climate crisis,” he said.

It is an irreversible threat to people, economy and way of life.

“Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and the degradation of our oceans are stark reminders of the urgent need for global action on climate change,” he added.

Calling for decisive action, President Ramkalawan made it clear, “words are nothing without deeds.”

Comparing global military expenditure that reached \$2.5 trillion last year, the \$100 billion – at the highest estimates for loss and damage – “seems modest and insignificant.”

No one is immune

Off the Atlantic coast of Africa, President of Cabo Verde, José Maria Pereira Neves, emphasized that while small island States are the first affected by climate change, the impacts extend deep into the hinterlands.

“No one immune to this catastrophe in the making,” he said, urging immediate attention to rising sea levels.

The challenge is multidimensional and extends far beyond island and coastal populations, affecting all continents and regions, he added, welcoming the high-level meeting on Addressing the Existential Threats Posed by Sea-level Rise, held earlier in the day.

He also noted the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable nations, especially small islands and urged bolder commitments from high-emission countries as well as swift implementation of climate policies and funding mechanisms.

### Triple planetary crisis

Across the Atlantic Ocean, in the Caribbean Sea, the climate crisis remains a shared battle.

Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona, President of the Dominican Republic, highlighted the “triple planetary crisis” – three key interlinked challenges confronting humanity: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

He stressed his country’s commitment to helping establish the fund loss and damage and achieving the 30x30 goal in protecting our maritime territory.

That initiative aims to have 30 per cent of the world’s land, inland waters and oceans under protection by 2030.

### ‘Break free from pattern of empty pledges’

Speaking next from the group was Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, which despite being situated on the mainland, shares several of the vulnerabilities as small islands.

He said that among myriad challenges confronting the world, “climate change threatens our very existence,” as he underscored the need to follow through on commitments already made.

“Each year, we make the annual pilgrimage to COP, filled with hope for tangible outcomes,” he noted, referring the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“And each year we are regaled with renewed unkept promises. This cycle of hope followed by disappointment cannot continue if the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to be met,” he lamented.

“We must break free from this pattern of empty pledges. We must, unequivocally and immediately, fulfil all pledges for the sake of our planet and the future of all its inhabitants,” he underscored.

Climate change not a distant or abstract issue

Moving north to Dominica, nestled in the windward islands of the Caribbean Sea, President Sylvanie Burton also highlighted the “daily reality” of climate change that her country faces.

“We have said it time and time again. We see it so vividly, year after year, that our communities are on the frontlines, facing intensified hurricanes, devastating floods, and prolonged droughts,” she said.

She recalled the devastation wreaked by Tropical Storm Erika in 2015, which wiped out 96 per cent of Dominica’s gross domestic product (GDP), to be followed in 2017 by Hurricane Maria that destroyed over 225 per cent of the GDP, “in a matter of hours.”

“Mere hours... That is why, this year, we watched in agony as Hurricane Beryl swept through the island-states of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados, and Jamaica,” she noted.

Stressing that such tragedies reiterate that the “time for rhetoric has long passed”.

“Business as usual, simply will not suffice. We need urgent, bold, and decisive action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as science clearly dictates,” she said, calling for a drastic reduction in emissions, honoring financial commitments and building resilience, especially in regions most at risk.

‘We will not go silently to our watery graves’

On the other side of the world, in the Pacific, President Hilda Heine of the Marshall Islands echoed the urgency, emphasizing that rising seas are already consuming her nation’s coastline.

“Sea levels have risen, and we are too late to prevent them from eating away at our shores. But we must also be clear: we will not be wiped off the map, nor will we go silently to our watery graves,” she declared.

She underscored that world leaders must do all they can to prevent the melting of the cryosphere – the frozen areas of the Earth, on land and in its oceans.

Referring to the new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) climate action plans, to be presented by all nations by February next year, she urged governments to show ambition and cooperation.

“We all agreed last year,” President Heine stated, to scale up renewable energy and energy efficiency, and accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels and end fossil fuel subsidies.

