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By: Lou Albano

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has launched the Gender Action Plan (GAP) of the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2024-2030, signifying the country's deep commitment towards gender-responsive climate action.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Ramon Ang, Glenn Banaguas, Dante Ang II lead climate change awards](#)

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[Climate change made deadly Hurricane Helene more intense — study](#)

Hurricane Helene's torrential rain and powerful winds were made about 10 percent more intense due to climate change, according to a study published Wednesday by the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group.

Although a 10 percent increase "might seem relatively small... that small change in the hazard really leads to big change in impacts and damage," said climate scientist Friederike Otto, who heads the research organization.

The study also found that fossil fuels — the primary cause of climate change — have made hurricanes like Helene 2.5 times more likely to occur.

In other words, storms of Helene's magnitude were formerly anticipated once every 130 years, but now the probability is closer to once every 53 years, on average.

To conduct the study, researchers focused on three aspects of Hurricane Helene: precipitation, winds and the water temperature of the Gulf of Mexico — a key factor in its formation.

"All aspects of this event were amplified by climate change to different degrees," Ben Clarke, a co-author of the study and researcher at Imperial College London, told a press conference.

"And we'll see more of the same as the world continues to warm," he continued.

The research by WWA, an international group of scientists and meteorologists who study the role of climate change in extreme weather events, comes as the southeastern US state of Florida prepares for the arrival of another major hurricane, Milton, just 10 days after it was hit by Helene.

DESTRUCTION

Helene made landfall in northwestern Florida on September 26 as a Category 4 hurricane with winds up to 140 mph (225 kph).

The storm then moved north, causing heavy rain and devastating floods in several states, including North Carolina, where it claimed the highest death toll.

The authors of the study emphasized that the risk posed by hurricanes has increased in scope beyond coastal areas.

Bernadette Woods Placky, chief meteorologist at NGO Climate Central, said Helene "had so much intensity" that it would take time for it to lose strength, but the "storm was moving fast... so it could go farther inland pretty quickly."

This study utilized three methodologies to examine the three aspects of the storm, and was conducted by researchers from the US, the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands.

To study its rainfall, researchers used an approach based on both observation and climate models, depending on the two regions involved: one for coastal areas like Florida, and another for inland areas like the Appalachian mountains.

In both cases, the study found precipitation had increased by 10 percent because of global warming, which is currently at 1.3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

To study Helene's winds, scientists looked at hurricane data dating back as far as 1900.

They determined Helene's winds were 11 percent stronger, or 13 mph (21 kph), as a result of climate change.

Lastly, the researchers examined the water temperature in the Gulf of Mexico, where Helene formed, finding it was around 2 degrees Celsius above normal.

This record temperature was made 200 to 500 times more likely due to climate change, the study asserts.

Warmer oceans release more water vapor, providing more energy for storms as they form.

"If humans continue to burn fossil fuels, the US will face even more destructive hurricanes," Clarke warned in a statement.

GMA NEWS

[Overshooting 1.5C risks 'irreversible' climate impact — study](#)

By: Nick Perry

Any breach of what climate scientists agree is the safer limit on global warming would result in "irreversible consequences" for the planet, said a major academic study published on Wednesday.

Even temporarily exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius before bringing temperatures back down -- a scenario known as an "overshoot" -- could cause sea level rises and other disastrous repercussions that might last a millenia.

This "does away with the notion that overshoot delivers a similar climate outcome" to a future where more was done earlier to curb global warming, said Carl-Friedrich Schleussner, who led the study co-authored by 30 scientists.

The findings, three years in the making, are urgent, as the goal of capping global temperature rises at 1.5C above pre-industrial levels is slipping out of reach.

Emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases must nearly halve by 2030 if the world is to reach 1.5C -- the more ambitious target enshrined in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Currently however, they are still rising.

Some kind of overshoot of 1.5C is increasingly being seen as inevitable by scientists and policymakers.

This new study, published in the peer-reviewed journal Nature, cautions against "overconfidence" in such a scenario when the dangers are not fully appreciated.

An overshoot could trigger impacts that last hundreds if not thousands of years, or cross "tipping points" that prompt large and unrepairable changes in earth's climate system, the scientists warn.

