



## NEWS ROUNDUP

14 NOVEMBER 2023 [ 07:30 am]

---

- Greta Thunberg joins tens of thousands in Amsterdam climate demo
- Climate change: Water scarcity worst in South Asia, UN says
- Australia offers Tuvalu residents climate change visas
- EU commits to put 'substantial' money in COP28 climate damage fund
- 2nd Global Media Congress sets new record-breaking attendance
- Fishers urge UN climate rapporteur to back calls for reclamation ban, 'loss and damage' compensation

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Phl bats for climate collaborations in Abu Dhabi conference

### ABS CBN

#### [Greta Thunberg joins tens of thousands in Amsterdam climate demo](#)

Environmental activist Greta Thunberg joined tens of thousands in a march through Amsterdam Sunday, aimed at pushing climate change up the political agenda 10 days from a crunch national election.

### DW

#### [Climate change: Water scarcity worst in South Asia, UN says](#)

Some 347 million children in South Asia are facing severe water shortages due to climate change, according to a UN report published on Monday.

### FINANCIAL TIMES

#### [Australia offers Tuvalu residents climate change visas](#)

By: Nic Fildes

Australia is offering residents of the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu a chance to migrate to escape climate change as part of a landmark treaty with one of the countries most affected by global warming.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[EU commits to put 'substantial' money in COP28 climate damage fund](#)**

The European Union will make a “substantial” financial contribution to a new international fund addressing the destruction caused by climate change, the EU’s executive commission said on Monday, November 13.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[2nd Global Media Congress sets new record-breaking attendance](#)**

Participants to the second edition of the Global Media Congress (GMC) 2023, set on Nov. 14, have surpassed last year's attendance.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Fishers urge UN climate rapporteur to back calls for reclamation ban, 'loss and damage' compensation](#)**

By: Cristina Chi and Gaea Katreena Cabico

A fisherfolk group has urged a United Nations special rapporteur to echo its calls to the Philippine government to ban destructive reclamation projects and to offer “loss and damage” compensation to fishers affected by corporation-induced environmental degradation.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

### **[Phi bats for climate collaborations in Abu Dhabi conference](#)**

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission stressed the importance of enhancing collaboration on nature-based solutions to address the impacts of climate crises by 2030.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **[Greta Thunberg joins tens of thousands in Amsterdam climate demo](#)**

Environmental activist Greta Thunberg joined tens of thousands in a march through Amsterdam Sunday, aimed at pushing climate change up the political agenda 10 days from a crunch national election.

Carrying placards reading: "Our house is on fire", "In 2050: 'Daddy, what are trees?'" , and "Climate Justice Now," demonstrators packed into Amsterdam's central square and set off through the streets.

Organizers said tens of thousands were taking part as a "conservative estimate". A previous march in Amsterdam attracted 40,000.

The march was organized by a coalition of pressure groups, including Extinction Rebellion, Fridays for Future, Oxfam, and Greenpeace.

"With the crises continuing to stack up and a measly six years to achieve the Dutch climate goals in 2030, the upcoming elections are the most crucial ever," they said in a joint statement.

Polls show the election is currently a dead heat between the center-right VVD of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte and a new party, the NSC, led by anti-corruption champion Pieter Omtzigt.

A coalition of the Greens and the leftist PvdA is sitting in third place, according to the polls. This party is led by former European Commission heavyweight Frans Timmermans, the architect of the EU's Green Deal agenda.

Surveys show the key issues of the election campaign have been the ongoing housing crisis in the Netherlands, living standards, and immigration.

According to the most recent poll by I&O research, climate change came in fifth of the issues on voters' minds, behind housing, healthcare, immigration, and poverty.

Climate change is now considered less of a key topic than was the case at the last election in 2021, according to the I&O research poll.

**DW**

### [Climate change: Water scarcity worst in South Asia, UN says](#)

Some 347 million children in South Asia are facing severe water shortages due to climate change, according to a UN report published on Monday.

The figure represents over half the number of children living in the region.

