



## NEWS ROUNDUP

23 NOVEMBER 2023 [ 08:30 am]

---

- A UAE company has secured African land the size of the UK for controversial carbon offset projects
- DOST highlights growing bamboo as a strategy to Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability
- Young Filipinos lead fight vs climate change
- Parliamentarians tackle security, climate change, post-pandemic recovery in Asia-Pacific forum
- Climate conspiracy theories flourish ahead of COP28

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Marcos calls for unity and cooperation in climate action
- Marcos to Pinoys: Take a stance in protecting Earth, mitigating climate change
- US-funded solar-powered boats launched in Palawan
- House OKs climate emergency declaration bill on 2nd reading
- PBBM: Unity vital in battling global warming, climate change
- Climate Change Body Calls For Child-Centered Climate Action

### CNN

#### [A UAE company has secured African land the size of the UK for controversial carbon offset projects](#)

By: Angela Dewan

In late September, Zimbabwe's environment minister signed away control over a staggering amount of land — almost 20% of his country — to a little-known foreign company. Blue Carbon was a small, new outfit, not even a year old, but its chief was no fledgling entrepreneur: he was an Emirati royal whose family had ruled Dubai for 190 years, flush with oil money.

## **JOURNAL ONLINE**

### **[DOST highlights growing bamboo as a strategy to Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability](#)**

The Department of Science and Technology highlights growing bamboo as a strategy in climate change adaptation and sustainability for Mindanao during a DRRM forum in Cagayan de Oro City. The forum was attended by 65 participants representing 20 LGUs and organizations coming from various parts of the country.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[Young Filipinos lead fight vs climate change](#)**

The Quezon City Government and UNICEF Philippines recognized the voice, agency, and leadership of children and youth in climate change efforts during this year's World Children's Day celebration. Despite being the global epicenter of the climate crisis, having the highest levels of youth eco-anxiety, and displacement, children in the Philippines are taking matters into their own hands through their own initiatives.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Parliamentarians tackle security, climate change, post-pandemic recovery in Asia-Pacific forum](#)**

By: Javier Joe Ismael

Parliamentarians from 28 countries in the Asia-Pacific converged in Manila on Thursday to kick off a four-day forum that would tackle regional security, transnational crime, free and fair trade, climate change adaptation and sustainable development, migration, global health pandemics and post-pandemic economic recovery among others.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Climate conspiracy theories flourish ahead of COP28](#)**

By: Roland Lloyd Parry

Climate conspiracy theories are flourishing with lifestyle influencers joining in the misinformation war and scientists hounded on social media, researchers say, as pressure rises on leaders at the COP28 summit.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS WORLD

#### [Marcos calls for unity and cooperation in climate action](#)

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday called for effective communication to raise awareness about the impact of climate change.

### GMA

#### [Marcos to Pinoys: Take a stance in protecting Earth, mitigating climate change](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. urged Filipinos to take a stance in protecting the planet and play a role in addressing climate change.

### MANILA BULLETIN

#### [US-funded solar-powered boats launched in Palawan](#)

By: Joseph Pedrajas

The United States has launched a solar-powered boat in Palawan to help in the mobility of residents and delivery of basic services to remote islands in the province.

### PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

#### [House OKs climate emergency declaration bill on 2nd reading](#)

By: Filane Mikee Cervantes

A measure declaring a climate change emergency has hurdled second reading approval at the House of Representatives.

#### [PBBM: Unity vital in battling global warming, climate change](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday emphasized the importance of unity in mitigating the effects of global warming and climate change.

## **POLITIKO**

### **[Climate Change Body Calls For Child-Centered Climate Action](#)**

By: Prince Golez

Local government units (LGUs) must act immediately to address the threats and risks posed by the climate crisis, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**CNN**

**[A UAE company has secured African land the size of the UK for controversial carbon offset projects](#)**

By: Angela Dewan

In late September, Zimbabwe's environment minister signed away control over a staggering amount of land — almost 20% of his country — to a little-known foreign company. Blue Carbon was a small, new outfit, not even a year old, but its chief was no fledgling entrepreneur: he was an Emirati royal whose family had ruled Dubai for 190 years, flush with oil money.

The Dubai-based Blue Carbon has secured forested land nearly equivalent to the size of the United Kingdom across five African nations to run projects to conserve forests that might otherwise be logged, preventing huge amounts of planet-heating carbon dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>, from entering the atmosphere.

