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ABS CBN

Health experts urge stronger maternal care as climate risks grow
By: Raphael Bosano

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DAILY TRIBUNE

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By: Jonas Reyes

OLONGAPO CITY, Zambales — Stakeholders from the coconut and carabao industries in Central Luzon took part in the Consultation on the Draft Climate-Resilient Agro-Industry-Oriented Value Chain Analysis (I-VCA) in this city from 16 to 17 September 2026.

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The government is stepping up preparations to mitigate the impact of a "Super El Niño" or a prolonged dry spell in the country.

THE GUARDIAN

Trump the environmentalist? How his Iran war exposed the fragility of dirty energy
By: Oliver Milman

Gavin Newsom says Trump is a 'gift' to the climate cause for dispelling notions of fossil fuel energy security

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ATENEO DE MANILA

From climate learning to campus action: Team Ateneo brings MAGISphere to YCLAP
By: Clariz S Pillos

Young people from nine (9) universities gathered at the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) Youth Climate Leadership Accelerator Project (Youth CLAP) to learn about climate change, develop climate action solutions, and turn their ideas into projects. The program culminated in an Innovation Showcase on 26 September 2026 at the Philippine Normal University where participating teams presented their proposed innovations to a panel of judges.

MANILA STANDARD

PH, UN strengthen tie-up on Article 6 implementation, carbon market

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) said any domestic carbon pricing framework should support national development, uphold market integrity and mobilize concrete investments toward a low-carbon economy, as the Philippines and the United Nations (UN) deepen cooperation on carbon market readiness under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Water flow cut; Palace girds for El Niño
By: Charles Dantes, Ram Superable, Rex Espiritu & Maricel Cruz

Water authorities have reduced Metro Manila's water allocation as the government steps up preparations for a potentially stronger El Niño, Malacañang said Thursday, warning the public against panic-buying and hoarding bottled water.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Philippines carbon emissions keep rising – CCC
By: Brix Lelis

MANILA, Philippines — Even as Filipino businesses become more operationally efficient, the country's carbon emissions continue to rise, according to the Climate Change Commission.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Health experts urge stronger maternal care as climate risks grow
By: Raphael Bosano

MANILA — As extreme heat, flooding and changing weather patterns become more common, health experts are stressing the need to strengthen prenatal care, particularly for pregnant women who may face greater risks from infectious diseases and other climate-related health threats.

At a recent roundtable discussion on antenatal care, infectious disease specialists and maternal health stakeholders called for improvements in prenatal services to ensure pregnant women receive the medical care, screening and vaccines they need throughout pregnancy.

Doctors say vaccination is particularly important as climate change complicates the risk and transmission of some infectious diseases.

“It’s very important to prevent infections. We would like to cover them for the most common infections. For example, tag-ulan ngayon, our dream is to cover pregnant women with flu vaccines to avoid them getting sick,” said Dr. Analyn Fallarme, vice president of the Philippine Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology (PIDSOG).

Vaccination is already included in PhilHealth's Maternity Care Package under Circular 2026-0004. However, Fallarme said maternal immunization should not be limited to tetanus vaccination.

Depending on a woman's health condition, vaccination history and stage of pregnancy, doctors may recommend protection against other infections.

Fallarme said the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine could be administered at around 27 weeks of pregnancy, while influenza vaccination could be given at any time during pregnancy.

She also cited other vaccines that may be considered for pregnant women in specific circumstances.

“Ang Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), ang recommendation ay 28-36 weeks. We can also give Hepa B vaccines, but these are for sexually active women or for high risk behavior. Pneumococcal vaccines especially for those with asthma and cardiac problems. Rabies vaccines can be given during pregnancy and meningococcal vaccines,” she said.

Health experts emphasize, however, that vaccination during pregnancy should be based on medical recommendations and an individual woman's health risks.

GAPS IN PRENATAL CARE

At a workshop earlier in September, Fallarme and other stakeholders revisited PhilHealth's maternity care policies, calling for improvements in patient access to prenatal services, financing and service delivery, as well as wider access to maternal vaccination.

The proposed changes are part of broader efforts to reduce maternal deaths in the Philippines and bring the country closer to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.

The Philippines recorded an estimated 119 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2024, still above the SDG target.

Experts say improving access to prenatal care is critical because regular checkups allow health workers to monitor the mother's health, identify complications early and provide preventive interventions, including appropriate vaccination.

But access remains a challenge for some women.

Fallarme cited poverty, lack of awareness and health education, distance from health facilities and cultural preferences as some of the reasons pregnant women may delay or avoid seeking prenatal care.

“Kahirapan, kulang sa awareness at edukasyon, malayo ang bahay sa site of service. Yung cultural preference either gusto lang talaga nila sa lying-in or local health units, o kaya hilot lang ang gusto even if may referral to other institutions,” she said.

Speaking to ABS-CBN News, a PhilHealth official said the agency acknowledges the recommendations raised by PIDSOG.

However, the official noted that some proposed interventions might first require evaluation by the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) before they could be incorporated into PhilHealth's benefit packages.

Under existing PhilHealth policies, pregnant women may avail themselves of various diagnostic services through accredited health facilities. They may also receive antenatal and postpartum care through qualified YAKAP providers, which can provide up to eight antenatal visits and three postpartum care visits.

Health experts say the challenge is ensuring that these benefits translate into actual access, particularly for women who face barriers in terms of finance, location or information.

PIDSOG is set to submit a policy brief to relevant government agencies recommending updates to clinical guidelines on maternal immunization.

The group also wants to establish a clearer pathway for pregnant women to receive vaccines that are recommended during pregnancy.

Fallarme said the goal is for vaccines that receive the necessary approval and recommendations from medical societies and HTAC to eventually be reflected in national health guidelines and PhilHealth benefit packages.

“Kapag approved na ang isang vaccine, recommended by the medical societies, HTAC of DOST, we hope ito ay matranslate into the omnibus health guideline at maipasok sa PhilHealth benefit package. Kasi ang dulo nito, ang pasyente ang makikinabang,” Fallarme said.