South Asia, comprising eight countries, is home to more than a quarter of the world's children and is increasingly affected by climate change-related disasters such as floods and droughts.

What the UN said about children and water scarcity

The report revealed that 55% of children in South Asia are affected by water scarcity — the highest rate worldwide.

"Climate change is disrupting weather patterns and rainfall, leading to unpredictable water availability," the UN children's aid organization UNICEF said in its report.

"With an increasingly unpredictable climate, water scarcity is expected to become worse for children in South Asia," UNICEF said.

After South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa are the next worst-affected, with 130 million children are facing severe water scarcity, the report added.

The report further said that 1 in 3 children — or 739 million worldwide — are already living in areas that are exposed to high or very high water scarcity.

COP28 and UNICEF

The report comes ahead of the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai that is going to be held at the end of the month.

UNICEF said that at the COP, it plans to push the international community to take necessary measures that will ensure a planet worth living on for children.

"Safe water is a basic human right," said Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF chief for South Asia.

## FINANCIAL TIMES

### [Australia offers Tuvalu residents climate change visas](#)

By: Nic Fildes

Australia is offering residents of the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu a chance to migrate to escape climate change as part of a landmark treaty with one of the countries most affected by global warming.

“We believe the people of Tuvalu deserve the choice to live, study and work elsewhere, as climate change impacts worsen,” said Anthony Albanese, Australia’s prime minister.

“Australia has committed to provide a special pathway for citizens of Tuvalu to come to Australia, with access to Australian services that will enable human mobility with dignity.”

The two countries signed the deal, which included a security pact, at the Pacific Islands Forum in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The so-called mobility pathway allows 280 people affected by climate change to apply for a special visa to resettle in Australia every year. The island nation’s total population is about 11,000.

Tuvalu had asked Australia to implement a migration scheme, given the risk that low-lying islands and atolls faced from rising sea levels. Albanese said the request had led to a treaty that was “without doubt the most significant agreement between Australia and a Pacific island nation ever”.

Kausea Natano, Tuvalu’s prime minister, said the treaty with Australia “stands as a beacon of hope, signifying not just a milestone, but a giant leap forward in our joint mission to ensure regional stability, sustainability and prosperity”.

Natano added that the two countries would work together to ensure there would not be a “brain drain” from Tuvalu. Australia will also pump A\$350mn (\$220mn) into climate infrastructure in the region.

Analysts said the agreement represented a global first in tying a visa explicitly to climate change, an existential problem for many Pacific island states.

Mihai Sora, a research fellow at the Lowy Institute’s Pacific Islands Program, said the treaty was a “remarkable diplomatic achievement” given the geopolitical landscape in the Pacific, where China and the US have competed for security and economic deals with some of the world’s smallest countries.

“Tuvalu may be a small nation, but this treaty is a huge step forward for Australia’s partnerships in the region. By weaving together climate co-operation, human mobility with dignity and intimate security collaboration, the treaty is a model for compassionate and strategic partnerships in the face of global threats.”

New Zealand had introduced a visa in 2017 for Pacific islanders displaced by climate change but dropped the plan. “Climate refugees” often wanted to stay in their own country to preserve their society and culture, according to a research paper published by the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment.

Last year’s Pacific Islands Forum in Fiji focused on regional strategic competition between China and the US, which came to a head when the Solomon Islands signed a security pact with Beijing.

Australia and the US have stepped up efforts to increase aid and improve diplomatic relations with small island states in the Pacific in the past two years.

That has culminated in an agreement between Australia and Tuvalu to “mutually agree co-operation with other countries in Tuvalu’s security sectors”.

Albanese said the agreement was a “clear guarantee” that Australia would provide military support if Tuvalu were threatened.

## RAPPLER

### [EU commits to put 'substantial' money in COP28 climate damage fund](#)

The European Union will make a “substantial” financial contribution to a new international fund addressing the destruction caused by climate change, the EU’s executive commission said on Monday, November 13.