Blue Carbon can then use that conservation to create carbon credits to sell to companies and governments to “offset” the climate pollution they generate while they continue to burn planet-warming fossil fuels.

The flurry of forest conservation deals with Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Liberia and Tanzania were announced in the months ahead of the annual United Nations' COP28 climate summit, being hosted this year in December by the United Arab Emirates. But according to several analysts and climate advocates CNN spoke with for this story, these conservation deals are the latest attempt by the petrostate to use green initiatives as a smokescreen for its plans to continue pumping fossil fuels.

At the same time, the UAE has said it plans to extract its very last barrel of oil 50 years from now, when its reserves are projected to dry up — decades beyond when scientists say society needs to be done with fossil fuel.

A spokesperson would not confirm to CNN that the company would sell those credits to the UAE, but given Blue Carbon's chairman, Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoook Al Maktoum, is a relative of Dubai's royal ruler — who also serves as the UAE's prime minister — the widely held assumption among analysts CNN spoke with is that these credits will be sold to the UAE to offset its enormous carbon footprint. They could also be sold to other oil-reliant nations and companies in the Gulf and beyond. CNN has reached out to the UAE government for comment.

Blue Carbon would not confirm to CNN the area size of all its projects, how much money it has provided in financing or how many credits it hopes to generate. The agreements are in initial stages and not yet finalized.

But the company did tell CNN it would present its deals at the COP28 summit in Dubai as a “blueprint” for carbon trading. The annual climate summit is where global leaders and negotiators from nearly 200 countries will convene to decide how and when to ramp down fossil fuel use. The UAE is expected to use its COP28 presidency to push hard to include carbon removal — not just from forests, but also from oil and gas as they burn and then storing it underground — central solution to the climate crisis.

Climate advocates have criticized carbon removal — and scientists remain skeptical of its efficacy — as a ticket for companies to continue to produce and burn fossil fuels on a large scale, even expand, and profit handsomely.

The UAE has a lot to lose, financially. Oil and gas account for around 30% of its GDP and 13% of its exports as of last year, according to the US Department of Commerce. More than 80 countries support phasing out fossil fuels, and renewable energy, like wind and solar, are now so cost competitive in most parts of the world that market forces will eventually squeeze oil and gas out anyway.

Unless, that is, fossil fuel companies and lobbyists can convince the world at COP28 not to rely too much on wind and solar, and to keep pumping oil and gas.

The UAE has already been hit with a barrage of criticism since it put Sultan Al Jaber — who runs the nation’s mammoth oil and gas company, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and serves as the nation’s international climate envoy — in charge of the negotiations. More than 100 members of the US Congress and the European Parliament in May called for Al Jaber to be replaced as COP28 president.

Al Jaber sees no conflict of interest in his many roles, he has said in multiple interviews. Nor does ADNOC, which told CNN in an email that there was “no one more qualified,” to lead the negotiations, pointing to his experience as leader of the nation’s renewable energy vehicle, Masdar, as well as its fossil fuels oil and gas company.

Al Jaber has long argued that fossil fuel companies need to be at the table in climate negotiations to ensure the green transition actually happens.

There is a certain logic to the argument, but climate advocates aren’t buying it, pointing instead to all the time the fossil fuel industry has had to show leadership on the issue, but hasn’t. Some fossil fuel companies were among the first to understand their

products were causing climate change. That was around four decades ago, yet they continued to profit from coal, oil and gas.

“I think that ADNOC has turned the UN climate negotiations into a giant greenwashing operation for one of the largest oil companies on the planet,” said Jamie Henn, founder and executive director of the non-profit Fossil Free Media, which supports the movement to end fossil fuels. “It’s been clear from the start when the UAE applied to host this COP that one of the main goals of the meeting was for them to try and situate themselves, and their oil and gas industry by extension, as somehow part of the climate solution.”

As of 2020, the UAE was responsible for around 0.53% of the world’s CO2 emissions, according to data from Climate Watch, but with a small population of nearly 10 million people, it’s the sixth-largest carbon polluter per capita. Despite its relatively small population, the UAE was the world’s seventh-biggest oil producer by volume in 2022.

Henn said it was “absurd” that the negotiations had been taken over by fossil fuel interests.