It could mean the thawing of permafrost and peatlands, carbon-rich landscapes that would release huge volumes of planet-heating greenhouse gases if lost.

And sea levels could rise an additional 40 centimeters (16 inches) if 1.5C is exceeded for a century, the authors said, an existential difference for vulnerable low-level island nations.

"For most climate indicators, there are irreversible consequences due to the temporary exceedance of, for example, the 1.5 degree limit," said Schleussner from the Austria-based International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis.

"Even if you brought temperatures back down again, the world that we are looking at is not the same as if you didn't overshoot."

Act now

Taken together, the world's existing pledges for climate action would result in nearly 3C of warming by 2100, according to the UN.

To reach 1.5C, emissions must be at net zero by 2050, which means balancing the amount of carbon dioxide produced against the amount humanity can remove from the atmosphere via technology.

This process, known as carbon removal, would need to be massively scaled up to pull global temperatures back down in the event of an overshoot, something that is far from guaranteed.

"We cannot be confident that temperature decline after overshoot is achievable within the timescales expected today," the authors wrote.

Schleussner said their findings reinforced "the urgency of governments acting to reduce emissions now and not later down the line, to keep peak warming as low as possible".

"If you want to limit the climate risks in an effective manner, the race to net zero needs to be seen for what it is," he said.

MANILA STANDARD

[APMCDRR 2024: Harnessing AI, space tech for disaster resilience](#)

This year's Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) will spotlight how satellites, drones, and artificial intelligence (AI) can transform disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Scheduled October 14 to 18 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, the event will explore the potential of these technologies to enhance disaster prediction, preparedness, and response.

AI has become crucial to achieving resilience with the growing frequency of disasters. According to Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, "As climate change intensifies disaster risks, integrating technologies like AI and space-based systems into our DRR strategies is vital for a safer, more resilient future. APMCDRR serves as a platform for collaboration on solutions that protect both people and the environment."

In recent years, the Philippines has advanced its disaster management through AI-powered tools, including initiatives under GeoRisk Philippines, a multi-agency initiative led by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) and funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). It was created to provide protocols and platforms to share hazards, exposure, and other risk information to help people, communities, local governments, and national agencies prepare and plan how to reduce the risks from natural hazards.

Led by Secretary Renato Solidum of the Department of Science and Technology and Professor Saini Yang of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), the conference will highlight how AI, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), satellite technologies, and local and indigenous knowledge can improve weather forecasts and risk assessments. These innovations, in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, aim to reduce disaster risks and protect lives and livelihoods.

The discussions will also emphasize blending modern technology with nature-based solutions and traditional practices to safeguard ecosystems from climate impacts—an issue especially relevant to the Philippines, local and indigenous knowledge.

PCO

[PBBM calls for more connected, resilient Southeast Asia](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday called on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to boost the connectivity and resilience in the region by confronting other complex challenges ahead.

In his speech during the 44th ASEAN Summit plenary, President Marcos emphasized the need for ASEAN member-nations to work hand-in-hand in bolstering the region's digital economy, food security, tourism, and women empowerment and gender equality.

President Marcos also cited the importance of working together to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"This success should inspire us to tackle – to continue to tackle the other complex challenges ahead. We must continue to deepen our connectivity and fortify our resilience to ensure that we are prepared for emerging challenges and for future shocks," he said.

"While connectivity strengthens the bonds that bind our community, resilience ensures that ASEAN can endure and adapt to the challenges that may arise," he added.

For digital economy, the President said they should lay the groundwork for a safe and trusted digital environment that can propel ASEAN into a new era of innovation, growth and opportunity.

The President said they should invest in robust cybersecurity protection, equip its people with digital skills and secure its digital infrastructure as the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) is poised to boost the region's digital economy to US\$2 trillion by 2030.

In terms of food security, President Marcos said ASEAN members must adopt sustainable agricultural practices to boost the food systems in the region amid threats caused by supply chain disruptions, economic shocks, and weather disturbances.

"We must support efforts that empower and support our farming communities and leverage agricultural technological innovations," President Marcos told the ASEAN.

He also highlighted the Philippines' advancement in the ASEAN regional tourism action plans, promoting the region's rich culture and heritage, and efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable tourism across the region.