The world-first climate “loss and damage” fund is set to be launched during the United Nations COP28 climate summit, which will be held from November 30 to December 12 in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

“The Commissioner is ready to announce substantial financial contribution by the EU and its member states to the loss & damage fund at COP28 in the context of an ambitious outcome at COP28,” the European Commission said in a statement, referring to EU Climate Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra.

The EU did not specify the size of its planned contribution.

The EU also plans to commit funding at COP28 to help countries meet a global pledge to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, the Commission said.

Countries agreed at last year’s UN climate talks to launch the climate damage fund, a deal hailed as a breakthrough by vulnerable states that have long demanded funding from wealthy nations whose historical CO2 emissions caused climate change.

The UAE’s incoming COP28 President, Sultan Al Jaber, welcomed the EU move in a statement, after he met Hoekstra in Brussels on Monday.

The UAE is among a handful of high per-capita income countries that are not currently obliged to contribute to UN climate funds, but are facing pressure from European states to do so.

A spokesperson for the UAE’s COP28 Presidency did not immediately respond to a Reuters inquiry about whether the UAE will contribute to the fund.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [2nd Global Media Congress sets new record-breaking attendance](#)

Participants to the second edition of the Global Media Congress (GMC) 2023, set on Nov. 14, have surpassed last year's attendance.

Mohammed Jalal Al Rayssi, Director-General of Emirates News Agency (WAM) and chair of the Organizing Committee for GMC said the increasing number of participants goes to show how media, as a tool, continues to play a vital role in connecting people, fostering understanding and driving positive change.

GMC 2023 witnessed a significant surge in exhibiting companies and participating countries, marked by a 33 percent and 22 percent increase respectively, compared to last year's event. The total exhibition area has also expanded by 78 percent, covering at least an additional 14,000 square meters of space at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC).

Al Rayssi said the growing number of participants reflects the trust and credibility that the Congress enjoys, and is considered a valuable platform by companies, decision-makers, and media experts for networking, collaborating, or learning, despite its recent inception.

Humaid Matar Al Dhaheri, Managing Director and CEO of ADNEC Group, meanwhile, said the record-breaking interest in GMC 2023 is a testimony to the regional and global success of this initiative and its growing importance and role in advancing the future of the media sector.

Currently, there are 257 participating companies and 172 countries -- 31 of which are joining the event for the first time.

### 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference

"In conjunction with COP28, our Congress's opening day will spotlight the pivotal role of environmental media in sustainability and climate advocacy. Day two shifts focus to media education, with a special emphasis on youth engagement," Al Rayssi said. "We're excited to welcome students from 100 universities, equipping them to shape the media landscape."

The 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), more commonly referred to as COP, will take place from Nov. 30 until Dec. 12 at Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



The COP is an annual convention of government representatives, climate experts, thought leaders, and other relevant stakeholders to review the implementation of the Paris Agreement – a legally binding international treaty on climate change<sup>1</sup>, aiming to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”

The Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at the COP21 in Paris, France, on Dec. 12, 2015, and entered into force on Nov. 4, 2016.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Fishers urge UN climate rapporteur to back calls for reclamation ban, 'loss and damage' compensation](#)

By: Cristina Chi and Gaea Katreena Cabico

A fisherfolk group has urged a United Nations special rapporteur to echo its calls to the Philippine government to ban destructive reclamation projects and to offer “loss and damage” compensation to fishers affected by corporation-induced environmental degradation.

In a position paper, fishers’ group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) submitted recommendations geared at “(safeguarding) the rights of fisherfolk” and their “right to a healthy and balanced ecology” to Ian Fry, the first special rapporteur on human rights in the context of climate.

PAMALAKAYA urged Fry to recommend to the Philippine government a ban on destructive activities like land conversion, reclamation and unregulated expansion of aquafarms and eco-tourism zones.

The group also wants a form of “loss and damage compensation” system that provides “regular and sufficient subsidies to fisherfolk who continue to bear the brunt of the degraded environment and ecosystem, and a long-term rehabilitation and restoration plan.”