“It’s like the international tobacco control negotiations being run by Philip Morris. Luckily, the UN has rules in place for those negotiations, where they don’t let tobacco lobbyists at the table,” Henn said. “We need that at COP.”

Carbon offsets not a ‘get out of jail free’ card

Never has a COP, which is hosted by a different city each year, had so many apparent conflicts of interest. Not only is Al Jaber wearing leadership hats for climate and fossil fuels, but Blue Carbon is so intertwined with the nation’s royals and rulers, it’s difficult to separate its promotion of carbon offsets from the UAE’s interest in continuing fossil fuel production.

And it will be in Dubai, at COP28, where the rules of how to buy and sell these very carbon credits will be decided.

When asked by CNN if Blue Carbon was looking at more carbon offset deals in Africa, a spokesperson for the company said that “with COP28 around the corner, we will formally announce a few more of our initiatives.” A source with knowledge of the COP28 agenda told CNN the company would use the deals to promote carbon credits as a bigger part of the climate solution.

It’s not a big surprise that so many countries have signed up to work with Blue Carbon. Its parent company, Global Carbon Investments, has already agreed to transfer \$1.5 billion to Zimbabwe in “pre-financing for carbon credits.” That’s more than the country

spends on education and childcare, which combined are Zimbabwe's biggest national expense.

With so little money trickling in from the developed to the developing world to adapt to the climate crisis, carbon credit schemes open a new channel of revenue for forest-rich countries.

Cutting down forests or letting them degrade accounts for at least 12% of global planet-warming emissions. It's their ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere that makes them valuable as a climate solution.

Yet the idea of creating tradable carbon credits in exchange for not cutting down forests has been widely criticized as problematic. And some of the world's biggest companies certifying carbon credits have been shown to use accounting methods that exaggerate their project's true contribution to mitigating climate change.

In early November, Swiss entrepreneur Renat Heuberger stepped down from his role as CEO of South Pole — one of the world's first major carbon credit trading companies — after media reports found the company had overstated the climate value of carbon credits that lay in its Kariba forest project in Zimbabwe.

South Pole has denied the media allegations, calling the reports “exaggerated” and “misleading.” In a February news release, the company said, “we strongly refute misleading statements around ‘over-issuances’ of verified carbon credits from one of our flagship climate action projects, the Kariba REDD+ forest protection project.”

A spokesperson for South Pole told CNN in an email Heuberger stepped down because the company wanted “fresh leadership for the job required in terms of (quality assurance) and due diligence processes and controls.”

“Investment in efforts to conserve forests is always welcome. However, the challenge is that conserving forests isn't a ‘get out of jail free’ card,” said Julia Jones, a conservation scientist at Bangor University in Wales.

“Globally, we need to both stop further loss of forests and drastically cut emissions,” she said. “Using one to offset the other, without very substantial investment in reducing emissions, is problematic.”

Land rights are another issue. In some cases, indigenous and customary landowners have been evicted to clear the way for such projects, as they witness their homes, once deemed nearly valueless, transformed into cash cows for polluting companies and countries.



The Forest Peoples Programme, a non-governmental organization, says that such evictions have become more common in Kenya since it began allocating land for carbon credits.

“Those in control of Africa’s forests stand to earn a lot of money, and corporations appear to be pursuing a new ‘scramble for Africa,’” Justin Kenrick, a senior policy advisor at the Forest Peoples Programme, told CNN in an email. “Meanwhile such ‘conservation’ in Kenya persists with a failed colonial approach of evicting the very communities who know best how to conserve their forests.”

ADNOC to produce more oil than Shell, BP

Whatever the outcome at COP28, the UAE’s state-run oil and gas company, ADNOC, stands to emerge a big winner, especially if it can convince the world that its “Maximum Energy. Minimum Emissions” slogan is a viable climate solution, even as global temperatures soar and scientists press for rapid fossil fuel cuts.

An ADNOC spokesperson did not directly answer CNN’s questions on how many people would represent the company at COP28, but dismissed suggestions the company would benefit from the conference as “incorrect” and “baseless.”

ADNOC is expected to hike its oil production by 41% and its gas production by a third by 2030, compared to projections for this year, according to an analysis of industry data by Global Witness, a non-profit focused on environmental justice and human rights. That translates to a 40% rise in its greenhouse gas emissions, Global Witness said.

