



## NEWS ROUNDUP

01 DECEMBER 2023 [ 08:30 am]

---

- Climate disaster fund approved at UN's COP28 climate summit
- Climate change is costing the US \$150 billion a year. Here's what that looks like
- Nations pledge millions to new climate damage fund at COP28, US criticized for its small contribution
- Climate scientist Michael Mann: 'Our destiny is still mostly in our own hands'

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Mountain Province gets P271-M climate change survival fund
- Marcos Skips Climate Change Meet In Dubai
- PH committed to global environmental responsibility: CCC chief
- Borongan to use survival fund to prevent flooding
- Philippines urged to push for fossil fuel phaseout, climate justice at COP28

### AL JAZEERA

#### [Climate disaster fund approved at UN's COP28 climate summit](#)

The United Nation's annual climate summit is under way in Dubai, with world leaders approving a climate disaster fund that will help vulnerable nations cope with the impact of drought, floods and rising seawater.

### CNN

#### [Climate change is costing the US \\$150 billion a year. Here's what that looks like](#)

By: Elisabeth Buchwald

Every three weeks, the United States experiences an extreme weather event that produces \$1 billion worth of damage, according to the latest US National Climate Assessment report, released earlier this month. Compare that to 40 years ago, when extreme weather episodes that cost an inflation-adjusted \$1 billion happened once every four months on average.

## [Nations pledge millions to new climate damage fund at COP28, US criticized for its small contribution](#)

By: Angela Dewan, Ella Nilsen and Rachel Ramirez

Global delegates at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai formally adopted a damage fund that was decades in the making, and several countries pledged millions of dollars to it to help nations hit hardest by the climate crisis – an early success on the first day of talks that allows more time to discuss the thorny issues around slashing fossil fuels.

### **FINANCIAL TIMES**

## [Climate scientist Michael Mann: ‘Our destiny is still mostly in our own hands’](#)

By: Philippa Nuttall

American climate scientist Michael Mann is on a mission to protect the world against the “doomers” — fellow academics or campaigners who have decided it is too late to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

### **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **BUSINESS MIRROR**

## [Mountain Province gets P271-M climate change survival fund](#)

By: Artemio A. Dumlao

Malacañang has granted P271.15 million to Mountain Province to fund the local government’s efforts to curb the effects of climate change.

### **ONE NEWS PH**

## [Marcos Skips Climate Change Meet In Dubai](#)

President Marcos canceled his attendance to the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) here to work on the safe release of the 17 Filipino seafarers held hostage by Iran-backed Houthi militants in the Red Sea.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[PH committed to global environmental responsibility: CCC chief](#)**

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

The approval of six additional climate adaptation projects through the People's Survival Fund (PSF) is testament to the Philippines' commitment to global environmental responsibility, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said Thursday.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[Borongan to use survival fund to prevent flooding](#)**

The PHP118.86 million grant that Borongan City received from the People's Survival Fund (PSF) will be used for flood control measures and support reforestation efforts.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Philippines urged to push for fossil fuel phaseout, climate justice at COP28](#)**

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

As COP28 opens in Dubai Thursday, climate and energy groups are hopeful that the Philippines will lend its voice to the calls for an equitable and swift transition from fossil fuels to renewables, and corporate accountability for climate impacts.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## AL JAZEERA

### [Climate disaster fund approved at UN's COP28 climate summit](#)

The United Nation's annual climate summit is under way in Dubai, with world leaders approving a climate disaster fund that will help vulnerable nations cope with the impact of drought, floods and rising seawater.

The agreement marked a "positive signal of momentum" at the start of the 2023 conference – known as COP28 – its host UAE's Sultan al-Jaber said in the opening ceremony on Thursday.

Al-Jaber, who is the UAE's minister of industry and also heads the national oil company, is chairing the summit for its 28th meeting. His leading role has drawn backlash from critics who believe his oil ties should disqualify him from the climate post.