It also included calls for justice for fisherfolk who became victims of extrajudicial killings.

“We have recorded nine fisherfolk victims of extrajudicial killings under the Duterte administration. All cases were related to advocacies in protecting the marine environment and advancing fishing rights,” PAMALAKAYA said.

Fry is in the Philippines until November 15 to study the impact of climate change on local communities in Manila, Valenzuela City, Leyte, and Iloilo City and to consult with government and members of civil society.

He is set to submit to the UN Human Rights Council a report of his findings in June 2024. The Philippines is the third country Fry has visited following his trips to Bangladesh and Honduras.

On November 9, Fry met with fisherfolk from Baseco to learn about the impact of climate change on coastal communities.

PAMALAKAYA Vice Chairperson Ronnel Arambulo said that Baseco fishers were “existing proof” of how Manila Bay reclamation activities affect both marine resources and the people — members of the urban poor and fisherfolk — who depend on these.

“Baseco’s coastal community is an existing proof of how reclamation projects across Manila Bay further the climate change-induced ecological disturbances including but not limited to sea-level rise, marine resources degradation, and prolonged flooding,” Arambulo said.

PAMALAKAYA said that it hopes that Fry’s meetings with local communities would lead to the submission of a “recommendatory report” to the Marcos administration on urgent actions needed to combat the climate crisis.

Similarly, environmental organization Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP), which also met with Fry along with other groups, urged him to “listen to the stories of the communities” during his nine-day visit.

Besides a stronger climate education, YACAP spokesperson Mitzi Jonelle Tan also stressed the need for “loss and damage reparations from both Filipino companies and multinational corporations that have profited from environmental degradation and contributed to the climate crisis.”

“It is clear that our government now is not the climate champion that it claims it is. They have prioritized militarization and destructive projects over true environmental protection and proactive responses to prepare the country for extreme weather events,” Tan said.

The Philippines is among the countries most affected by extreme weather events and one of the most vulnerable to sea level rise, with more than half of its cities and communities located along coasts.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [Phi bats for climate collaborations in Abu Dhabi conference](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission stressed the importance of enhancing collaboration on nature-based solutions to address the impacts of climate crises by 2030.

Speaking at the recently concluded Pre-28th Session of Conference of the Parties or Pre-COP28 dubbed “Accelerating Collaboration on Nature to Close the Climate Action Gap to 2030” held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera also underscored the importance of carbon sequestration as a fundamental aspect to reducing greenhouse gas concentrations world wide.

Herrera, in her remarks, said ecosystems, including forests and wetlands, act as vital carbon reservoirs that stock and sequester carbon.

These also serve as buffers for storm surges made more dangerous by rising sea levels and as havens for the spawning of fish to ensure food security, she added.

“By accounting for and valuing these ecosystem services, new financial flows may be generated from carbon and biodiversity credit systems that also manage climate risks locally and globally,” she continued.

Understanding this matter, Herrera said the Philippines is developing a “geospatial database” in support of a new system of natural capital accounting “to recognize its real economic and social contributions to sustainable development” amid confronting climate change.

Herrera highlighted the country’s National Adaptation Plan, which provides a clear picture of climate gaps parallel to necessary actions that should be undertaken “to minimize climate change losses and damages.”

The key adaptation strategy, she added, would scale up nature-based solutions to climate change.

Meantime, Herrera said progress assessment of the strategy will require the use of standardized metrics and MRV (measurement, reporting and verification) systems for nature-based solutions, including robust scientific research, data transparency, and accessibility to assess the performance and impact of these solutions.

“It is only by recognizing the interconnectedness of human, natural and engineered systems that we can collectively drive transformative change and close the climate action gap by 2030,” she added.

The Pre-COP28 event was hosted by Razan Al Mubarak, the United Nations Change High-Level champion. Al Mubarak serves as President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Other Filipino delegates who attended the event included Philippine Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Alfonso Ferdinand Ver, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary and Official Representative of the Chairperson to the CCC Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh.

**=END=**