The production boost contrasts with plans among other oil majors: Shell’s production is projected to remain largely flat in that time, while BP envisions a 25-percent production cut by 2030. ADNOC, by 2030, plans to out-produce both companies.

ADNOC is starting to look like a new international oil major in other ways, too: It’s expanding its portfolio by buying up assets overseas, such as a gas fields in Azerbaijan, and it has teamed up with BP in a bid to buy a 50% stake in Israel’s NewMed Energy, with a focus on gas exploration in areas including the eastern Mediterranean. It is also buying into projects around renewables and chemicals, the company told CNN.

To limit its carbon footprint amid the expansion, ADNOC said in October it plans to capture 10 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year from its operations by 2030 — a figure Global Witness found was wildly exaggerated in a recent analysis.

ADNOC currently has the capacity for 800,000 metric tons per year, though it hopes to capture another roughly 3 megatons per year through two facilities not yet completed. Even if those facilities do come online, Global Witness calculates it would take ADNOC

more than 340 years to capture the amount of planet-heating carbon it is expected to emit between 2023 and 2030, if it captured both the emissions from its operations and those that occur from using its oil and gas.

ADNOC did not address the calculation in its response to CNN, saying only that it had set its ambition “to achieve net zero by 2045 backed by an initial \$15 billion allocation.”

“Before this year, most people would have been forgiven for never having heard of ADNOC. The more we learn about this company — whose CEO remember is charged with making meaningful progress on emissions reductions at COP28 — the greater an outlier it becomes,” Patrick Galey, a senior fossil fuels investigator at Global Witness, told CNN.

“ADNOC plans not only to produce billions of barrels of oil for decades to come, but it is also positioning itself to be among the most aggressive expanders of oil and gas production out there.”

How much the UAE company expands beyond 2030 will depend on what role negotiators see for carbon capture at COP28, and whether it can find new markets abroad. Ironically, COP28 could be the arena that transforms ADNOC into a global oil major.

This story has been updated to reflect that South Pole has denied allegations it overstated the value of its carbon credits, and to include a statement from a South Pole spokesperson on why its CEO stepped down.

## JOURNAL ONLINE

### [DOST highlights growing bamboo as a strategy to Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability](#)

The Department of Science and Technology highlights growing bamboo as a strategy in climate change adaptation and sustainability for Mindanao during a DRRM forum in Cagayan de Oro City. The forum was attended by 65 participants representing 20 LGUs and organizations coming from various parts of the country.

This DOST-led forum, “Tala-Kawayan: Bamboo in DRR and Carbon Crediting” was conducted on October 4 as a venue to inform and build networking for local bamboo stakeholders in Mindanao. The forum was also designed to spread awareness on the benefits of bamboo in DRR efforts and how communities with large resources of bamboo could take part in the Carbon Crediting initiatives.

The first panel of speakers are Atty. Burt Estrada, CEO of Bukidnon Tagoloanon Mulahay Ha Kabukalagan Agriculture Cooperative (BUKTAMACO), and Christopher Ua-o, Head of Manufacturing at RIZOME Philippines. They emphasized bamboo’s transformative impact in Indigenous People Areas through the Bamboo Value Chain Development Program.

“The program increased the family income of people involved in the program,” Atty. Estrada added while mentioning the program’s effect on enhancing community resilience in disaster-prone areas.

He also underscored that bamboo is a sustainable solution in disaster-prone regions, offering economic opportunities and enhancing resilience.

Moreover, Mr. Ua-o stressed the importance of collaborative efforts between community-based organizations, businesses, and policymakers. He underscored the significance of these alliances in championing bamboo’s role in DRR.

“When we use more bamboo then we avoid using wood, steel and concrete which are responsible for 25% of our carbon dioxide emission,” Mr. Ua-o said.

The second panel delved into Government and Policy Support for Carbon Crediting Bamboo, featuring insights from Director Romulo Aggangan of DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute, Dr. Florentino Tesoro of Bamboo Professionals,

Inc., and Mr. Rene “Butch” Madarang, Executive Director of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council.

Dr. Tesoro discussed the history and concept of Carbon Crediting and its relation to the global push against climate change. Dir. Aggangan stressed the need for research and development to optimize bamboo’s growth and carbon sequestration capabilities, emphasizing the importance of science and innovation. PBIDC ED Madarang reaffirmed support from NGOs to bamboo initiatives and its future role in carbon crediting, “by recognizing [Bamboo’s] versatile properties, its role in disaster resilience, its soil stabilization capabilities, and its potential to earn carbon credits, we are poised to harness bamboo’s full potential.”