In opening remarks, al-Jaber made the case that the world must "proactively engage" fossil fuel companies in phasing out emissions, pointing to progress by some national oil companies in adopting net-zero targets for 2050.

"I am grateful that they have stepped up to join this game-changing journey," al-Jaber said in opening remarks. "But, I must say, it is not enough, and I know that they can do much more."

The UN's climate chief, Simon Stiell, gave a more stark assessment, saying there must be a "terminal decline" to the fossil fuel era if we want to stop "our own terminal decline".

Who is attending?

With more than 70,000 attendees, the two-week-long affair is billed as the largest-ever climate gathering.

Among its expected attendees are dozens of world leaders, including the heads of state of France, Japan, the UK, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Brazil. Also represented are crowds of activists, lobbyists, and business leaders, including billionaire Bill Gates.

However, the presidents of the world's two biggest polluters — the US and China — are not attending.

The summit comes at a pivotal time, with global emissions still climbing and 2023 projected to be the hottest year on record. Scientists warn the world must commit to accelerating climate action or risk the worst impacts of a warming planet.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said leaders should aim for a complete “phaseout” of fossil fuels, a proposal opposed by some powerful nations that has dogged past negotiations.

What are the goals?

On Thursday, nations formally approved the launch of a “loss and damage” fund to compensate climate-vulnerable countries after a year of hard-fought negotiations over how it would work.

Later in the summit attendees are due to review and calibrate the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s (UNFCCC’s) terms, Paris Agreement, and Kyoto Protocol, a binding treaty agreed in 1997 for industrialised nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This year, UNFCCC members will also face their first Global Stocktake (GST) – a scorecard analysing countries’ progress towards the Paris Agreement – so they can adapt their next climate action plans which are due in 2025.

At the same time, host UAE aims to marshal an agreement on the tripling of renewable energy and doubling the annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

Rallying a common position on these points will be challenging, as COP requires all nations – whether dependent on oil, sinking beneath rising seas or locked in geopolitical rivalry – to act unanimously.

Questions about the UAE’s role

The UAE sees itself as a bridge between the rich developed nations most responsible for historic emissions and the rest of the world, which has contributed less to global warming but suffers its worst consequences.

But the decision for it to host has attracted a firestorm of criticism, particularly as the man appointed to steer the talks, al-Jaber, is also head of UAE state oil giant ADNOC.

Al-Jaber, who also chairs a clean energy company, has defended his record, and strenuously denied this week that he used the COP presidency to pursue new fossil fuel deals after allegations reported by the BBC.

On Thursday, al-Jaber said the “role of fossil fuels” must be considered in any deal at the climate talks, saying “it is essential that no issue is left off the table”.

## CNN

### [Climate change is costing the US \\$150 billion a year. Here's what that looks like](#)

By: Elisabeth Buchwald

Every three weeks, the United States experiences an extreme weather event that produces \$1 billion worth of damage, according to the latest US National Climate Assessment report, released earlier this month. Compare that to 40 years ago, when extreme weather episodes that cost an inflation-adjusted \$1 billion happened once every four months on average.

As of November 8, there have been 25 weather and climate disasters with losses exceeding \$1 billion, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That exceeds last year's count — even without data from the last two months of the year.

In total, extreme weather events cost the US \$150 billion per year, due to direct impacts such as infrastructure damage, worker injuries and agricultural losses, the authors of the report estimate. And the cost of extreme weather events is expected to grow in the near term with a projected rise in sea levels and temperatures, the report states.

Included in this year's tally are the devastating wildfires that took place in Hawaii over the summer. The damage from the wildfires, which took the lives of over 100 people and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, cost \$5.6 billion, according to an estimate from the National Centers for Environmental Information, a division of NOAA.

There are also important economic implications. For instance, the authors of the report cited separate research published in April by MIT's Center for Real Estate, which found that property damage from hurricanes can result in higher mortgage delinquency rates as property owners become more financially stressed. The authors also cited research that found flooding and rising sea levels lower home prices and property values as more people relocate to areas that are less prone to flooding.