“Despite this, we have seen some of the planet’s wealthiest countries break their pledges, as they double down on fossil fuels. This failure of leadership must stop – no new coal mines, no new gas fields, no new oil wells,” she stressed.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DWIZ

#### [Pangangailangang protektahan ang bulubundukin ng Sierra Madre, muling binigyang-diin ng Climate Change Commission](#)

By: Gilbert Perdez

Muling binigyan diin ng Climate Change Commission o CCC ang pangangailanganprotektahan ang bulubundukin ng Sierra Madre.

Ginawa ng CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje pahayag kasabay ng Save Sierra Madre Day kahaon Setyember 26 na itinakda sa ilalim n Presidential Proclamation No. 413.

Ayon kay Borje ang Sierra MADre na umaabot sa mahigit 6,000 na libong talampakan ang taas at higit na limang daang kilometro ang lawak ay nagsisilbing likas na panagga ng Luzon. Aniya pangunahing depensa ito ng Pilipinaslaban sa mga kalamidad na dulot ng pagbabago ng klima lalo na sa mga malalakas o mapaminsalang bagyo.

Ganunpaman sinabi ni Borje na ang kritikal na papel na ito ay nahaharap sa panganib dahil sa deforestation at ilegal na pagtrotroso, sa pammagitan aniya ng pangangalaga sa mga kagubatan o ecosystem nito hindi lamang pinoprotektahan ang biodiversity kundi sinisiguro din ang kabuhayan ng milyon-milyong tao na umaasa sa Sierra Madre para sa proteksyon laban s amga kalamidad na dulot ng climate change.

## NEWS5

### [Urgent protection of Sierra Madre sought amid worsening climate crisis](#)

By: Rodolfo Dacleson II

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday stressed the importance of protecting Sierra Madre for ecological conservation and the survival of local communities against the worsening climate crisis.

The CCC noted that the over 540-kilometer mountain range in Luzon serves as the Philippines' "first line of defense" against typhoons and their induced floods and landslides.

"By maintaining its forests and ecosystems, we not only protect biodiversity but also secure the livelihood of millions of people who rely on the Sierra Madre for protection from climate-induced disasters," said CCC executive director Robert Borje in a media release in celebration of Save Sierra Madre Day.

The event is commemorated yearly under Presidential Proclamation 413, which was signed by the late former president Noynoy Aquino III.

"Let us commit to end deforestation and illegal logging not only in Sierra Madre but in all forests to ensure their continued ability to safeguard our ecosystems and communities," added Borje.

Deforestation has been a long-standing problem in the Philippines. Global Forest Watch reported that the country lost over 32% of its natural forest in 2023.

In Sierra Madre, the loss increased from 2011 to 2018, according to a study by the University of the Philippines and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Last September 10, the passing of House Bill No. 1972 was pushed to create a body responsible for conserving and managing the country's longest mountain range. Filed in 2022, it remains pending at the committee level.

According to the 2024 World Risk Index, the Philippines remained the most vulnerable country to natural disasters for the third straight year.

Last July, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said around 48 million Filipinos will experience flooding due to the increased amount of rainfall. Environmental groups have repeatedly raised the alarm on the intensifying climate crisis, urging Pres. Bongbong Marcos Jr. to do more to mitigate its adverse impact.



## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [CCC highlights students' role in advancing climate action and gender equality](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the vital role of students in advancing gender equality and climate action during a forum at the Philippine Women's University (PWU). The event aimed to inspire youth participation in addressing climate change and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With increasingly severe storms, monsoons, and extreme flooding affecting Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, the CCC stressed the urgency of climate action. These extreme weather events, coupled with one of the hottest summers on record, highlight the country's vulnerability to climate change.

Key topics discussed during the forum included the main drivers of climate change, its impacts, and sustainable solutions. These discussions are vital in educating students to understand a rapidly changing world and equipping them to develop innovative strategies to combat climate change.

Greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, were identified as the primary cause of climate change. These gasses trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere that leads to global warming.