In the Open Forum and Press Conference led by PIA 10 Regional Director Franklin Gumapon, they explored bamboo processing challenges in Mindanao and the necessary government support for processors. Ms. Myrna Decipulo, recognized as one of the pillars of the bamboo industry in Mindanao, concluded the forum, expressing delight in the Department of Science and Technology’s robust support. She underscored the forum’s significance in advancing crucial conversations for the region’s bamboo sector.

The forum is part of the activities of HANDA Pilipinas: Innovations in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Exposition Mindanao leg. This nationwide event is the first DRRM exposition in Mindanao.

## SUNSTAR

### Young Filipinos lead fight vs climate change

The Quezon City Government and UNICEF Philippines recognized the voice, agency, and leadership of children and youth in climate change efforts during this year's World Children's Day celebration. Despite being the global epicenter of the climate crisis, having the highest levels of youth eco-anxiety, and displacement, children in the Philippines are taking matters into their own hands through their own initiatives.

"Ngayon, Para Bukas! A Call for Collective Climate Action" brought children's perspectives ahead of the COP28 in Dubai. Results from children's dialogues and surveys from the Local Conference of Youth 2023 (LCOY), U-Report, and the Quezon City Children's Climate Change Agenda were presented to the COP28 Philippine delegation. Philippines Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte also graced the event to express her support.

Among the demands of the children and young people include community-centered platforms for young people's education and participation, mental health support networks and safe and enabling environments for Indigenous Peoples and environmental defenders.

"Children in the Philippines are bearing the brunt of climate change. They need to be given more opportunity to meaningfully participate in the decisions and actions that affect them. The voices, perspectives and ideas of children and young people must be heard at the highest levels and taken seriously. Many children and youth are already doing their part," UNICEF Philippines Representative Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov says.

Among the youth-led programmes highlighted in the event included an organization protecting Irrawady dolphins in Western Visayas; an initiative teaching environmental and agricultural programs to public schools; a network of young environmentalist journalists; and an advocacy group that empowers communities living around the Pasig River.

"Youth are our most active force in nation-building, and we must maximize their skills and talents to secure the success of our climate change initiatives," Mayor Belmonte said.

The Quezon City Government is at the forefront of the battle against the climate crisis. From promotion of sustainable energy, active mobility, food security, water conservation,

air quality management to circular economy, the Quezon City Government has been successful in its environmental endeavors resulting in many recognitions here and abroad.

UNICEF in the Philippines is working to make essential social services more resilient to the effects of climate change, support mitigation and adaptation strategies, and giving children the education and skills needed to play a leading role in the just transition to a more sustainable world.

UNICEF is calling on the Philippine government to: Ensure that government agencies involved in climate, environment, resilience, and those working with children and young people to work together and rationalize plans for climate mitigation and adaptation and ensure that these plans are sufficiently resourced;

Include youth representatives in the interagency steering committees that make decisions on key climate change efforts and provide them with regular feedback; and

Work with local government agencies to ensure proper coordination, rationalization and consolidation of government agency directives involved in climate change to lessen the burden on the local government unit (LGUs). Plans of local governments should be fully funded and responsive to the specific and heightened vulnerabilities of children and youth, and that their right to meaningful participation is realized.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### Parliamentarians tackle security, climate change, post-pandemic recovery in Asia-Pacific forum

By: Javier Joe Ismael

Parliamentarians from 28 countries in the Asia-Pacific converged in Manila on Thursday to kick off a four-day forum that would tackle regional security, transnational crime, free and fair trade, climate change adaptation and sustainable development, migration, global health pandemics and post-pandemic economic recovery among others.

Senate President Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri said the 31st Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum,(APPF) hosted by the Philippine Congress, brings together parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region, covering Southeast Asia, Oceania, Northeast Asia, and the Americas.

"This is a great start for the President's (Ferdinand Marcos Jr.) administration, to show that the Philippines is once again open to the international community, in this period of post-pandemic recovery," the Senate chief said in his previous statement.