Hurricanes in the United States can also strain government budgets since they tend to lead to substantially higher social safety net disbursements, including unemployment insurance and public medical payments, according to research published in 2017 by Tatyana Deryugina, a finance professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The National Climate Assessment report's estimate of the total annual cost of climate change in the United States takes those factors into account. It does not, however, take into account loss of life and health care-related costs.

\$150 billion at glance

It may be hard to appreciate the value of \$150 billion without anything to compare it to. That's why CNN sought to find some meaningful examples.

The \$150 billion annual cost of extreme weather in the damage to the US is:

- More than Morocco's gross domestic product last year, according to World Bank Data
- About the net worth of Larry Ellison, the co-founder of Oracle, according to the Forbes Billionaires list
- Enough to cover approximately five weeks' worth of Social Security payments for all recipients as of September, according to CNN estimates based on monthly Social Security Administration data
- More than what the US government distributed to the 41 million people who received food stamps in 2022, according to data from the US Department of Agriculture
- Equal to about 9% of the total student loan debt in the United States, according to the New York Federal Reserve's Quarterly Report on Household Debt and Credit

## [Nations pledge millions to new climate damage fund at COP28, US criticized for its small contribution](#)

By: Angela Dewan, Ella Nilsen and Rachel Ramirez

Global delegates at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai formally adopted a damage fund that was decades in the making, and several countries pledged millions of dollars to it to help nations hit hardest by the climate crisis – an early success on the first day of talks that allows more time to discuss the thorny issues around slashing fossil fuels.

But the United States is receiving criticism for contributing an “embarrassing” amount of money to the fund, less than a fifth of the United Arab Emirates’ contribution and 14 times less than the European Union’s.

Demand for a fund to channel money to developing countries to help them cope with the impacts of climate change has for years stymied progress at the annual negotiations. The details of the fund were agreed to earlier this month at a pre-COP meeting and were formalized Thursday, in the hope it would allow for progress in other areas at the summit.

“We have delivered history today — the first time a decision has been adopted on day 1 of any COP,” COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber said. The motion passed without objection and was met with a standing ovation.

While all parties agreed to the fund, there was previously opposition to allowing the World Bank to host it. Several countries objected to the bank managing the money on the basis that it has strong US connections. All parties ultimately agreed on the condition that the World Bank’s oversight of the fund would be temporary.

Some countries pledged money to the fund right after it was agreed. The COP28 host country, the United Arab Emirates, pledged \$100 million, as did Germany. The UK announced £60million, part of which will be used for “other arrangements,” according to the release, while the US committed \$17.5 million to the fund and Japan contributed \$10 million.

While climate experts and advocacy groups largely praised the establishment of the fund, they also say it was just a first step on a long road to ensuring the countries hit hardest by the climate crisis are fully supported.

Money from rich nations must now begin flowing into the fund, they said.

“The loss and damage fund will be a lifeline to people in their darkest hour, enabling families to rebuild their homes after disaster strikes, support farmers when their crops



are wiped out and relocate those that become permanently displaced by rising seas,” said Ani Dasgupta, president & CEO of World Resources Institute. “This outcome was hard-fought but is a clear step forward.”

US contribution criticized as ‘embarrassing’

The US in particular was criticized for its \$17.5-million contribution, which some experts and advocacy groups said was “embarrassing” and “striking” for how small it is compared to the pledges of other nations.

Dasgupta called the contribution from the US, and Japan’s of \$10 million, “disappointing.”

“Given the size of their economies, there is simply no excuse for their contributions to be far eclipsed by others,” Dasgupta said.

Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa, panned the US contribution as far too small. “The initial funding pledges are clearly inadequate and will be a drop in the ocean compared to the scale of the need they are to address,” Adow said in a statement. “In particular, the amount announced by the US is embarrassing for President Biden and (US climate envoy) John Kerry. It just shows how this must be just the start.”