DAILY TRIBUNE

Central Luzon coconut, carabao sectors undergo climate resilience assessment

By: Jonas Reyes

OLONGAPO CITY, Zambales — Stakeholders from the coconut and carabao industries in Central Luzon took part in the Consultation on the Draft Climate-Resilient Agro-Industry-Oriented Value Chain Analysis (I-VCA) in this city from 16 to 17 September 2026.

The activity brought together key players across both value chains to validate and refine findings from the study led by the Department of Agriculture–Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Central Luzon I-PLAN Component and provide a holistic, up-to-date picture of the industries.

Stakeholders provided inputs and recommendations that were consolidated and incorporated into the final value chain maps, geographical flow maps, competitiveness vision, priority constraints, opportunities, and intervention strategies.

The collaborative process aims to provide a stronger basis for climate-resilient interventions that can support competitive enterprises, sustainable growth, and improved livelihoods across Central Luzon's coconut and carabao industries.

The coconut and carabao industries in Central Luzon are key agricultural sectors currently undergoing updated value chain analyses by the DA-PRDP Central Luzon to boost regional resilience and competitiveness.

For the coconut industry, the production hub is heavily concentrated in the province of Aurora, which accounts for roughly 93 percent of the region's total coconut production volume and harvested area. Aside from traditional copra and nuts, Aurora is a major producer of coco coir and coco geonets used for environmental protection and slope stabilization.

Some of the challenges include low productivity, reliance on traditional farming methods, vulnerability to world market price fluctuations, aging trees, and cocolisap infestations.

The government has implemented interventions, including the Philippine Coconut Authority's (PCA) rollout of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) information caravans to educate farmers and upgrade farming practices.

For the carabao industry, Central Luzon recognizes the carabao as the eighth priority agricultural commodity, serving as a vital source of meat and dairy. In recent tracking, the region achieved 249 percent sufficiency in carabao meat and produced 57 percent of the country's total carabao milk output.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), with regional hubs linked to institutions such as Central Luzon State University, drives genetic improvement through artificial insemination and bull entrustment programs.

The industry continues to face gaps in feed supply, limited milk processing and post-harvest cold-chain facilities, and localized market access.

EURONEWS

‘Thrilling’: Dutch cattle farmers switch to rice as solution to warmer climate and sinking peatlands

Dutch cattle farming dries out peatland and releases CO2. Is switching to Japanese rice-growing a solution?

The warming climate is allowing Dutch farmers to grow a grain never before harvested in the Netherlands: rice.

For centuries, cows were the country's agricultural staple. But now farmers are experimenting with produce previously unthinkable in such a wet, temperate country.

And researchers behind the scheme hope rice cultivation could help address one of the country's most pressing environmental challenges: peat soils that are sinking as they dry out, pushing parts of the low-lying Netherlands ever lower.

"It's extraordinary," says Philippe Terheggen, chairman of the Land van Ons association that has provided the fields for the rice harvest.

"We would never have thought maybe 20 years ago that we would be able to grow rice in the Netherlands," says the 68-year-old.

"But it's also scary because it tells you what is possible... now the climate has changed," he says.

For now, the project is a pilot scheme, consisting of just 0.6 hectares, with organisers hoping to produce around three tonnes of short-grain rice suitable for sushi or risotto.

The team is working with around 30 different rice cultivars from as far afield as Russia, China, Japan and Uzbekistan, to see which grows best in the Dutch climate.

'I just want to show that things can be changed for the benefit of the future'
In a soggy field between Amsterdam and The Hague, farmer Sander Roeleveld ploughs his rice crops with a combine harvester, backdropped by windmills and canals.

Roeleveld, who describes himself as a "pioneer", says he wants to show other farmers that rice could grow in boggy Dutch soil.

"My goal is to show that more things are possible on wetland than just grass," the 53-year-old says.

"Of course, when you have had cows for 600 years, it's really hard to imagine that you want to do something else than having milk from your cow," he laughs.

"I just want to show that things can be changed for the benefit of the future."

How rice farming could cure dried out peatlands

But the project is about much more than crop diversification. Researchers believe it could help tackle one of the Netherlands' most persistent environmental problems.

Roughly one-tenth of the country is peatland, which farmers drain for grass to feed their cattle.

As the peat dries out, it releases millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide while causing the land to subside by up to several centimetres a year in the worst-affected areas.

According to Wageningen University, greenhouse gas emissions from Dutch peat soils account for around two to three per cent of the country's total emissions.

The only way to resolve this vicious cycle is to keep the fields wet – but then farmers would have nothing to grow there... until now.

"Basically it started with just a crazy idea," explains Julian Helfenstein, a researcher from Wageningen University and Research, who is piloting the project along with colleagues from nearby Leiden University.

It is a rare combination of both adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects, says the 36-year-old.

"Rice is an opportunity for this part of the world to adapt to climate change, so to grow something that previously wasn't possible," he says.

"But also to mitigate climate change because it stops this peat from degrading and emitting all the CO2 because you can keep it wet."

The peat issue affects not just the Netherlands, but much of northern Europe, including Germany, Belgium, even the Baltic states, he says.

Helfenstein and his team are closely monitoring the CO2 and methane emissions from cultivating rice compared to maintaining grassland – to ensure the cure is not worse than the illness.

"So far the results are promising," he says.

"As an environmental scientist, you're always pointing to the problems. And it can be a bit depressing, like, 'Oh, here's more climate change, here's more pollution'," says Helfenstein.

"And then here's an opportunity for science to work also towards a solution. So I find that thrilling."

'Chewy, but great': Dutch rice could be used to make sushi and sake
Local restaurants have already voiced an interest in offering premium Dutch-sourced rice, says Guusje van der Vossen from the Wij Land association which helps farmers transition to more sustainable production.

She says the rice being harvested now was a grain from northern Japan, which seems the best adapted to Dutch conditions.

The 27-year-old is one of the few people ever to have eaten Dutch-grown rice – from an experimental batch grown last year.