The Chief Executive also shared the Philippine government's efforts in promoting women empowerment and gender equality as he recognized women's significant role in ASEAN community-building, especially in peacebuilding initiatives.

“Women’s unique perspectives and experiences are critical to building a just and lasting peace. The Philippines is hosting an International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security

in Manila this October,” the President said.

“In line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the Philippines seeks to advance efforts that would ensure that women are at the forefront of peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding,” he added.

The President also called on members of the ASEAN to work together to mitigate the effects of climate change, which he considered as the biggest threat to humanity. He added that Southeast Asia remains one of the most vulnerable to climate change.

President Marcos also highlighted the Philippines’ successful hosting of the Loss and Damage Fund.

“As part of our efforts to bolster cooperation on disaster risk reduction and management, the Philippines will be hosting the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in October,” the President said.

“ASEAN must likewise focus on the intersection of climate change and biodiversity. Protecting our rich biodiversity is essential to maintaining the ecosystems that support all of our life. To this end, the Philippines has increased its funding of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity by 25 percent this year, in order to support efforts on the conservation and management of the region’s biological diversity,” he added.

President Marcos urged the ASEAN “to harness to the fullest strength” the external relationships in enriching ASEAN Community-building and continuously strengthen engagement with external partners to reinforce ASEAN Centrality, promote mutual trust, and uphold a rules-based international order that safeguards peace, stability, security, and prosperity for all.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Making local health systems climate-resilient](#)

By: Renzo R. Guinto - MD - DrPH

In the annual convention of the Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians on Sept. 20 to 21, I urged our country's public health community to expand their healing mission—to consider the Earth's illnesses while caring for the health of individuals. The health of people and that of the planet are inextricably interlinked, an ancient wisdom long acknowledged by our country's indigenous communities.

Climate change affects human health in diverse ways—from injuries caused by typhoons and heat stroke during torrid temperatures, to worsening undernutrition due to crop failures, and now, growing “climate anxiety” especially among young people. Climate change also impacts health systems by adding extra burden on already overwhelmed health facilities and disrupting the delivery of services and medical supplies. Ultimately, climate change will widen existing health inequalities and disproportionately affect the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized.

Given these impacts, health systems worldwide must embrace climate change as one of the new challenges that they must urgently address. Like other sectors such as agriculture, the health sector must take two types of climate action—climate mitigation, which pertains to lowering greenhouse gas emissions to slow down or stop the progression of climate change, and climate adaptation, which refers to the reduction of climate risks and tackling climate impacts. To achieve these, health systems must become environmentally sustainable and climate resilient.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Climate change is 'biggest' security challenge: Germany's Baerbock

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Tuesday called for stronger international efforts to meet climate protection goals, warning that insufficient progress could lead to new conflicts, and exacerbate existing conflicts.

"The climate crisis is the biggest security challenge of our time. The climate crisis could escalate existing conflicts massively, leading to massive displacement and forced migration, and thereby exacerbating global instability," Baerbock said.

Delivering a speech at the Berlin Climate and Security Conference, she said the German government's climate policy is not only for environmental protection but also an integral part of the country's foreign and security policy.

Baerbock underlined that climate change poses a threat not only to the countries in fragile and conflict-affected regions but also to countries known as stable democracies.

"If the global warming reaches 2 degrees Celsius, at least 189 million people will face food insecurity," Baerbock warned, referring to the latest estimates by climate experts.

"And if global warming reaches 4 degrees Celsius, 1.8 billion people, 20 percent of the world's population, would need food assistance," she said, renewing her call on all countries to take action to accelerate the transition away from oil, gas, and coal.

"We should be aware of this in every political decision we take. We should be aware of what it means for the next 20 to 30 years for our own security. I think it is worth every effort," she said.

Baerbock underlined that next month's UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in Baku will be very important to advance international efforts for climate protection.

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[Phl launches gender action plan for 'Nationally Determined Contribution'](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Philippines has launched a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to ensure that gender considerations are at the forefront of its efforts to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) led the launch at the ADB Headquarters in Mandaluyong City this week. The GAP aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent and increase the share of renewable energy to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

CCC commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera stressed the importance of equipping women with informed decisions, resources, and organization in the face of climate change. "We recognize that climate change is not gender neutral," she said.