Tom Evans, a policy adviser at international climate think tank E3G, noted the US delegation to COP is under considerable political pressure from dynamics at home, with a Republican-controlled US House of Representatives.

Still, he said, the size of the US contribution was “striking” compared to the far larger amounts from the UAE and Germany.

US officials were clear they were donating to a “climate impacts fund,” Evans said, adding, “they’re seeking to avoid the funds being called loss and damage because of fears about how that would be received by Republicans in Congress.”

Evans noted the US contribution is subject to approval from Congress, adding “we have seen in the past how difficult that is for the United States.”

CNN has reached out to the US delegation at COP28 for a response.

Years in the making

The development comes after years of wrangling over who should pay for climate impacts. Developing countries and small island states have been pressing for these types of funds since the early 1990s.

Several wealthy nations, including the United States, have been reluctant to tie countries' obligations to their historic emissions. It's also been contentious because wealthy nations have expressed concern that paying for such a fund could be seen as admission of climate liability.

With the damage fund decision out of the way, focus will now be on the Global Stocktake, where countries will need to agree on language to formally note what the world has achieved so far in responding to the climate crisis.

But the most controversial issue is the language that will define the future of fossil fuel use.

Since last year's summit in Egypt, more than 80 countries have voiced support for language around phasing out fossil fuels, though many wish to continue using them as long as the climate pollution is captured before it enters the atmosphere. Several analysts have told CNN the UAE is pushing for allowances on carbon capture in the final text.

The UAE has been fiercely criticized for appointing Al Jaber — who also runs the nation's mammoth oil and gas company, ADNOC — to preside over the meetings. More than 100 members of US Congress and the European Parliament voiced opposition to his appointment in May, while many NGOs have questioned whether he, and the UAE more broadly, can run a transparent conference free from its own energy interests.

Al Jaber pledged in his opening remarks that he would ensure full transparency in the process.

## FINANCIAL TIMES

### [Climate scientist Michael Mann: 'Our destiny is still mostly in our own hands'](#)

By: Philippa Nuttall

American climate scientist Michael Mann is on a mission to protect the world against the “doomers” — fellow academics or campaigners who have decided it is too late to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

In his latest book, *Our Fragile Moment*, Mann uses palaeoclimatology (the study of prehistoric climates) to demonstrate why he believes certain of his peers are wrong to throw up their hands in despair.

He is insistent, nonetheless, that urgent political action is needed to avoid humanity creating a world in which it would be much less pleasant to live. “Our destiny is still mostly in our own hands” is the main message of *Our Fragile Moment*, Mann says, by video link from Philadelphia.

Best known for his “hockey stick” graph that showed the dramatic rise in global warming since the industrial revolution, Mann has been director of the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media at the University of Pennsylvania since September 2022.

While his 2021 book *The New Climate War* dealt with the politics of climate change, and the solutions needed to bring down emissions, *Our Fragile Moment* is aimed at “explaining to climate activists and advocates that it is not too late”. Mann analyses geographic records to show how and why global warming happened in the past and to underline his message that “warming does really stop when carbon emissions go to zero.”

Some scientists argue that, the longer it takes to reach net zero, the greater the risk that global warming will continue long after greenhouse gas emissions have been cut. But Mann quotes a favourite aphorism of his friend and mentor Stephen Schneider, a professor of environmental biology at Stanford University who died in 2010: “The truth is bad enough! We don’t need to scare the pants off of people with exaggeration. Palaeoclimate records tell us the models are right and, if we stop burning fossil fuels, we can prevent additional warming.”

The “obstacles” to stopping global heating “are not physical, they are political”, insists Mann. However, he agrees that the odds on whether we take the necessary steps don’t look good at the moment. The idea of a “fragile moment” can be applied to much more than just climate change, he says — citing, in particular, “threats to democracy”, not least in the US.

“There is no path to meaningful climate action that doesn’t go through democratic governance,” Mann says. “If we, the US, as the greatest legacy polluter don’t lead, the rest of world won’t follow.”