Zubiri stressed that the APPF31 meeting is a testament to how "the Philippines is ready once more to re-engage with the world and ready to take on our responsibility as an active member in our community of nations and especially, in the affairs of the Asia-Pacific region."

The APPF31 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City will end on Sunday.

As one of the founding members of the forum, the Philippines hosted the second annual meeting of the APPF in 1994.

The Philippines' hosting of APPF31 also comes in the same year that the country officially joined the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) region, after the Senate ratified it in February.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Climate conspiracy theories flourish ahead of COP28

By: Roland Lloyd Parry

Climate conspiracy theories are flourishing with lifestyle influencers joining in the misinformation war and scientists hounded on social media, researchers say, as pressure rises on leaders at the COP28 summit.

"Mis- and disinformation about the climate emergency are delaying urgently needed action to ensure a liveable future for the planet," the United Nations said in a policy brief in June.

"A small but vocal minority of climate science denialists continue to reject the consensus position and command an outsized presence on some digital platforms."

At the UN's last COP summit, officials and campaigners called for delegates and social media giants to adopt a common definition of climate disinformation and misinformation, and work to prevent it.

As leaders prepare for the world's biggest climate meeting in Dubai from November 30 to December 12, AFP Fact Check details three trends in false climate information in 2023.

Conspiracy theories thrive

Wildfires and heatwaves struck around the world this year, fuelling false claims that the disasters were brought about by humans to justify repressive climate policies.

Unfounded conspiracy theories surged about "15-minute cities" -- urban-planning initiatives aiming in part to reduce traffic emissions -- with commentators branding them a plan by global elites to keep populations captive.

AFP fact-checks debunked numerous claims sparked by the deadly wildfires that ravaged Maui, Hawaii in August. Among them, one TikTok video claimed blazes were started on purpose in a "land grab" to "get people into 15-minute cities".

Conspiracy theories have a "choke hold... on all conversations around public policy" on climate and emissions reductions, said Jennie King, head of climate research and policy for the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a think tank.



The Centre for Countering Digital Hate, a campaign group that analysed thousands of posts on X (formerly Twitter), said the denialist hashtag ClimateScam trended on X after New York authorities issued a smog warning due to smoke from wildfires in Canada.

#### Health influencers spread misinformation

With the decline of the Covid pandemic and the numerous conspiracy theories it spawned, some "wellness" and New Age spiritualist influencers now post false claims about climate change, analysts at non-profit Climate Action Against Disinformation (CAAD) said in a report.

They analysed posts by health influencers including bodybuilders and yoga teachers.

"Arguments are intimately linked to concerns around bodily integrity, including a common accusation that climate policies are a pretext to make people unhealthy," they wrote.

AFP fact checks have debunked claims that the World Economic Forum wanted to make people eat insects or that US cities planned to ban meat and dairy foods under climate policies.

#### Scientists targeted online

With governments pushing reforms to reduce carbon emissions, 2023 has seen online attacks on public figures over climate reforms — from state officials to journalists to meteorologists.

"All of those are seen as targets for this sort of information warfare," said King, signalling "the increasing scapegoating of anybody who is associated with climate policy or climate action."

During a heatwave that started in April, Spain's State Meteorological Agency (AEMET) said its employees received threats from people who believed the widely debunked theory that the authorities were creating weather disasters through aeroplane "chemtrails".

Researchers meanwhile documented cases of scientists abandoning Twitter for alternative social networks as insults and threats from climate change deniers surged on the platform after billionaire Elon Musk took it over in October 2022.

Peter Gleick, a climate specialist with nearly 99,000 followers, announced on May 21 he would no longer post on the platform because the "intensity of abuse has skyrocketed".

Michael Mann, a climate scientist at the University of Pennsylvania and prominent analyst of climate disinformation, said he believed the rise was "organised and orchestrated" by opponents of reforms.

An analysis of posts on Twitter carried out by computational social scientists at City, University of London in January 2023 found that the number of tweets or retweets using strong climate-sceptic terms nearly doubled in 2022 to more than a million.

Since then, Musk's move to restrict researchers' access to the platform's analytical data has made the trend harder to measure, City researcher Max Falkenberg told AFP.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS WORLD

#### [Marcos calls for unity and cooperation in climate action](#)

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday called for effective communication to raise awareness about the impact of climate change.

He made the call at the 16th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

“I enjoin the Climate Change Commission to effectively communicate this year’s theme of unity and cooperation for a more resilient and adaptable nation,” he said.