The forum also underscored the wide-ranging impacts of climate change, including rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, sea level rise, and disruptions to ecosystems and biodiversity. These challenges call for immediate action and the implementation of sustainable practices.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera emphasized the importance of science-driven solutions in combating the global crisis. "Solutions are only sustainable when anchored in consultation, research, and, in the case of climate change, the best available science," she stated.

Herrera also referenced data from the World Risk Report, highlighting that extreme natural events disproportionately affect vulnerable groups. "Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls. These groups bear a much heavier burden, as they often face greater risks and responsibilities in dealing with its consequences," she explained.

Meanwhile, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the CCC, noted, "Addressing climate change requires our collective effort and a strong

commitment to informed action. By harnessing data-driven approaches, we can pave the way for sustainable solutions that benefit both our planet and future generations.”

The forum was part of PWU’s celebration of SDG Week, themed “Patriots in Motion — Driving Progress towards the SDGs.”

The CCC remains committed to empowering students and stakeholders to take climate action and support sustainable development initiatives.

For more information on the CCC’s climate mainstreaming activities, visit [www.climate.gov.ph](http://www.climate.gov.ph) and [www.facebook.com/CCCPhl](https://www.facebook.com/CCCPhl).

## [CCC lauds Legarda for Legion of Honor Award](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) congratulates Senator Loren Legarda on being awarded the prestigious title of Officier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur by the French Government.

This latest accolade follows her 2016 conferment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, which further underscores her invaluable contribution to environmental sustainability and her pivotal role in global climate advocacy.

“You are the strongest advocate in raising awareness on climate change and the protection of our planet. Your commitment is a longstanding one. You understood the importance of protecting our environment before many others, no doubt because you know the consequences of climate change here in your own country,” said French Ambassador Marie Fontanel.

In her acceptance speech, Senator Legarda emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the Philippines and France in addressing global challenges, particularly climate change. She recalled key milestones in this partnership, including the 2015 Manila Call to Action for Climate Change and the joint efforts to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and oceans by 2030 under the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.

“Over the years, my collaborations with France have been grounded in a deep respect for our shared values, particularly in cultural diplomacy and the fight for climate justice. I always consider cultural diplomacy as the Philippines' fourth pillar of foreign policy, a key that opens doors to political and economic initiatives,” Legarda said.

For the CCC, the conferment of the Officier title to Senator Loren Legarda is a recognition not only of her tireless work in diplomacy and culture but, more importantly, her relentless commitment to championing climate action and resilience.

“Her leadership in advancing key transformative climate, sustainable, and environmental legislation have helped position the Philippines as a global climate leader,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

The Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur is France's highest distinction, awarded for outstanding service.

## CCC pushes for protection of Sierra Madre

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the urgent need to protect the Sierra Madre mountain range, as its preservation is vital for ecological conservation and the survival of local communities.

Rising to 6,283 feet and stretching over 540 kilometers, the Sierra Madre mountain range serves as Luzon's natural fortress. It is the Philippines' first line of defense against climate-induced disasters, particularly powerful tropical cyclones. However, this critical role is being compromised by deforestation and illegal logging.

"By maintaining its forests and ecosystems, we not only protect biodiversity but also secure the livelihood of millions of people who rely on the Sierra Madre for protection from climate-induced disasters," said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

The name Sierra Madre, meaning "mother of mountains" in Spanish, is often referred to as the backbone of Luzon due to its prominent geographical presence.

The range spans across 10 provinces, from Cagayan in the north to Quezon in the south, covering areas such as Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Bulacan, Rizal, and Laguna.

Sierra Madre is home to around 40 percent of the Philippines' forest cover and supports a rich biodiversity, with 3,500 plant species—58 percent of which are endemic. It also acts as a crucial carbon sink, covering 1.4 million hectares.

Through carbon sequestration, the forests absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to regulate temperature and stabilize weather patterns. This process reduces extreme weather events and maintains ecological balance, while providing healthy habitats for various wildlife species.