"It tasted delicious, to be honest," she laughs, saying the aim was to make sushi with it – and maybe sake.

"It was a bit chewy, but also great."

INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

All Hail Electrification. But Let's Talk About the Hard Part.

By: Dan Gearino

The IEA and climate negotiators want to set a target for shifting the economy to run on electricity. Upfront costs are just one of the obstacles.

If one form of energy becomes the cheapest, most secure and cleanest, you'd probably adjust your economy to use more of it, right?

That's one of the ideas underpinning a report the International Energy Agency issued last week about the global move toward electrification. Fatih Birol, head of the IEA, discussed some of the concepts from the report the following day at the United Nations.

"Many, many years in the energy world, we had three choices in front of us. Shall I choose the most secure energy option? Shall I choose the most economic energy option? Or shall I choose the cleanest energy option?" he asked. "We have to make choices, we have to make trade-offs but when we look at the world today, for the first time in years, all of these three objectives are getting aligned."

Birol's referring to the "energy trilemma," a concept in energy and economics research about the need to balance cost, security and environmental impact of sources and systems. He said those priorities are increasingly aligning in part because of the Iran war, which has driven up fuel prices and exacerbated concerns about energy security.

It's notable that the leader of the world's leading energy research organization is so optimistic about electrification. I reached out to energy researchers this week to get their reaction.

But first, some numbers:

With $100 worth of gasoline, an internal-combustion-engine car would go 862 miles; with $100 worth of electricity, an electric vehicle would go 2,310 miles—nearly a threefold advantage for the EV.

For home heating, $100 would buy enough fuel for a gas boiler to provide 30 days of heating; it would also fund enough electricity for a heat pump to provide 42 days of heating—a 40 percent edge for the heat pump.

The figures are 2025 global averages from the IEA report, and the gaps are probably larger today with gasoline and natural gas experiencing price spikes that exceed rising electricity costs.

Global electrification trends also tell the story. The world used 16.7 percent of its final energy—meaning the energy consumed by the end user—from electricity in 2000, and that share rose to 23.4 percent in 2025, according to the IEA.

China has had the largest change, and North America was among the smallest in that period, a difference largely attributable to levels of renewable energy use and EV adoption.

But this doesn't mean electrification is inevitable, according to energy-systems researchers.

"I see today's energy system more as a Rorschach test," said David Victor, a professor of innovation and public policy at the University of California, San Diego.

By that, he means different people see different things. He acknowledged it's possible to view the trilemma as becoming aligned, but he still sees many obstacles.

For example, he doesn't expect to see a rapid shift to electrification for heavy trucks, maritime transport and aircraft. He also thinks trade barriers may hinder electrification, with countries seeing benefits of producing goods at home rather than relying on imports such as Chinese solar panels.

"The tradeoffs are inescapable," he said.

Some of the tradeoffs are political, with elected officials and entrenched industries seeking to slow electrification, said Emily Grubert, an energy systems researcher at the University of Notre Dame.

"I think [Birol is] basically correct, but the reason we're not seeing transition happening rapidly and naturally is that the 'we' he's referring to is not the 'we' that actually makes the decisions," she said in an email.

Instead, some decision-makers are prioritizing the profits of certain industries, which often means favoring fuels such as coal, natural gas and oil, and slowing the transition to cleaner sources.

Grubert could be describing many countries in which fossil fuel industries hold political sway, including the United States.

Kenneth Medlock III, senior director for the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, said it's vital to fully evaluate the costs and benefits of electrification.

"In truth, the lesson from the current moment is to diversify energy choice and the supply chains of specific energy types, but at the lowest possible cost," he said.

Medlock thinks arguments in favor of electrification don't account enough for the high upfront costs of building the systems. A good example is how wind and solar have low operating costs but are expensive to build. Fossil-fuel power plants also are expensive to build, but his larger point is that the advantages of any option come with disadvantages

Outside the wealthiest economies, the case for electrification is tougher to make, said Chuks Okereke, professor of global climate governance and public policy at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

"Sometimes in the bid for optimism, we oversimplify and ignore important contexts," he said.

Okereke was lead author of a paper published in June in the journal Energy Economics that shows how fossil fuels and highly polluting development make short-term economic sense in Nigeria compared to cleaner alternatives. One reason is the high upfront cost of infrastructure.

For the energy transition to be a net-positive for the Nigerian economy, the world's wealthy countries and international organizations would need to provide assistance.

Birol closed his UN speech by discussing the goal of getting to 35 percent electrification of final energy by 2035. The goal was part of discussions of climate policymakers in June in Bonn, Germany, and will be on the agenda at COP31 in November in Antalya, Turkey.

If the target is agreed to at the climate change conference, it will "give a very strong and unmistakable signal" to the world about the path forward, he said.

Birol isn't saying the world has solved the problems of the energy transition. He's saying this immense challenge becomes a bit easier when some of the competing priorities begin to align more closely than they did before.

This matters because electrification and decarbonization go hand in hand. It means shifting nearly everything that runs on coal, oil and gas to electricity, while simultaneously transforming the grid to run on carbon-free sources. None of this will be easy.

Other stories about the energy transition to take note of this week:

Trump Slashes Fuel-Economy Standards: The Trump administration this week finalized the rollback of fuel-economy standards for cars and light trucks, a move that stands out among the administration's actions for its harm to the environment and human health and for how it reduces the urgency for automakers to ramp up EV sales. The rule change means automakers will have a much easier time meeting federal fuel-economy standards, as my colleague Dennis Pillion reports.

U.S. Senate Reaches Agreement on Permitting Reform: Senate Democrats and Republicans have reached a deal on a bill that would make it easier for energy projects to obtain federal

permits, as Nico Portuondo and Anthony Cruz report for Politico. The agreement is a step toward Congress passing a bill on the subject, which would involve changes to energy and environmental laws. If enacted, the legislation would be significant for all types of energy companies, but this has been a challenging legislative process and there remain many opportunities for the bill to stall.

