



## NEWS ROUNDUP

07 NOVEMBER 2023 [ 08:00 am]

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By: Samuel Medenilla

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Food and Agriculture Office (FAO) vowed to take resolute action, further cementing their cooperation to strengthen the country's food system against the impacts of climate change.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

DW

## [Alpine tourism threatened by overcrowding and climate change](#)

By: Insa Wrede

Wonderful views, long mountain slopes, solitary peaks and snow-covered tranquility — Europe's Alpine region is the place to be for many travelers in both summer and winter.

Increasingly, though, the Alps are becoming infamous for traffic jams, overcrowded villages and pleasure seekers obstructing hiking trails and skiing slopes. What used to be idyllic Alpine villages in pristine landscapes have been transformed into ugly concrete fortresses of mass accommodation.

More recently, the effects of climate change are compounding the woes of the Alps. "It can be clearly observed that warming in the Alpine region is progressing significantly faster than the global average," says Steffen Reich.

In charge of nature protection at the German Alpine Club — the world's largest organization of mountaineers and hikers with about 1.4 million members — Reich told DW that longer and significantly hotter heatwaves as well as less snowfall are causing glaciers to melt quicker and permafrost soil to thaw more rapidly. At the same time, storms are increasing in strength and frequency, wiping out entire forests on the mountain slopes. As a result soil erosion is worsening and could heighten the risk of land- and mudslides.

### Tourism at risk

Tourism is the main breadwinner for Alpine populations, and scaling back the annual influx of holiday makers seems out of the question. Quite the contrary, said Reich. He expects the region to become "even more popular with tourists" due to climate change because the mountainous region "will be cooler than lower-lying areas."

Skiing resorts are especially hard hit by climate change and need to adapt the most. Less snowfall and higher temperatures are already taking their toll, substantially raising the bills for local communities to make up for the lack of natural snow with technical means.

Even so, Alpine temperatures are already rising above levels that render snow cannons and other machines that produce artificial snow useless.

All of this will change the face of tourism in the Alps, which is still the region with the most winter resorts in the world.

Henriette Adolf of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) thinks in the future people will no longer be able to enjoy "a string of seven days of Alpine skiing," but need to be flexible enough to engage in activities more in line with "the local conditions" at specific points in time.

Adolf suggests that cross-country skiing, which requires less snow, could become an alternative to Alpine skiing, and thinks tourists will have to get used to doing without snow altogether much of the time. She called on local tourism authorities to prepare for year-round seasons that would require refitting skiing lifts, for example, to make them available for hikers, too.

Hiking out of climate trouble?

Despite hiking and mountaineering growing in popularity in the Alps, those activities are also becoming more dangerous. "Especially for high-altitude climbers, the consequences of global warming and the associated increased risks in (still) glaciated areas are dramatic," the Austrian Alpine Club wrote in a newsletter to its members recently.

The gradual thawing of permafrost soils at altitudes above 2,400 meters (2,624 yards) poses a big problem. These permanently frozen grounds act effectively like glue, holding entire rock formations. Their thawing can cause dangerous mudslides, rockfall or entire mountains to collapse.

In June this year, part of the summit of the Fluchthorn Mountain in the Austrian state of Tyrol collapsed, sending more than a million cubic meters of rock — equivalent to about 120,000 truckloads — crashing into the valley below and triggering mudslides.

"Hiking trails have to be temporarily closed or permanently re-routed due to the risk of landslides and similar issues," said Reich.

Gerhard Mössmer from the Austrian Alpine Club said that tourists could no longer rely on printed guidebooks or analog maps. They had better get their travel information from internet portals or directly from people on the ground to be on the safe side, he told DW.

The climate-related upheavals in the Alpine landscapes are increasing the pressure on the operators of huts and shelters in the mountains to adapt. Some of those dwellings,

which are often operated by the Alpine clubs, needed to have their foundations reinforced to withstand soil erosion. Moreover, water is becoming scarcer in the summer.

"Water is being saved, cisterns are being installed, toilets that do not require water are being built, or showers are being reduced," said Reich.

"I have also experienced situations where water was rationed, or only a limited amount of water could be taken for hiking," Henriette Adolf said. "Still there are huts that were forced to end their season early because they ran out of water."

The downsides of success

Apart from climate change, tourism in the Alps is having a massive problem with too many holiday makers swarming the region every year. Local populations are feeling overwhelmed by the mass influx of tourists, many of them only coming to chase the latest must-visit site popular on social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook.