Perhaps Sierra Madre's most renowned role is its function as a natural barrier against tropical cyclones. When storms approach from the Pacific, the mountain range slows down and deflects strong winds, significantly reducing their intensity before they reach inland areas. This natural shield helps minimize the destructive force of typhoons, saving lives, protecting infrastructure, and reducing damage to ecosystems and livelihoods.

Preserving the mountain range is a crucial step to enhance our climate resilience, as it acts as a natural defense against typhoons, floods, and landslides.

"As we commemorate Save Sierra Madre Day, let us reflect on the importance of protecting this mountain range that shields us from the impact of strong typhoons. Let us commit to end deforestation and illegal logging not only in Sierra Madre but in all

forests to ensure their continued ability to safeguard our ecosystems and communities,” Borje stated.

Presidential Proclamation 413 designates September 26 as Save Sierra Madre Day. This observance is led by the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance, Inc. (SMNAI), a group of Indigenous Peoples and Non-Indigenous, People’s Organizations, Government Organizations, Civil Society Schools, Churches, and Individuals dedicated to protect and preserve the Sierra Madre.

For more information on the CCC’s climate mainstreaming activities, visit [www.climate.gov.ph](http://www.climate.gov.ph) and [www.facebook.com/CCCPhl](https://www.facebook.com/CCCPhl).

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [CCC calls for urgent protection of Sierra Madre](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday issued a strong call to preserve and protect the Sierra Madre Mountain range, underscoring its role in ecological conservation and survival of local communities while protecting millions of Filipinos from climate change-induced disasters.

As the country commemorates Save Sierra Madre Day celebrated every Sept. 26, the CCC reminded Filipinos that the 6,283 feet high mountain range that stretches over 540 kilometers across Luzon is the country's "backbone" that is a vital natural defense against powerful tropical cyclones.

The mountain range, which spans 10 provinces from Cagayan in the north to Quezon in the south, covering areas such as Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Bulacan, Rizal, and Laguna, serves as the Philippines' first line of defense against storms, reducing their intensity before they hit densely populated inland areas.

This natural defense mechanism saves lives, protects infrastructure, and minimizes damage to ecosystems and livelihoods across Luzon.

However, this critical role is being compromised by deforestation and illegal logging.

"By maintaining its forests and ecosystems, we not only protect biodiversity but also secure the livelihood of millions of people who rely on the Sierra Madre for protection from climate-induced disasters," CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

Known as the "mother of mountains," Sierra Madre's importance goes beyond storm protection as it is home to around 40 percent of the Philippines forest cover and supports rich biodiversity, with over 3,500 plant species, 58 percent of which are endemic.

The mountain range also serves as a crucial carbon sink, covering 1.4 million hectares and absorbing carbon dioxide through its vast forested areas, helping to mitigate climate change by regulating temperature and stabilizing weather patterns.

Borje said preserving the mountain range is a crucial step to enhancing the country's climate resilience.

Sierra Madre's unique geographical positioning makes it a natural barrier against tropical cyclones. When storms approach from the Pacific Ocean, the mountain range slows down and weakens strong winds, reducing their destructive force.

Presidential Proclamation 413 designates Sept. 26 as Save Sierra Madre Day, an annual observance that brings attention to the need to protect the mountain range.

The day is led by the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance, Inc. (SMNAI), a coalition of indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, schools, and churches dedicated to preserving Sierra Madre.

Right after the onslaught of severe Tropical Storm Enteng in early September, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. conducted an aerial inspection over Marikina and Antipolo and noticed the alarming deforestation in the Sierra Madre.

After this, lawmakers renewed the call for the passage of a bill filed in 2022 seeking to create the Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA) that would address the restoration of Sierra Madre's forest cover.

"As we commemorate Save Sierra Madre Day, let us reflect on the importance of protecting this mountain range that shields us from the impact of strong typhoons. Let us commit to end deforestation and illegal logging not only in Sierra Madre but in all forests to ensure their continued ability to safeguard our ecosystems and communities," Borje said.

**=END=**