And he acknowledges polls showing Donald Trump as favourite to win the next US presidential election. “If we lose the battle in the US, I am not very optimistic about where any of this goes.”

Mann draws parallels between the fall of the Mesopotamian civilisation in about 4200BP (before the present) and the conflict in Gaza today, where an “underlying factor” is “competition for water and other resources”. A hotter world will mean more drought and, various studies suggest, more conflict as people fight for decreasing access to water: “If we can’t understand that climate change is making the world less safe, more politically unstable . . . there isn’t any hope for us, because it is hitting us right in the face, right now.”

He draws “some hope” from the fact the world has “thwarted an existential threat” before in the form of the use of thermonuclear weapons during the cold war. “We’ve stared into the abyss and blinked at least once before,” says Mann. Climate change is a “deeper, more ingrained problem”, although he believes “we can look to the past for some cautious optimism.”

Mann would like to see more nuance across the board on the framing of climate change, including the 1.5C warming level cited in the Paris Agreement. This temperature rise “isn’t a cliff that we go off at”, says Mann — even though it is often presented as such.

He believes the figure is important, as “we need actionable targets, or there is nothing really holding politicians’ feet to the fire.” But “we need to make it clear that every fraction of a degree [of warming] matters.”

Similarly, in his latest book, Mann suggests a figure of 8bn people is “beyond the natural ‘carrying capacity’ of our planet” but admits conversations about population and climate action are difficult. “They require a level of nuance it is hard to maintain in the social media, binary world we seem to increasingly inhabit,” he says. “It is obvious the planet can only support so many human beings. We can inflate the numbers through technology, but there are limits.”

Discussions about population are often avoided because, historically, they have sometimes “led us to problematic places where the blame seems to be placed preferentially on the developing world and on people of colour”, says Mann. “The racial overtones that have emerged in the past are problematic and troubling, and we need to flip the switch.

“It is possible to say a population is too large for the planet to support and still recognise that culpability does not apply equally across the board. In the developed world, our footprint is orders of magnitude bigger than in the developing world. More people means more carbon, more warming, and more climate change, but not all people are the same.”

Instead of focusing on population by itself, Mann advocates increasing support for the education of women, which can limit population growth and help address climate change.

A multitude of studies show that extreme weather events, more frequent in a warmer world, have a bigger impact on women than men. The loss and damage fund, agreed at the COP27 summit last year, can help drive change in this area, increase resilience and allow poorer nations to leapfrog to clean energy, says Mann.

Whether and how negotiators “put more meat on the bones” of the fund will be Mann’s focus at COP28. “There are all sorts of things about COP28 that can make one feel uneasy,” but “I think there is some potential” for loss and damage. The fund, he says, also comes back to a core message of his book: “We can work together to solve this problem, but it requires co-operation at an unprecedented scale.”

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [Mountain Province gets P271-M climate change survival fund](#)

By: Artemio A. Dumlao

Malacañang has granted P271.15 million to Mountain Province to fund the local government's efforts to curb the effects of climate change.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno awarded the province's share of the People's Survival Fund (PSF) during a ceremony at the Palace last Wednesday.

Mountain Province Governor Bonifacio C. Lacwasan, Jr. said the fund was through the initiatives of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), Mountain Province LGU and the Mountain Province State Polytechnic College.

He said that once all the required documents are processed, the fund will be downloaded from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Mr. Lacwasan thanked the national government for priority allocation given to Mountain Province which received almost 50% of the P541-million climate adaptation fund for beneficiary-local government units (LGUs) under the PSF-Climate Change Commission.

Another P2 million was received by Besao, a municipality of Mountain Province, for the same effort to parry off the dire effects of climate change.

### **Marcos Skips Climate Change Meet In Dubai**

President Marcos canceled his attendance to the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) here to work on the safe release of the 17 Filipino seafarers held hostage by Iran-backed Houthi militants in the Red Sea.