Next-Generation Geothermal Plant Goes Online in Utah: Fervo Energy has said it's now selling electricity to the grid from its Cape Station project in Utah, a geothermal power plant that uses advanced drilling methods and other new approaches to expand where this kind of system can be built. The plant's opening is a major milestone, but now Fervo and its industry need to reduce costs if advanced geothermal is going to reach its potential, as Maria Gallucci reports for Canary Media. Geothermal power uses the earth's heat to produce electricity.

Longi Breaks Another Record for Solar Panel Efficiency: Longi, the Chinese manufacturer, has produced a solar cell with an efficiency of 28.29 percent, a new record for this type of solar cell, as Emiliano Bellini reports for PV Magazine. This is the third time Longi has broken this record in 2026. A solar panel has many solar cells, and higher cell efficiency means that a solar array can produce more electricity with each panel.

A New Colorado Neighborhood May Offer Glimpse into the Future of Home Energy Use: A geothermal energy startup has equipped about 100 houses in a new development with ground-source heat pumps, showing one approach to shifting home heating away from fossil fuels, as my colleague Phil McKenna reports.

MIRAGE NEWS

Stepping Up Climate Action Through Transparency

UN Climate Change News, 1 October 2026 - Turning climate reporting into stronger policies, clearer investment priorities and measurable results was at the heart of the high-level dialogue on Transparency during Climate Week 4 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Participants highlighted how the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) can help countries advance implementation of the Paris Agreement, while calling for sustained support to build the national systems that make effective reporting possible.

The dialogue brought together COP Presidency representatives, national practitioners and support providers to address challenges in preparing biennial transparency reports (BTRs) and examine how transparency can inform climate action and support. A clear priority emerged: connecting reporting more closely with national decision-making, and investing in the people, institutions and data systems needed to sustain this work over time.

Yalchin Rafiyev, Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister and COP29 Lead Negotiator, opened the dialogue by highlighting transparency as vital to the shift from climate commitments to delivery: "We are entering a new phase of climate diplomacy. The central question is no longer what we have promised; increasingly, it is what we have delivered. That is why transparency is not a technical end of the climate process; it is a bridge between negotiation and implementation."

Fatma Varank, Türkiye's Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, and Chief Climate Negotiator of the COP31 Presidency, underscored the importance of transparency in strengthening national policies and building trust:

"Transparency is the backbone of the Paris Agreement and is essential for the credibility of climate action. It is also a fundamental pillar for building trust, strengthening national policymaking processes, identifying and communicating needs, and supporting the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement."

David Higgins, Deputy Executive Director for Australia's President of Negotiations, highlighted the value of countries' engagement: "Participation in the ETF is the most effective way to further improve reporting and allow countries to reap the benefits of better understanding the tangible impacts of their climate policies, as well as highlighting where further support can catalyze strong climate action."

Ana Toni, COP30 CEO, summed up the importance of good data for effective policymaking: "If you don't have the right data, you cannot do the right policies to get you where you need to be."

Connecting transparency with implementation

The first panel explored how countries are using the ETF to inform policymaking, advance implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and better target climate finance.

Diana Acconcia, Director for International Affairs and Climate Finance at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action and Head of its UNFCCC delegation, emphasized the link between reporting and action: "Transparency should not be the end of the climate policy cycle, it should be the cornerstone of implementation."

She highlighted the importance of strong governance, institutional arrangements, continuous capacity development and closer cooperation between experts and data providers.

Experiences from Costa Rica, Turkmenistan and Lebanon showed how transparency can support national decision-making and climate finance by clarifying baselines, investment needs and priorities.

Addressing challenges and strengthening support

Ruel Yamuna, Pacific COP31 Envoy for Access to Climate Finance, stressed the need to keep support at the centre of ETF implementation: "As we continue to implement the ETF, we should make sure we continue to focus not only on what countries are required to report, but also on what support countries need to report effectively and sustainably."

A presentation by the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on challenges faced by developing countries in collecting data and preparing and submitting BTRs was followed by perspectives from UNEP, UNEP-CBIT GSP, UNDP, GEF, FAO and ICAT on how support providers are helping address these gaps.

The discussion underscored the need for sustained investment in national systems across reporting cycles, alongside strong coordination among support providers.

Xuehong Wang, Director of Transparency at UN Climate Change, closed the dialogue by reinforcing the link between implementation and support: "Transparency turns climate commitments into stronger policies, investable plans and measurable results. It enables countries to understand where they stand, what is working and where further action is needed; and build the trust required for stronger international cooperation."

Around 85 participants attended the dialogue, bringing together perspectives from Parties, support providers and the wider transparency community.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tropical storm's trough to affect parts of Visayas, Mindanao Thursday

By: Dianne Sampang

MANILA, Philippines — The trough of the tropical storm outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) will affect parts of Visayas and Mindanao while Luzon will experience hot and humid weather on Thursday, according to the state weather bureau.

In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, weather specialist Leanne Loreto said that tropical storm Choi-Wan is not expected to enter the PAR. She added that it will not directly affect the country in the next two to three days.

"Itong trough ng tropical storm ang magdadala ng pagbabago sa ating panahon. Posibleng makaranas ng makulimlim na panahon na may kasamang pag-ulan pagkulog at pagkidlat para sa Eastern Visayas, Caraga, at Davao Oriental dulot ng trough," Loreto said.

(The tropical storm's trough will bring changes to our weather. Eastern Visayas, Caraga, and Davao Oriental may experience overcast skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms due to the trough.)

"In the next two to three days, yung trough pa rin ang magdadala ng pag-ulan sa eastern sections ng Visayas at Mindanao," she added.

(The trough will continue to bring rains over the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao in the next two to three days.)

Loreto also noted that the tropical storm was far from the Philippine landmass as it was last estimated 2,945 kilometers east of Central Luzon.

Meanwhile, she said that Luzon will experience hot and humid weather with chances of thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening. She added that the same weather conditions will prevail over other parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

No gale warning was raised in any of the country.