He said rising temperatures, extreme weather events and the deteriorating biodiversity are “stark reminders of the need to quickly respond to this immediate environmental concern.”

“We all have a role to play in this mission. So we must work together, take a stance in support of our planet,” he said. “Let us be involved in creating solutions to mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change.”

Mr. Marcos said in his first address to Congress that he will work towards a shift to green energy and boost investment in climate-resilient infrastructure.

Despite his climate talks, the Philippine leader, who is pressured by civil society to go beyond green rhetoric, has yet to declare a national climate emergency, which would authorize the government to mobilize funds to step up climate mitigation efforts.

The US has yet to declare a climate emergency and neither has China. They accounted for 41.89% and 34.75% of world gross domestic product in nominal and purchasing power parity terms, respectively, in 2021.

A measure seeking a national declaration is gaining traction at the House of Representatives after it hurdled second reading approval on Wednesday.

Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez said the proposed Climate Change Resilience Act would call on the government to craft measures that would address human-caused global warming and mobilize funds for mitigation efforts.

The measure proposes the creation of a Climate Change Resiliency Adaptability Program.

“Extreme weather conditions have devastated and may continue to devastate parts of the country, which shall radically impact and affect the country’s food production and supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure, and economy,” the bill’s author said. “Thus, there is a need for additional measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.”

**GMA**

**[Marcos to Pinoys: Take a stance in protecting Earth, mitigating climate change](#)**

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. urged Filipinos to take a stance in protecting the planet and play a role in addressing climate change.

Marcos made the call amid the observance of the Climate Change Consciousness Week.

"I enjoin the Climate Change Commission to effectively communicate this year's theme of unity and cooperation for a more resilient and adaptable nation," Marcos said in a video message.

"We all have a role to play in this mission. So we must work together, take a stance in support of our planet. Let us be involved in creating solutions to mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change" he added.

Marcos pointed out that the impact of global warming and climate change has become more evident in our present time.

He said that rising temperatures, extreme weather events and a decline in biodiversity are "stark reminders of the need to quickly respond to this immediate environmental concern."

Climate change was among the topics discussed during the 2023 APEC Summit in San Francisco, California last week.

Marcos said the APEC member economies discussed "what part each of us can play in facing those challenges that the new world economy has brought us."

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [US-funded solar-powered boats launched in Palawan](#)

By: Joseph Pedrajas

The United States has launched a solar-powered boat in Palawan to help in the mobility of residents and delivery of basic services to remote islands in the province.

Solar-powered boat Adlao Azul is equipped with a US-made battery system and high-efficiency bifacial solar panels that would allow it to cruise for over six hours on clean energy, according to the US Embassy in Manila.

It also comes with a cooler and freezer storage for the transport of food, vaccines, medical supplies, and other essential goods for residents on the islands of Coron, Cullion, and Busuanga and allows the timely delivery of emergency supplies during power outages and natural disasters, the embassy added.

Adlao Azul was launched through the P25 million grant of USAID's Energy Secure Philippines project, a five-year activity aimed at mobilizing investments, deploying modern energy technology, and supporting policy reforms for a more competitive energy sector to drive future economic growth and social development in the country. The boat was developed by Oceantara Energy Corporation.

USAID Philippines Environmental Officer Paul Brown said the project is part of the US' commitment to work closely with the national and local governments and the private sector "to expand the use of renewable energy across different sectors such as transportation, agriculture, island electrification, and disaster response."

"We look forward to our continued partnership with the private sector, particularly investors, resort owners, and boat operators to support a low-carbon ecosystem," he added.

Former Climate Change Commission Assistant Secretary Joy Goco described the project as "very transformative."

She said it would address "not only climate change mitigation but also support the livelihood and economy of communities."

The US, the embassy said, will also work to expand the commercial availability of clean energy-powered boats in Palawan.

That could be done through documenting supplier networks and regulations, establishing franchise agreements, and linking potential funders with potential clients, such as boat operators and builders, it added.

"Through this initiative, USAID seeks to pioneer the use of renewable energy in modernizing transportation and enhancing the logistical chain in delivering essential goods and services," the embassy said.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [House OKs climate emergency declaration bill on 2nd reading](#)

By: Filane Mikee Cervantes

A measure declaring a climate change emergency has hurdled second reading approval at the House of Representatives.