“In light of important developments in the hostage situation involving 17 Filipino seafarers in the Red Sea, I have made the decision not to attend COP28 in Dubai tomorrow (Friday, Dec. 1),” Marcos said in a post on his official X account at 8:22 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, more than an hour before his scheduled departure. The President, however, did not provide additional details.

Marcos said he would meet his officials on Thursday to discuss the dispatch of a high-level delegation to Tehran, Iran to extend assistance to the Filipino seafarers.

“Today, I will be convening a meeting to facilitate the dispatch of a high-level delegation to Tehran, Iran, with the aim of providing necessary assistance to our seafarers,” he said.

The 17 Filipinos were among the 25 crewmen being held hostage by Houthi, which seized cargo vessel Galaxy Leader in the southern Red Sea on Nov. 19.

Satellite imagery released on Nov. 28 showed the Galaxy Leader commercial ship near Yemen's port city of Hodeidah. There was no word yet on the condition of the hostages.

Marcos did not arrive at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, where he was scheduled to deliver a departure speech at around 9:45 a.m.

Members of his Cabinet, including Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos, Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, and Socio-economic Secretary Arsenio Balisacan were among those present during the send-off ceremony for Marcos on Thursday morning.

Members of the media covering his participation to the COP28 were already at the airport when the President made the announcement on social media.

This was the first time Marcos canceled an official foreign trip since he was elected president in June last year.

Marcos earlier assured the Filipino people the government is doing all it can to ensure the safety of the 17 Filipino seafarers.

Yemeni rebels seized the cargo vessel in retaliation for Israel's offensive in Gaza, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a recent statement.

The Bahamas-flagged, British-owned Galaxy Leader, reportedly has links to Israeli businessman Abraham "Rami" Ungar, and is operated by a Japanese firm.

Meanwhile, Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga will lead the Philippine delegation at the COP28 and articulate the country's statement on his behalf, according to Marcos.

Yulo-Loyzaga, who is the official representative of the President to the Climate Change Commission, arrived here ahead of Marcos. Marcos chairs the CCC.

"I have entrusted DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to lead the COP28 delegation and articulate the country's statement on my behalf," the Chief Executive said.

The meeting with Filipino community at the Dubai World Trade Centre was also expected to push through on Thursday night without the President, according to Malacañang officials.

Marcos was among the more than 140 heads of states, governments and royalties who were expected to attend the opening of the World Climate Action Summit at the Dubai Exhibition Centre on Friday, Dec. 1.

High on the President's agenda at this year's COP was fast tracking the energy transition, delivering and enhancing climate finance, and resilient food systems, DFA Assistant Secretary Maria Teresa Almojuela of the Office of United Nations and other International Organizations said at a pre-departure briefing at Malacañang on Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Prior to Marcos' decision to skip the annual climate gathering, several bilateral meetings were also being arranged between Marcos and other world leaders on the sidelines of the COP28, Almojuela said.

237 Filipino delegates

Almojuela said the Philippines has a total of 237 registered on site delegates, representing 16 agencies and member of the civil society.



“Many of them (Filipino delegates) will be staying behind after the President has completed his program for the negotiation which is...usually it extends beyond two or a couple of days beyond the schedule because these are very important conversations,” Almojuela said.

Apart from Yulo-Loyzaga, Science Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. is also part of the Philippine delegation here.

### Climate financing

In his speech during the turnover of P541.44-million People’s Survival Fund (PSF) to six local government units (LGUs) at Malacañang on Wednesday, the President said he would use the COP28 to call on the global community to stay committed to climate change mitigation programs.

“We will use this platform to rally to global community and call upon nations to honor their commitments, particularly in climate financing,” he said.

The President underscored the significance of the COP28 to the Philippines, one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change in the world.

“But we must also take the lead when it comes to the global move and the global aspiration that those most vulnerable communities around the world will somehow be assisted by the developing countries when it comes to these measures to mitigate and to adapt to climate change,” he added.