Temperature forecast in the following areas:

- Metro Manila: 24°C to 32°C
- Laoag: 25°C to 33°C
- Baguio: 18°C to 23°C
- Tagaytay: 22°C to 30°C
- Tuguegarao: 26°C to 35°C

- Legazpi: 24°C to 34°C
- Kalayaan Islands: 25°C to 32°C
- Puerto Princesa: 24°C to 32°C
- Iloilo: 24°C to 32°C
- Cebu: 24°C to 32°C
- Tacloban: 24°C to 32°C
- Cagayan de Oro: 24°C to 32°C
- Davao: 23°C to 33°C
- Zamboanga: 25°C to 34°C /jpv

What to expect from weather, tropical cyclone formations in October

By: Dianne Sampang

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau has issued the weather conditions and tropical cyclone formations expected for October this year.

In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Thursday, weather specialist Leanne Loreto discussed the looming termination of the southwest monsoon or habagat, the prevailing effects of the El Niño, and the possible formation of two tropical cyclones.

Loreto said that the habagat season may end by the first part of the month and will be replaced by the northeast monsoon or amihan.

“Pagtapos ng habagat ay magsisimula na yung transition period towards the amihan or northeast monsoon. Itong northeast monsoon ay maaaring magsimula o yung onset nito sa pangalawang bahagi ng buwan ng Oktubre,” Loreto said.

(After the habagat, there will be a transition period towards the amihan or northeast monsoon. The onset of the northeast monsoon may begin on the second part of October.)

While the presence of amihan signifies cool season, Loreto noted that the prevailing El Niño conditions may affect the temperature. Pagasa earlier said that a very strong El Niño may emerge between September and December and is likely to persist until early 2027.

Aside from this, Loreto said that two tropical cyclones may enter the country this month, and will be named Rosal and Samuel. She also said that tropical cyclones have a high chance of making landfall in Luzon and Visayas during this month.

“Dahil active ang El Niño at inaasahang lalakas sa susunod na buwan, maaaring maapektuhan ng El Niño phase ang magiging kalagayan ng ating panahon and yung frequency and behavior ng bagyo,” she added.

(Because El Niño is expected to intensify in the coming months, the El Niño phase may affect our weather conditions and the frequency and behavior of tropical cyclones.)

She also shared that intertropical convergence zone or the convergence of winds from the northern and southern hemispheres, and easterlies or the warm winds coming from the Pacific Ocean may possibly bring rains over parts of the country this month. /jpv

POLITIKO

Super El Niño response: Gov't steps up contingency plans vs drought, water shortage

The government is stepping up preparations to mitigate the impact of a "Super El Niño" or a prolonged dry spell in the country.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has directed government agencies to implement necessary measures to prevent water shortages and severe drought, Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary and Palace press officer Claire Castro said

The state weather bureau earlier warned that El Niño is expected to intensify in the coming months and persist through the first half of 2027. The El Niño phenomenon increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall and may cause dry spells and droughts in some parts of the country.

Castro said the National Irrigation Administration has laid out a mitigation action plan to help farmers cope with reduced water supply during the dry season.

The NIA will use groundwater maps from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to identify possible water sources to support solar-powered pump irrigation systems.

"Paiigtingin din ng NIA ang inventory at maintenance ng solar-powered pump irrigation systems at ang repair and rehabilitation ng mga lumang pump irrigation systems para masiguro na tuloy-tuloy lang ang operasyon ng mga ito," Castro said.

The NIA will also deploy mobile solar pumps in drought-prone and water-stressed areas to provide immediate irrigation support, particularly to vulnerable farming communities.

It will also conduct desilting and clearing operations in irrigation canals to improve water flow and increase their capacity amid an expected decline in water supply.

Other government agencies are also carrying out measures to address the potential effects of a stronger El Niño.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is preparing measures to secure water supply, prevent forest and grass fires, conserve energy, protect employees from extreme heat, and strengthen coordination with other government agencies.

The agency also established small water impounding structures and rainwater harvesting systems to augment water supply.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture is assessing irrigation systems, promoting drought-resistant crops, and considering adjustments to planting schedules.

Castro said financial assistance is also being prepared for affected farmers and fisherfolk, while Malacañang will coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management to determine if additional funding will be needed.

The Department of Energy is preparing for possible disruptions to the power supply, while the Department of Health is strengthening measures against heat-related illnesses, including dehydration.

These include hydration and cooling measures, health monitoring, and assistance for people vulnerable to extreme heat, particularly children, older adults, outdoor workers, and individuals with existing health vulnerabilities.

THE GUARDIAN

Trump the environmentalist? How his Iran war exposed the fragility of dirty energy
By: Oliver Milman

Gavin Newsom says Trump is a 'gift' to the climate cause for dispelling notions of fossil fuel energy security

Of all the epithets hurled at Donald Trump since he became US president, perhaps the most unusual was delivered last week – that he is, in fact, some sort of environmentalist.

Trump is the "greatest gift" to the environmental movement, argued Gavin Newsom, California's governor, due to the fallout from the US-Israel war on Iran.

"He's woken the world up to how vulnerable we are to petro-dictatorships, how vulnerable we are to disruptions in the Middle East," Newsom told the Guardian during Climate Week in New York. "This war has completely gutted any sort of romantic notions of energy security and it's compelled folks to think differently. It's accelerating investments and clean energy and renewables."

If Trump has been an accidental environmentalist, it's been in the international sphere. The strait of Hormuz, where a fifth of the world's oil and gas exports usually flow, is now starting to open up but has been routinely snarled since the Iran war began in February, causing the cost of these fossil fuels to soar around the world.

Countries reacted by scrambling to cut their oil and gas use while turning to cleaner forms of energy such as solar and wind (although there's also been a small rise in coal, the dirtiest of fossil fuels).

The overall consequence has been a positive one for our shared climate, with global fossil fuel emissions set to drop by 0.5% this year due to the crisis, Carbon Brief has estimated. The peak in oil consumption may have been sped up enough to arrive this year, rather than the previous estimate of 2029, according to the International Energy Agency.