The Italian region of South Tyrol, for example, has already restricted the number of holiday beds. Regional councilor Arnold Schuler told US broadcaster CNN in spring this year that the popular resort had "reached the limit of our resources" as traffic problems abounded and local residents "have difficulty finding affordable housing."

German Alpine Club's Steffen Reich believes such drastic measure aren't need everywhere. "You have to precisely understand what the real problem is. Is it the negative affects on local populations? Is it the threats on wildlife? Or is it primarily a park management problem?" Each problem, he said, would need its own specific solution.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Borongan mayor invited to Climate Action Summit in Dubai](#)

By: Marie Tonette Marticio

Borongan City Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda has been invited by the United Nations (UN) to the first-ever Local Climate Action Summit at the Expo City in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in December.

The invitation recognizes the city government's efforts toward climate resilience, Agda said.

The Local Climate Action Summit is a component of the UN's 28th annual Conference of Parties that will convene signatories of the 1992 UN Climate Agreement.

The summit is set to discuss solutions to the looming effects of climate change and unite hundreds of leaders to establish a new paradigm of fully integrated climate action among governments that is projected to transform local finance, integrate local contributions to enhance global action, fast-track local energy transition, and strengthen local resilience and adaptation.

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solution, said that subnational governments have played an integral role in climate adaptation over the last decade.

He noted that many cities have overtaken national governments when it comes to the reduction of their per capita carbon emissions.

With Borongan joining the summit's roster of participating local governments, the city is finally making a mark on the international scene regarding its climate resilience mechanisms, Agda said.

Last month, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) joined Agda in launching the organization's Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the city, formally setting the roadmap for Borongan's acquisition of sustainable and modern energy by 2030.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Stage set for conflict at COP28 climate conference](#)

Tense negotiations at the final meeting on a climate-related loss and damages fund – an international fund to help poor countries hit hard by a warming planet – ended Saturday in Abu Dhabi, with participants agreeing that the World Bank would temporarily host the fund for the next four years.

The United States and several developing countries expressed disappointment in the draft agreement, which will be sent for global leaders to sign at the COP28 climate conference, which begins in Dubai later this month.

The US State Department, whose officials joined the negotiations in Abu Dhabi, said in a statement it was “pleased with an agreement being reached” but regretted that the consensus reached among negotiators about donations to the fund being voluntary is not reflected in the final agreement.

The agreement lays out basic goals for the fund, including its planned launch in 2024, and specifies how it will be administered and who will oversee it, including a requirement for developing countries to have a seat on the board, in addition to the World Bank’s role.

Avinash Persaud, a special envoy to Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley on climate finance, said the agreement was “a challenging but critical outcome. It was one of those things where success can be measured in the equality of discomfort.” Persaud negotiated on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean in the meetings.

He said that failure to reach an agreement would have “cast a long shadow over COP.”

Mohamed Nasr, the lead negotiator from Egypt, last year’s climate conference host, said, “It falls short on some items, particularly the scale and the sources (of funding), and (an) acknowledgment of cost incurred by developing countries.”

The demand for establishing a fund to help poor countries hit hard by climate change has been a focus of United Nations climate talks ever since they started 30 years ago and was finally realized at last year’s climate conference in Egypt.

Since then, a smaller group of negotiators representing both rich and developing countries have met multiple times to finalize the details of the fund. Their last meeting in the city of Aswan in Egypt in November ended in a stalemate.



While acknowledging that an agreement on the fund is better than a stalemate, climate policy analysts say there are still numerous gaps that must be filled if the fund is to be effective in helping poor and vulnerable communities around the world hit by increasingly frequent climate-related disasters.

The meetings delivered on that mandate but were “the furthest thing imaginable from a success,” said Brandon Wu of ActionAid USA, who has followed the talks over the last year. Wu said the fund “requires almost nothing of developed countries. ... At the same time, it meets very few of the priorities of developing countries – the very countries, need it be said again, that are supposed to benefit from this fund.”

Sultan al-Jaber, a federal minister with the United Arab Emirates and CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company who will oversee COP28 next month, welcomed the outcome of the meetings.

“Billions of people, lives and livelihoods who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change depend upon the adoption of this recommended approach at COP28,” he said.

## UN expert urged to look into issues affecting environment, human rights

By: Jane Bautista and Russel P. Loreto

Environmental and fisherfolk groups want a visiting United Nations expert on human rights and the environment to look into alleged violations in those areas under the Marcos administration.