Winfried Wicklein, ADB director general for the Southeast Asia Regional Department, noted that the NDC-GAP will serve as a tool to guide government and stakeholders in integrating gender considerations into climate change policies.

The CCC mentioned that the Asia and Pacific region is gaining momentum in recognizing the importance of gender equality in climate action. As of 2023, 37 out of 49 countries with NDCs acknowledge the interlinkages between gender and climate change.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga stressed that the GAP is expected to push for greenhouse gas reduction efforts that will ensure women are less disproportionately impacted by climate change. She also noted that financial assistance will be equitably distributed and prioritize those most vulnerable.

GMA NEWS

[PH launches Nationally Determined Contribution Gender Action Plan](#)

By: Lou Albano

The Philippines has launched its Nationally Determined Contribution Gender Action Plan (NDC GAP) earlier this week at the ADB Headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

"We recognize that climate change is not gender neutral," Climate Change Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said at the launch, adding "women need to be equipped to make informed decisions, access resources, and organized themselves in the face of climate change."

The NDC GAP is a tool that guides government and stakeholders in the climate change sector in integrating gender considerations across the NDC process, the ADB said.

"It is designed to serve as a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of gender-responsive NDC implementation," it added on its website.

Initiated by Herrera in 2021, the NDC GAP will support the gender-responsive implementation of the NDC, serving as a road map to integrate gender and social inclusion in climate change policies as well as measures of four lead agencies: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Transportation.

"The Gender Action Plan with the NDC now means GHG emission reduction and avoidance of emissions will not come at the expense of women and other disadvantaged groups, [that] financial support for transformation will be distributed more equitably, and economic gains will be enjoyed by communities more equitably," said Analiza Teh, Undersecretary for Finance, Information System and Climate Change of the DENR.

Said Herrera, the "NDC GAP is a reaffirmation of our nation's commitment to global climate action as a party under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement."

The Philippines submitted its NDC in 2021, committing to reduce 75% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, with the country aiming to increase its renewable energy share to 35% of power generation by the same year, and up to 50% by 2040.

"These commitments are not just mere numbers. They represent our vision for a sustainable future," Herrera continued.

According to Herrera, four thematic areas — Governance, Adaptation and Mitigation, Measurement, reporting and verification, as well as Finance — were analyzed before gaps were identified.

"We actually started the work in 2021, thought the Climate Change Commission but we had to revisit because the findings after the pandemic, we felt it was not sufficiently reflective of the readjustment of priorities of the government," Herrera told GMA News Online at the sideline of the launch.

Winfried Wicklein, Director General of the Southeast Asia Regional Department, said 37 out of 49 countries with NDCs have acknowledged the linkage of gender and climate.

In his presentation, Wicklein pointed out that the Philippines is only the fourth country to integrate gender into climate policies, following Cambodia, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Under the Paris Agreement of 2015, countries are required to submitted their climate action plans also known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs, which outlines how it plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help meet the 1.5C global goal.

Countries need to submit updated NDCs every five years, with the next round happening in 2025. According to Herrera, the recently launched GAP "should be contained there."

"We mentioned gender in the NDC but not very specific as to the strategies. I think it will be easier for us to discuss to have a stronger statement in the NDC in the next iteration," she said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC launches gender action plan to back PH's climate commitments](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has launched the Gender Action Plan (GAP) of the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2024-2030, signifying the country's deep commitment towards gender-responsive climate action.

The plan, adopted for the agriculture, energy, waste and industry, and transportation sectors, was developed through technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and will be rolled out with support from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

The CCC said the GAP is aligned with the country's NDC and its Implementation Plan (NDCIP) that was finalized under the current administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Consistent with President Marcos' vision for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development, the NDC Gender Action Plan ensures that gender considerations are central to the Philippines' efforts to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent and increase the share of renewable energy to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

"ADB is pleased to work with the Government of the Philippines to integrate gender equality in climate change strategies and programs. While evidence shows that women are disproportionately affected by disasters and climate change impacts, they have limited opportunities to participate in the decisions that affect them or to lead climate responses," Winfried Wicklein, ADB Director General for the Southeast Asia Regional Department, said during the launch of GAP at the ADB Office in Mandaluyong City on Oct. 7.