By launching the war, Trump is set to achieve something only dreamed about by climate advocates and not seen outside global economic crashes or the Covid pandemic – an annual reduction in the emissions that are overheating our planet. The president's imposition of tariffs and importation of foreign ground beef, meanwhile, may also end up hurting the US cattle industry, another major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

"It's a curious thing to say, but I believe it," Newsom, a potential contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, said of Trump as a sort of unintentional biophile. "This moment will mark how we can't go back to our original form."

Yet the idea of Trump as an environmentalist, even an accidental one, can still appear faintly absurd. His administration has eviscerated pollution limits on cars, trucks and power plants, funnelled taxpayer cash and favors to the fossil fuel industry and set about unilaterally cancelling renewable energy projects.

Trump, who has never by available evidence ever set a Florsheimed foot in any of the US's national parks, has called environmentalists "terrorists", the climate crisis "a hoax" and has slashed conservation rules to the extent you can now kill a protected species as long as it wasn't provably intentional.

Perhaps tellingly, when asked during the 2024 election campaign about his environmental credentials, Trump cited his Florida golf course getting awards for "the way I built it, for the water, the way I use the water, the sand, the mixing of the sand and the water".

Critics say this record overshadows any embrace of clean energy by other countries spooked by an oil price that has hovered about $100 a barrel for months but should, at some point in the interminable Iran conflict, drop well below this. The impetus for quitting fossil fuels could wither when it does so.

"Trump's illegal attack on Iran may hasten clean energy in some countries, but he has gutted green tech in the United States and set us back decades," said Rob Jackson, a climate scientist at Stanford University who said Newsom was guilty of "tunnel vision" in his framing of Trump. "The notion that he is an accidental environmentalist is wishful thinking."

The conflict may have rocked the oil and gas industry but it has also enriched it, netting eight of the largest companies more than $90bn in just the first three months of the war, with even pro-oil Trump complaining that the major fossil fuel firms are "making too much money".

There is little sign big oil fears a looming obsolescence when this bonanza ends. Last month, Exxon forecast that while the world will reduce its emissions, it will still use 105m barrels of oil a day in 2050, up from 100m barrels last year. Two-thirds of the global energy mix will stubbornly remain composed of oil, gas and coal at the midpoint of the century, the oil company estimated.

"All of the oil that is produced will be burned – if they produce more, more will be used," said Juan Carlos Navarro, environment minister of Panama. "The people who predict that there will be a reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases are simply lying or blind."

The only hope is that the world "can cap consumption and production at levels similar to the ones we have right now", Navarro added, citing the enormous energy demand of artificial intelligence datacenters, which are largely being run on gas-fired power.

However, climate advocates maintain the Iran conflict will accelerate trends that are already swinging behind clean energy. Investment in renewables globally is now double that of fossil

fuels, almost all new power being added to grids comes from clean sources and last year one in four cars sold was electric.

Unlike previous oil shocks, the world now has a viable alternative to fossil fuels, even if it's unclear how lasting an impact Trump's military and trade actions will have in pushing countries towards them. "There is one thing that all these events are making clear," Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission said in April. "We are paying a very high price for our over-dependency on fossil fuels."

Countries from the UK to India to Thailand have sought to speed up the transition to renewables as the price of fossil fuel dependency has spiraled, saving billions. Electric vehicle sales have surged, although not in the US. Trump has urged other countries to reject the "scam" of clean energy but the market is increasingly favoring cheap wind, solar and batteries that have plummeted in cost in recent years, including in the US.

"Demand has massively spiked for solar and for battery storage," said Sonia Dunlop, chief executive of the Global Solar Council. "We're seeing that all over the world – the Philippines, across Europe, across south-east Asia, Australia and beyond."

"This Iran crisis, which was, in effect, started by President Trump, has led to a massive surge in demand for our technology … but actually it's just building on a trend that was already there," she added.

Political and business leaders can mull the fact that the wind does not funnel through the strait of Hormuz and the sun doesn't only shine on a foreign autocrat's lands. The Iran war may not prove a fatal blow to fossil fuels, but it has starkly highlighted their inherent volatility.

The case for renewables has become obvious at a grassroots level in developing countries, too, where rooftops increasingly glitter with cheap Chinese-made solar panels that are helping negate soaring power bills.

"The price of solar has come down so quickly that there are now 100,000 solar panels installed every day in Africa," Al Gore, the former US vice-president, said last week. "In parts of Pakistan, a common bride's dowry is now three panels and an inverter, instead of 10 or 12 goats. It's beginning to kick into gear."

This momentum won't stop once the conflict around the Persian Gulf ends, Dunlop insisted. "I don't think the world is just going to go back to business-as-usual demand of fossil fuels once this crisis ends," she said. "Once someone decides to step off the fossil fuel rollercoaster, they're off it."

So does all this, then, make Trump an environmentalist? "I wouldn't say that," Dunlop demurred. "He certainly has his own ideas."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ATENEO DE MANILA

From climate learning to campus action: Team Ateneo brings MAGISphere to YCLAP
By: Clariz S Pillos

Young people from nine (9) universities gathered at the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) Youth Climate Leadership Accelerator Project (Youth CLAP) to learn about climate change, develop climate action solutions, and turn their ideas into projects. The program culminated in an Innovation Showcase on 26 September 2026 at the Philippine Normal University where participating teams presented their proposed innovations to a panel of judges.

Among the participating teams was Ateneo de Manila University, whose project, “MAGISphere”, uses digital engagement and citizen science to encourage students to discover and monitor biodiversity around the Loyola Heights campus.

From Understanding Climate Change to Developing Solutions

The first Youth CLAP session, held virtually on 15 August 2026, introduced participants to the foundations of climate action. Speakers discussed the science behind climate change, mitigation and adaptation, climate impacts and justice, and climate governance at the global, national, and local levels. Participants also explored nature-based solutions and the role of young people in climate action.

The second session, held onsite at Mapua University Makati Campus on 22 August 2026, shifted toward applying these concepts. Participants examined the costs and impacts of climate change, revisited their identified problems and learned about private-sector initiatives for climate action. The students also began developing their Campaign Canvases, identifying their goals, target audiences, activities, and approaches for monitoring their projects.