The visit of Ian Fry, the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, “marks a critical moment in bringing our fight for climate justice and human rights to the international level,” said Jon Bonifacio, national coordinator of environmental group Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE).

Fernando Hicap, national chair of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), welcomed Fry’s visit, as he cited such circumstances involving human rights and the environment as the reclamation at Manila Bay threatening fishing communities and the alleged abduction by state forces of environmental activists Jonila Castro and Jhed Tamano in September.

Castro and Tamano have since been charged by the Department of National Defense with perjury and grave slander.

Castro herself said she would submit cases of human rights violations in the context of climate advocacies to the UN expert—whose entry, nevertheless, marks the second time a UN special rapporteur has been allowed an official visit under the Marcos administration.

### Itinerary

Fry arrived on Monday for a 10-day visit until Nov. 15. The UN, in a statement, said he would observe the impacts of climate change in forcing the displacement of people and the measures taken to counter these effects.

The UN rapporteur’s itinerary covers Metro Manila, including Valenzuela City; Baybay City and the municipality of Abuyog in Leyte as well as the provincial capital of Tacloban; and the municipality of Calinog in Iloilo province. He will meet with communities affected by climate change and also with government officials and representatives of civil society.

For Kalikasan PNE, other issues that should be brought to the attention of Fry and the international community include the Kaliwa Dam project affecting Rizal and Quezon provinces and the New Manila International Airport project in the Manila Bay area covering Bulacan province.

The group also noted the government's lack of response regarding the continuing attacks against environmental advocates, after a recent report from international human rights watchdog Global Witness showed that the Philippines remained the deadliest country in Asia for environmental as well as land reform advocates in the past 10 years.

'Worsening impacts'

Kalikasan PNE and another group, the Philippine UPR Watch—a network following UN processes related to the Philippines—also urged the government to tackle the same concerns as well as the implementation of a nationwide moratorium on coastal reclamation.

Furthermore, they called on the government to repeal the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 and establish legal mechanisms to ensure accountability from private proponents.

"We hope that the Special Rapporteur's visit will result in pushing the Marcos administration to repeal its draconian policies and change ecologically destructive programs," Clemente Bautista Jr. of Philippine UPR Watch said.

Hicap said Fry's visit was "timely, especially in the face of worsening impacts of climate change and how it fuels human rights abuses in the grassroots communities."

He cited the situation in coastal areas of Manila Bay where fisherfolk and other groups "have become targets of vilification and state persecution."

"Such threats against [the] grassroots aim to impede any efforts and advocacies for significant social reforms, including environmental protection and climate resilience," Hicap said.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [UN special rapporteur in Philippines to examine impacts of climate change on human rights](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

A United Nations special rapporteur is in the country to look into the impacts of climate change on human rights as well as the protection of Filipino environmental defenders.

Green and rights groups are hopeful that the visit of Ian Fry, the first special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate, will address the challenges faced by the protectors of nature and lead to collaborative solutions.

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. It is also identified as one of the world's deadliest places for environmental and land defenders.

During his visit, Fry will focus on loss and damage caused by climate change, climate change legislation, litigation and intergenerational justice, protection of environmental defenders, and gender responses to climate change, according to the UN.

The special rapporteur will also examine how climate change forces people to be displaced from their land, and will explore the measures being taken to address this.

He will travel to Metro Manila, Leyte and Iloilo to meet with communities affected by climate change. He will also meet government officials and representatives from civil society.

Fry will be in the Philippines until November 15. He will present his report to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2024.

#### Violations under Marcos Jr. Admin

Groups called on the UN mission to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the reported environmental and human rights violations that have taken place under the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment stressed that despite Marcos' rhetoric on climate action and environmental protection, "plunderous policies, including laws like the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, as well as

“ecologically-destructive” projects such as the New Manila International Airport and the Kaliwa Dam continue.

“A thorough investigation into the situation of climate change and human rights in the Philippines will undoubtedly reveal that Marcos Jr.’s aspiration to portray himself a climate advocate internationally is nothing but mere posturing,” Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment national coordinator Jon Bonifacio said.

Kalikasan PNE also noted the government’s “lack of response” on the attacks against land and environmental defenders. For the 10th straight year, the Philippines was named the deadliest country in Asia for land and environmental advocates by watchdog Global Witness.