The Asia and the Pacific region are building momentum in recognizing the importance of gender equality in climate action and implementing concrete measures to achieve it.

As of 2023, 37 out of 49 countries with NDCs have acknowledged the interlinkages between gender and climate change.

"Our Gender Action Plan resolves that, first, greenhouse gas reduction efforts will ensure women are less disproportionately impacted by climate change; second, financial assistance will be equitably distributed and prioritize those most vulnerable; and finally, economic gains, improved security, and resilience will be enjoyed more equitably across all communities," Environment Secretary and official representative of President Marcos in the CCC, Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, said.

The NDC Gender Action Plan is a landmark achievement as the Philippines now joins the ranks of countries on a clear path towards gender-responsive climate policy

operation with the AFD playing a key role in providing critical operational and technical assistance for its successful implementation.

“Climate change is a cornerstone of French diplomacy, and we are equally committed to advancing gender equality through our feminist foreign policy. This is why France proudly supports the Philippines’ NDC GAP by providing technical assistance to the CCC through AFD,” Her Excellency Marie Fontanel, ambassador of the French Republic to the Philippines, said.

In March 2024, AFD signed a grant financing agreement with the CCC to provide 255,000 euros (PHP15.9 million) to further advance the implementation of the NDC GAP, ensuring that gender considerations are fully integrated into climate change policies across critical sectors.

The NDC GAP ensures that policies on reducing emissions integrate gender considerations in the critical sectors of agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy.

The plan provides for the establishment of a Gender and Climate Change Advisory Group, customized gender guidelines for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, capacity building and development, sex-disaggregated databases, climate and vulnerability assessments, and monitoring and evaluation.

“With this plan in place, we look forward to seeing more women equipped with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions, access resources, and take timely climate action in their communities,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point and CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera thanked the government partners and ADB for the collaborative process that produced the NDC GAP.

“This Plan will serve to improve the capacity of gender focal points in our NDC sector-specific agencies to design and implement emissions reduction programs while addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change on women,” she said. “We look forward to seeing increased collaboration on gender integration among climate change multi-agency committees and councils, and enhanced GAD strategies and gender actions to address climate change.”

“I also want to commend the efforts of the various sectors involved and their commitment to driving the NDC GAP forward,” added.

The Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of Transportation affirmed their commitment to the NDC GAP and will supervise the progress of its implementation.

Chairperson Ermelita V. Valdeavilla of the Philippine Commission on Women capped the event by emphasizing that the GAP NDC is not just a plan.

“It’s a call to arms for collective action wherein everyone commits to roll up their sleeves and work together for a sustainable future,” she added.

THE MANILA TIMES

Ramon Ang, Glenn Banaguas, Dante Ang II lead climate change awards

The Climate Change Commission proudly hosted the Climate Change Hero Awards at the Manila Marriott Hotel, Pasay City. This prestigious event celebrated the extraordinary contributions of individuals and organizations in the fight against climate change.

Themed "Bagong teknolohiya sa nagbabagong klima para sa bagong Pilipinas: A climate change summit," the event highlighted groundbreaking technologies and strategies, fostering collaboration and inspiring collective action.

The event featured several key highlights, including the launch of the One Million Improved Cookstoves Program. The awards ceremony honored individuals and organizations for their significant impacts in combating climate change.

Among the distinguished awardees were Glenn Banaguas, Ramon Ang and Dante Ang II.

Banaguas, a world-renowned science diplomat and United Nations Sasakawa Laureate, was honored for his pioneering work in climate change, disaster risk reduction, resilience and sustainability. His initiatives have not only mitigated the impacts of climate change but also empowered both the public and private sectors to enhance resilient and sustainable programs.

Under his leadership, Ang's company has implemented numerous green initiatives, including investing in renewable energy and promoting sustainable development. Ang's vision and dedication have set a benchmark for corporate responsibility in addressing climate change.

Ang II, a respected media figure, was awarded for raising public awareness about environmental issues. Through his influential platforms, Ang has highlighted the urgent need for climate action and inspired many to take part in sustainability initiatives.

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