### Survival fund

The PSF finances climate change projects, which are not funded by other government agencies and yearly appropriations to LGU’s for its climate change-related programs.

The Philippines is visited by about 20 cyclones every year although it is not a major emitter, contributing less than 0.5 of one percent of total global emissions.

Among the activities eligible for funding are projects on water resources management, land management, agriculture and fisheries, and health and initiatives that serve as guarantee for the risk insurance needs of farmers, agricultural workers and other stakeholders.

The PSF Board has approved P539.44 million for five climate change adaptation projects of different local governments and another P2 million for a project development grant.

Marcos turned over P271.15 million to Mountain Province for its climate field school for farmers and P126.40 million to Maramag, Bukidnon for the installation of its drainage and early warning systems.

Borongan City in Eastern Samar got P117.96 million for the installation of embankment infrastructure and reforestation for flood control project. Cabagan, Isabela was given P21.28 million for its solar-powered irrigation systems while Catanauan, Quezon received P2.64 million for a mangrove rehabilitation project.

The PSF Board also approved a project development grant worth P2 million for the Building Resiliency and Ensuring Food Security Project of Besao, Mountain Province.

“The PSF and the projects it funds will serve as a safeguard as we adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects. We can proudly say that the Philippines is a trailblazer in domestic climate finance for adaptation, showcasing our nation’s commitment to global environmental responsibility,” he added.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PH committed to global environmental responsibility: CCC chief](#)

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

The approval of six additional climate adaptation projects through the People's Survival Fund (PSF) is testament to the Philippines' commitment to global environmental responsibility, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said Thursday.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Eric E.A Borje made the statement following President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s allocation of over PHP541 million to the PSF.

"The Marcos administration can mobilize critical domestic resources to advance adaptation measures at the local and community levels, especially at a time when risks and challenges posed by climate change demand immediate and urgent actions," Borje said.

"If countries like the Philippines can unlock public domestic climate finance, then developed countries must ramp up delivery on their commitments under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the Paris Agreement."

The new projects include a PHP271.15 million grant for the Provincial Government of Mountain Province to build a Climate Field School (CFS), aiming to boost agricultural and fisheries sectors.

The Municipality of Maramag, Bukidnon, secured PHP126.40 million for drainage systems and agroforestry development, while Borongan City, Eastern Samar, received PHP117.96 million for embankment infrastructure and reforestation along the Lo-om River.

Other approved projects include a solar-powered lamp project in Cabagan, Isabela (PHP21.28 million), and mangrove rehabilitation in Catanauan, Quezon (PHP2.64 million).

A project development grant worth PHP2 million has also been recently approved for the Water Harvesting Structures Project in Besao, Mountain Province.

Established under Republic Act No. 10174, the PSF is a special fund in the National Treasury that provides long-term finance streams to enable the government to

effectively address the problems of climate change through adaptation programs and projects.

The CCC reviews and evaluates project proposals submitted for PSF.

Project proposals are recommended for approval by the PSF Board with concurrence and endorsement from the majority of CCC commissioners.

Project proposals are recommended for approval by the PSF Board.

The CCC also formulates mechanisms towards transparency and public access to information, and develops guidelines to accredit local or community organizations to access the PSF.

## SUNSTAR

### Borongan to use survival fund to prevent flooding

The PHP118.86 million grant that Borongan City received from the People's Survival Fund (PSF) will be used for flood control measures and support reforestation efforts.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday led the turnover of the financial grant from the PSF to Borongan City Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda in Malacañang Palace.

The fund was allocated for the "Reinforcement of Lo-om River Flood Protection System and Redevelopment for Resilient Communities and Livelihood" project that the city government presented to the PSF in July.

The project is set to fortify flood control measures along the Lo-om River and support reforestation efforts in the area.

"The approval and subsequent turnover of the fund signifies a crucial development in our undertaking to enhance our resilience in the face of floods and other environmental challenges," Agda said in a statement.