During Tuesday's plenary session, the chamber approved through voice voting House Bill 9084, or the proposed Climate Change Resilience Act.

Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the climate emergency declaration would highlight the necessity for the government to devise measures to stop human-caused global warming, limit its effects, and mobilize funds for climate mitigation efforts.

"Extreme weather conditions have devastated and may continue to devastate parts of the country, which shall radically impact and affect the country's food production and supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure, and economy. Thus, there is a need for additional measures to mitigate the effects of climate change," Rodriguez said.

The bill proposes the creation of a Climate Change Resiliency Adaptability Program to enhance the country's capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The program's components would include open sharing of data among stakeholders; probabilistic climate risk assessment; multi-level national educational plan on climate resilience; bridging gaps in the link between health and climate change; critical services, such as water, sanitation, and hygiene systems; and ecosystem protection strategies.

Concerned government agencies and local government units (LGUs) shall allocate adequate funds from their annual appropriations for the formulation, development, and implementation of their respective climate change programs and plans under Republic Act 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009.

Private entities, civil society organizations, and non-government organizations shall also take part in the preservation and protection of the environment by ensuring that their organizational practices are not detrimental and hazardous to the environment.

Projects undertaken by private entities under the proposed law shall be considered as part of their corporate social responsibility program.



Under the measure, a Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Summit shall be held on the second week of September every year.

The summit, which aims to collaborate all efforts of the concerned agencies in environment preservation and protection, shall be spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission.

## PBBM: Unity vital in battling global warming, climate change

By: Ruth Abbey Gita Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday emphasized the importance of unity in mitigating the effects of global warming and climate change.

In his pre-recorded video message during the opening of the 16th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, Marcos enjoined the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to promote unity and cooperation for a "more resilient and adaptable nation."

The President made the call, as he expressed hope to reach his goal of having a "new Philippines that is strong in trials, peaceful, and safe for the people and full of hope for a good future."

"The impact of global warming and climate change is becoming more evident in our present time. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and a decline in biodiversity are stark reminders of the need to quickly respond to this immediate environmental concern," he said.

"We all have a role to play in this mission. So we must work together, take a stance in support of our planet. Let us be involved in creating solutions to mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change."

Under Proclamation 1667 issued on Nov. 18, 2008, the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week is celebrated every Nov. 19 to 25.

In adherence to this proclamation, the CCC organizes a series of activities aimed at raising awareness and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders.

The 16th Annual Climate Change Consciousness Week underscores the importance of community collaboration and collective action to address climate change.

This year's theme for the week-long commemoration, "Bayanihan para sa Klima: Bagong Bansang Matatag," is anchored on Marcos' vision of a low-carbon economy and climate-resilient country.

The opening ceremony for the 16th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week was graced by representatives of national government agencies, development partners, and civil society organizations.

In observance of the week-long event, the art exhibit, "Stories of Resilience," opened with a collection of photographs and poetry capturing the resilience, hope, and inspiration of Filipinos in the face of climate change and disasters.

## **POLITIKO**

### **Climate Change Body Calls For Child-Centered Climate Action**

By: Prince Golez

Local government units (LGUs) must act immediately to address the threats and risks posed by the climate crisis, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. made the statement as he noted that about 9.7 million Filipino children were displaced due to climate change-related events from 2016 to 2021.

In a news release Wednesday, Dela Cruz said that LGUs should have easier access to the People's Survival Fund to assist them in financing efforts to implement mitigation and adaptation measures.

The displacement of vulnerable communities due to climate-related disasters has often resulted in an increase in the prevalence of diseases such as respiratory illnesses and long-term mental health issues, particularly among children, according to him.

"Our children miss school due to disasters that occur in their community and this affects their learning and their future. In the countryside, where agriculture is the main industry, these calamities likewise aggravate food shortages and even malnutrition."

Dela Cruz stressed the need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

"We can start by reducing our carbon footprints through green transition of waste management and disposal using waste-to-energy technology and living sustainably by teaching our communities about food security and urban agriculture. We must also promote programs that encourage our kids to improve their community's disaster readiness and resilience," he said.

The commissioner also said the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai this month provides a critical opportunity for the country to design and implement child-responsive climate action that prioritizes the needs and perspectives of children.

**=END=**