The third session, held virtually on 29 August 2026, further deepened participants’ understanding through discussions with experts in climate science, ecosystem management, youth development, and private-sector climate action. Participants consulted with mentors about their Innovation Showcase projects and worked on strengthening their pitches.

The following weeks focused on mentorship and project development. Participants refined their Campaign Canvases and prepared their pitch decks and concept notes in preparation for the culminating Innovation Showcase. We thank Jack Lorenz (Jlove), OSCI Binhi formator, for being our faculty companion and guiding us during the sessions.

Together, these sessions moved participants from understanding climate change to asking a more practical question: What can young people actually do about it?

For Team Ateneo, the answer took the form of a website, MAGISphere.

Their project, MAGISphere, is an interactive biodiversity platform designed to make Ateneo's trees and other species more visible, accessible, and engaging to students. The platform combines an interactive campus map, species guides, climate resilience information, and gamified activities. Students can explore biodiversity around campus, record observations, earn points and badges, and participate in challenges designed to encourage repeated engagement.

At its core, MAGISphere aims to turn ordinary walks around campus into opportunities to learn about and contribute to biodiversity monitoring.

The project also seeks to generate community-based biodiversity data that could eventually support conservation, planting, and maintenance efforts in coordination with relevant Ateneo offices, researchers, and environmental groups.

From the Website to the Innovation Showcase

On 26 September 2026, Team Ateneo brought MAGISphere to the Innovation Showcase at PNU, joining eight (8) other university teams in presenting their climate action proposals.

Representatives Katherine Leal and Nathanielle Sophia Alaethea Araneta delivered Team Ateneo's pitch, while the team also presented the platform through its exhibition booth. Visitors and judges were introduced to MAGISphere's mission and vision, as well as its four main components: Learn, Play, Explore, and Grow.

During the question-and-answer portion and the judges' visit to the booth, the team received suggestions for expanding MAGISphere beyond biodiversity monitoring. Among the ideas raised were incorporating disaster risk reduction information, such as flood- and earthquake-risk areas and evacuation sites and eventually adapting the platform for other universities, parks, and areas across the Philippines.

The Innovation Showcase concluded with the awarding of certificates, badges, and special awards to the participating teams. Team Ateneo received the Excellence in Youth Engagement Award.

For Team Ateneo, the project continues beyond the YCLAP Showcase. MAGISphere is envisioned to be further developed and eventually integrated into campus activities, encouraging students to learn about native biodiversity while contributing to a growing record of species and observations around Ateneo.

Team Ateneo is composed of Alfonso A Albano (3 BS AMDSc), Nathanielle Sophia Alaethea C Araneta (3 BS LM), Sophia Aliza Caverte (3 AB MEC), Katherine G Leal (2 BS BIO), Charisse M Macapagal (3 BS APS-MSE), Aleij Jill L Mendoza (3 BS CTM), Ivan B Nite (3 AB MEC), Clariz Pillos (3 BS ES), and Mar Angelo N Revelo (2 BS MGT). The innovation showcase was

extended to interested students that are not part of the cohort: Linang Lumari Echanis (4 BS BIO), Marc Joshua S Biala (3 BS BIO), and Antonie Ivette Degala (3 BS LSD). The project was guided by Ms Shenina Badua, from the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Social and Environmental Engagement for Development and Sustainability (OAVP-SEEDS).

Other participating schools included Mapua University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela, Philippine Normal University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Quezon City University, Taguig City University, University of Santo Tomas, and University of the Philippines.

The student participants applied to be part of the cohort through the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Social and Environmental Engagement for Development and Sustainability (OAVP-SEEDS).

MANILA STANDARD

PH, UN strengthen tie-up on Article 6 implementation, carbon market

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) said any domestic carbon pricing framework should support national development, uphold market integrity and mobilize concrete investments toward a low-carbon economy, as the Philippines and the United Nations (UN) deepen cooperation on carbon market readiness under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The CCC made the statement at the Philippine Country Workshop on Carbon Pricing Towards a Carbon Diagnostic in Southeast Asia on Sept. 18 at the UN House Manila.

The event brought together government, the private sector, civil society, development partners and other stakeholders to discuss the country's carbon market readiness and Article 6 implementation.

CCC vice-chairperson and executive-director Robert Borje said the Philippines should first establish what policy problem carbon pricing is meant to address and whether it is the right instrument given the country's development priorities and climate commitments.

"For the Philippines, the first question is not how to build a carbon market. It is what policy problem a carbon price is expected to solve, and whether carbon pricing is the appropriate instrument designed around national development priorities and our NDC [nationally determined contribution]," Borje said.

He said the carbon-pricing diagnostic should consider the sectors and emissions to be covered, the appropriate policy instrument, institutional capacity, impacts on households and businesses, use of revenues and safeguards for market integrity.

Borje said carbon pricing should complement, not replace, climate finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and investments in enabling infrastructure.

"The relevant test is not whether a carbon market can generate trade. It is whether the chosen instrument can reduce emissions cost-effectively, distribute burdens fairly, and support Philippine development and implementation of our NDC," he said.

The Philippines does not yet have an economy-wide mandatory carbon-pricing system, but it has advanced related initiatives. These include its Article 6 Implementation Agreement with Singapore, the transition of its Joint Crediting Mechanism with Japan toward Article 6, guidelines for carbon credits in the energy sector and the Roadmap to Readiness in the Voluntary Forest Carbon Market.

The proposed low carbon economy investment (LCEI) bill also seeks to establish mechanisms for carbon emissions pricing and mobilize investments in low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

House Committee on Climate Change chairperson Rep. Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon cited the LCEI Bill's provisions on carbon emissions pricing, greenhouse gas inventory and verification, sectoral and enterprise decarbonization plans, climate finance and incentives and participation in international carbon markets.

"Reimagining and reinventing the way we live and do business are a moral and categorical imperative. Indeed, we do not have a moment to lose—we have to be part of the solution," Veloso-Tuazon said.