Before approval, the city's proposal underwent a series of assessments with the PSF board secretariat and board member agencies to ensure that the project adheres to the climate-responsive standards set by the agency.

Witnessing the ceremonial turnover were Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, and Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera of the Climate Change Commission.

Republic Act 10174 established the PSF, aimed at providing funds to local government units for the implementation of climate change adaptation projects.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Philippines urged to push for fossil fuel phaseout, climate justice at COP28](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

As COP28 opens in Dubai Thursday, climate and energy groups are hopeful that the Philippines will lend its voice to the calls for an equitable and swift transition from fossil fuels to renewables, and corporate accountability for climate impacts.

More than 70,000 delegates are expected to attend the two-week-long climate negotiations in the glitzy Gulf city to push for aid to climate-vulnerable communities and ambitious action to address the consequences of global warming.

COP28 comes at a pivotal moment, with emissions still on the rise and this year likely to be the hottest on record.

Groups said the Philippine delegation, led by Environment Secretary Maria Yulo-Loyzaga, should call for the end of fossil fuels to avert the most disastrous impacts of climate change.

“Putting an end to the Philippines’ push for massive additional fossil fuel use, particularly with gas, is an urgent policy shift that can get us on track to 1.5 degree Celsius-compatibility,” said Avril De Torres, deputy executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development.

An analysis released this month suggests that the Philippines should end its coal dependency by 2035 and almost entirely phase out gas-fired generation by 2040 to meet the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The power generation in the Philippines heavily relies on fossil fuels, with the country generating 60% of its electricity from coal, a significant contributor to planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions.

The government targets to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix from the current 22% to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

But for John Leo Algo, the national coordinator of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, calling for the fossil fuel phaseout may not be high on the government’s list of priorities.

“It is not surprising, considering the Marcos administration heavily promotes even more use of fossil gas and is intent on growing the mining industry to supposedly support RE development,” he said.

## Climate finance, loss and damage

Yulo-Loyzaga, who also serves as the chairperson-designate of the Climate Change Commission, said the Philippine delegation will engage in seven negotiating work streams, covering loss and damage, climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, just energy transition, global stocktake, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction and avoidance.

A major test in Dubai is the expected launch of the loss and damage fund, which will compensate developing countries for climate-induced damage. But talks on the operationalization of the fund have proven to be complicated, with questions on which countries will pay, who will be the recipients, and where the fund will be housed.

Greenpeace Philippines called on the Philippines and other governments to demand payment from fossil fuel companies and advocate for climate justice.

“Those who’ve polluted and profited the most must be made accountable and pay their debt to the people most impacted by their irresponsible operations,” said Greenpeace campaigner Jefferson Chua said

The group is currently blocking access to the import terminal of Shell in Batangas City, staging a protest aimed at emphasizing the importance of holding companies accountable for the consequences of their business activities.

COP28 also features the culmination of the first-ever global stocktake, a process that assesses how far countries have come in tackling climate change and facilitates discussion on how stakeholders can strengthen their climate policies and commitments.

## ‘Walk the talk’

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. announced just hours before the opening of COP28 that he is no longer attending the crucial climate summit “in light of important developments” in the hostage situation involving 17 Filipino seafarers in the Red Sea.

He said Yulo-Loyzaga will lead the Philippine delegation composed of 237 people and express the country’s statement on his behalf.

The Philippines will open its first ever pavilion at the major United Nations conference, where the government will showcase its strategies to combat climate change.

The environment chief said the country’s participation at COP28 seeks to amplify calls for developed nations to fulfill their commitments, particularly in finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

Yulo-Loyzaga added that international exposure will open opportunities for access to needed financial and technical support.

While expectations for COP28 should be tempered because of a clear lack of climate action to match the pace of climate change, Aksyon Klima's Algo stressed the importance of participation.

"We challenge all governments, including the Philippine government delegation, to actually walk the talk. If you will say you still want to achieve the 1.5°C limit, be inclusive in your strategies, or any other promise, then keep your word," he said.

**=END=**