Plight of indigenous peoples

Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas, Sandugo - Movement of Moro and Indigenous Peoples for Self-Determination, and Bai Indigenous Women's said that they are looking forward to dialogue with Fry on dams, mines and other projects that drive indigenous peoples out of their ancestral lands.

The Philippine Task Force for Indigenous Peoples' Rights, for its part, urged the UN mission to probe the situation of indigenous peoples and implement remedies to stop the criminalization, red-tagging, and plunder of ancestral lands.

“As it is in the world, IP in the Philippines are steadfast defenders of the environment and contribute the least to climate change. Yet, they face threats to their ancestral lands that they cultivated, preserved, and protected for generations,” TFIP campaign and advocacy officer Tyrone Beyer said.

The group also called on the authorities to surface Bontoc-Ibaloi-Kankanaey Dexter Capuyan and a member of its staff, Gene Roz Jamil “Bazoo” De Jesus who were abducted by alleged agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in April.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [PHL seeks UN aid to boost fisherfolk, farmers' resilience vs climate change](#)

By: Samuel Medenilla

With agricultural losses and damages reaching a staggering P260.45 billion in the last decade from severe typhoons and prolonged droughts, the Philippine government is now seeking aid from the United Nations (UN) to boost the resilience of local farmers and fisherfolk against extreme weather induced by climate change.

In a statement, Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said he already held initial talks last Friday with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Among those who joined the meeting were FAO Philippines Country Representative Lionel Dabbadie, Suzette Simondac-Manilay, Environmental Programme Coordination, and Nikki Antonette De Vera, Programme Coordination Specialist.

Their discussions covered possible partnerships on enhancing the capacities of local government units and the country's climate reports. The details of the cooperation is expected to be finalized in the succeeding CCC-FAO meetings.

Borje stressed the importance of technology development and transfer to allow agricultural workers to adapt to the effects of climate change and ensure the country's food security.

"This strategic approach is pivotal in building a climate-resilient agriculture sector and safeguarding the livelihoods of millions of Filipinos," he said.

The strategy is part of the Philippines' National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

Citing data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), CCC said 4.5 million Filipino farmers and fisherfolk were affected by adverse weather events from 2012 to 2022.

They are expected to face more challenges in the future after the World Bank recently released its Country Climate Development Report, where it pointed out that rising temperatures and sea levels, increasing variability in rainfall, and typhoons are expected to greatly reduce agriculture production.

It said this would result in lower agricultural wages and for more people to suffer hunger if left unaddressed.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [FAO-CCC to further boost cooperation on climate action on agriculture and food security](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Food and Agriculture Office (FAO) vowed to take resolute action, further cementing their cooperation to strengthen the country's food system against the impacts of climate change.

The discussion revolved around the Philippines' agriculture sector, which contributes approximately 8.9% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the challenges it faces due to climate change. Severe typhoons and prolonged droughts have resulted in substantial loss and damages to the agricultural landscape, amounting to PHP 260.45 billion from 2012-2022.

These adverse weather events have not only impacted the livelihoods of 4.5 million Filipino farmers and fisherfolks but have also disrupted the country's food supply chain, posing a threat to food security.

Considering these challenges, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized, "It's important to recognize the link between food, agriculture, and climate change. Our focus is to ensure that our stakeholders are climate-resilient, and this can be achieved through the delivery of means of implementation, particularly technology development and transfer. This strategic approach is pivotal in building a climate-resilient agriculture sector and safeguarding the livelihoods of millions of Filipinos."

The CCC aligns its efforts with the Philippines' National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), which addresses climate change impacts, including food security. The NCCAP outlines comprehensive strategies to enhance the country's adaptive capacity and resilience, emphasizing the importance of sustainable agriculture and food systems in the face of climate change.

The CCC and FAO discussed possible areas for partnerships, such as enhancing the capacities of local government units and improving the country's climate reports.

Joining FAO Philippines Country Representative Dr. Lionel Dabbadie were Ms. Suzette Simondac-Manilay, Environmental Programme Coordination, and Ms. Nikki Antonette De Vera, Programme Coordination Specialist.



The FAO is an agency of the United Nations that focuses on eliminating world hunger. The Philippines is one of the founding members of FAO since its establishment in 1945, and a Representation was established in 1978. FAO works closely with the Philippine government in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food security, nutrition, and rural development.

For more information about the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit the website of the CCC at <https://climate.gov.ph> and <https://facebook.com/cccphl>. (CCC)

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