UN resident coordinator in the Philippines Arnaud Peral said the country's updated NDC provides an important roadmap for climate action, and that the discussions offer tools to help it move faster toward a low-carbon economy.

"We are encouraged by the Philippines' commitment to climate action through updating of the Nationally Determined Contribution which will be a fantastic roadmap for all of us," Peral said.

He said the transition is "not just a climate agenda, but also an economic agenda, a social agenda, a fiscal agenda."

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement provides a framework for countries to cooperate in meeting their climate targets through market- and non-market-based approaches, including internationally transferred mitigation outcomes. Implementation requires robust accounting, transparency and safeguards to ensure environmental integrity and prevent double counting of emissions reductions.

Water flow cut; Palace girds for El Niño

By: Charles Dantes, Ram Superable, Rex Espiritu & Maricel Cruz

Water authorities have reduced Metro Manila's water allocation as the government steps up preparations for a potentially stronger El Niño, Malacañang said Thursday, warning the public against panic-buying and hoarding bottled water.

The weather phenomenon has impacted 356,800 individuals, or 189,994 families, across 3,463 barangays nationwide, data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development showed.

The agency also identified Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Oriental Mindoro, Catanduanes, Albay, Cebu, and Leyte as the most severely affected provinces.

Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said the government could not guarantee that Metro Manila would avoid severe water shortages similar to the 2019 water crisis but said preparations were already underway.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has directed government agencies to coordinate measures covering water supply, agriculture, irrigation and social protection as the country braces for the possible intensification of the weather phenomenon.

The National Water Resources Board has reduced Metro Manila's water allocation from 52-53 cubic meters per second to 44 cubic meters per second beginning October amid concerns over the possible impact of the super El Niño.

Castro said several agencies are coordinating with the Climate Change Commission to prepare for the expected effects of El Niño, which could intensify into a "very strong" El Niño between September and December 2026 and persist through the first half of 2027.

"As we said, we are ready for that. Whatever happens, we still need to prepare, however intense it is, that is what we must prepare for," Castro said.

"I can't say whether we won't experience extreme drought. All we really need is to prepare and that is what the government is doing," she added.

Castro said households should conserve and store reasonable amounts of water when appropriate but should follow government guidance rather than panic-buying.

Malacañang also said infrastructure spending must continue despite potential disruptions from the projected El Niño, as government expenditure remains important to economic activity.

Castro said the Department of Budget and Management recognizes the need to sustain government spending, particularly on infrastructure.

“I raised this issue directly with the DBM, and the DBM’s response is that they themselves will answer it,” the Palace spokesperson said.

The DSWD has already released more than P714 million in humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the severe dry spell brought by El Niño.

DSWD Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao of the Disaster Response Management Group said the assistance included 43,504 family food packs, 3,660 water containers, 4,967 other food items and 2,300 non-food items.

Meanwhile, Senator Jinggoy Estrada has filed Senate Resolution No. 656 seeking an immediate investigation into the government’s readiness for a projected “supersized” El Niño that could last until 2027.

The resolution calls on the Senate to designate an appropriate committee to assess government readiness and exercise oversight over disaster mitigation measures.

The Climate Change Commission, for its part, has called for stronger predictive governance as the country prepares for the possible intensification of the ongoing Strong El Niño.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the need to use climate forecasts and risk information to anticipate impacts and guide timely decisions.

Predictive governance, he said, requires coordinated action among national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), communities, the private sector, and other stakeholders, with climate information translated into decisions relevant to specific sectors and localities.

“Predictive governance means using the climate information available to us today to anticipate the risks we may face tomorrow. As we prepare for the potential intensification of El Niño, we must translate forecasts into timely decisions and concrete actions that protect our communities, livelihoods, and essential resources,” Borje said.

The CCC called for stronger integration of climate projections, risk assessments, and scenario-based planning into local development planning, disaster risk reduction and management, and sectoral adaptation measures.

These may include water conservation and supply contingency planning, climate-informed agricultural decisions, early warning dissemination, and health preparedness, based on projected risks and local conditions.

Borje said preparedness should begin before the full impacts of prolonged dry conditions are felt, allowing institutions to identify vulnerabilities and prepare resources and interventions in advance.

“We should not wait for impacts to fully materialize before taking action. Forecasts and risk assessments can help us determine where vulnerabilities may emerge, what resources may be needed, and what measures can be put in place early,” he said.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Philippines carbon emissions keep rising – CCC

By: Brix Lelis

MANILA, Philippines — Even as Filipino businesses become more operationally efficient, the country's carbon emissions continue to rise, according to the Climate Change Commission.

CCC vice chairman and executive director Robert Borje said individual actions alone cannot bend the country's emissions curve; instead, decisions made jointly by the government and the private sector will shape it.

"At the national level, the absolute emissions trajectory still moves, however, in the opposite direction," Borje told corporate executives during the Philippine Net Zero Conference.

He said the country's fossil carbon dioxide emissions have increased by 25 percent since 2021, noting that national emissions intensity "did not fall at all."

"It grew. And over the last decade, our grid appears to show carbon intensity rising," Borje said.

Emissions intensity measures how much greenhouse gas (GHG) is produced for each unit of economic output, energy use or activity.

Under its nationally determined contribution, the Philippines has committed to cutting its GHG emissions by 75 percent through 2035.

Of that target, seven percent is unconditional, while 68 percent is conditional.

The unconditional component covers measures the country can undertake using its own resources, without relying on external funding.

The conditional component, meanwhile, depends on international climate finance, technology transfer, capacity building and public-private investment.

"The private sector is indispensable to achieving these goals, but it cannot be expected to carry the financial burden alone," Borje said.

He stressed that the CCC is ready to work closely with the private sector, including the Net Zero Carbon Alliance, to help create supportive policy frameworks.

"I am inviting this alliance to work with the government on green concrete work streams, again, critical carbon market architecture, comparable emissions information and spectral pathways grounded in real assets and real investment decisions," Borje said.

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