

DATE : 22 APR 2019

DAY : **Monday**

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR: Manila Bay establishments should connect to STPs

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

All establishments within the Manila Bay region are now required to connect to existing sewer lines or set up their own sewerage treatment plants (STP) to ensure that wastewater is properly collected and treated.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary

Roy Cimatu, who chairs the Manila Bay Task Force, issued the order under Memorandum Circular 2019-01 as part of the rehabilitation of the heavily polluted water body.

The circular covers all government facilities, subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, marketplaces, public buildings. ▶6

DENR: Manila Bay...



industrial complex, and other similar establishments.

Under the circular, these establishments were required to either "connect to existing sewerage systems or to construct individual STPs."

"The Manila Bay region covered by the circular encompasses the entire bay coastline of 190 kilometers and the total drainage area of about 17,540 square kilometers across Regions 3, 4A, and the National Capital Region," the DENR chief said.

Cimatu said the circular was pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9275, the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, and President Duterte's Administrative Order No. 16, entitled "Expediting the Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystem of the Manila

Bay and creating the Manila Bay Task Force."

More than two months since the launch of the massive rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the DENR and the Laguna Lake Development Authority have already issued hundreds of notices of violation and cease-and-desist orders to establishments found to have violated RA 9275 and other pertinent environmental laws.

Prior to the start of the rehabilitation, the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay was at 330 million most probable number (mpn). The standard set for swimming is at 100 mpn/100ml.

DENR targets to restore the quality of water in the Manila Bay to Class SB level to make it fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation. (Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



STPs needed sans proper sewer connection—DENR

TO prevent the further pollution of Manila Bay's waters, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is now requiring all establishments within the Manila Bay to connect to existing sewer lines or, at least, put up their own sewerage-treatment plants (STPs) to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act of 2004.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu recently issued Memorandum Circular 2019-01, which aims to ensure proper treatment of wastewater before they are released into the environment. Only about 15 percent of establishments within Manila Bay are connected to proper sewer lines.

The direct discharge of untreated wastewater falls out to Manila Bay. Along with uncollected garbage that find their way into waterways, this untreated wastewater has caused coliform bacteria levels to spike in the past few decades.

Cimatu, who chairs the interagency Manila Bay Task Force, is currently taking the lead in rehabilitating the heavily polluted water body.

The circular covers all government facilities, subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, marketplaces, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments.

According to him, the Manila Bay region covered by the circular encompasses the entire bay coastline of 190 kilometers and the total drainage area of about 17,540 square kilometers across Region 3, Region 4A and the National Capital Region.

Cimatu said the circular was pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and President Duterte's Administrative Order 16, titled "Expediting the Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystem of the Manila Bay and creating the Manila Bay Task Force."

The DENR targets to restore the quality of waters of Manila Bay to Class SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation.

The rehabilitation of Manila Bay is the subject of a continuing Supreme Court mandamus issued in 2008, which ordered 13 government agencies to rehabilitate and clean up Manila Bay, and may restore it to its pristine state.

Prior to the start of the rehabilitation on January 27, fecal coliform level in Manila Bay was at 330 million most probable number. The standard set for swimming is at 100 mpn per 100 milliliters. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



5
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Manila Bay establishments told to fix sewer lines

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is now requiring all establishments around Manila Bay to connect to existing sewer lines or set up their own sewerage treatment plants (STPs).

In a recently issued memorandum circular, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said establishments are required to either "connect to existing sewerage systems or to construct individual STPs" to ensure that wastewater is properly collected and treated.

The circular covers all government facilities, subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, marketplaces, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments.

As of now, only 15 percent of consumers are connected to sewer lines and as provided in the concession agreement, full sewer and sanitation coverage should be 100 percent by 2037.

"The Manila Bay region covered by the circular encompasses the entire bay coastline of 190 kilometers and the total drainage area of about 17,540 square kilometers across Central Luzon, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) and Metro Manila," Cimatu said.

The circular is pursuant to the provisions of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and President Duterte's administrative order expediting the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine

ecosystem of Manila Bay.

On Jan. 27, the DENR launched the three-phase rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Two months later, it has issued hundreds of notices of violation and cease and desist orders to establishments found to have violated pertinent environmental laws.



22 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

'Manila Bay establishments must set up own sewerage plants'

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources is now requiring all establishments within the Manila Bay area to connect to existing sewer lines or set up their own sewerage treatment plants to ensure that wastewater is properly collected and treated.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chairperson of the inter-agency Manila Bay task force, issued Memorandum Circular 2019-01 covering all government facilities, subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, marketplaces, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments.

"The Manila Bay region covered by the circular encompasses the entire bay coastline of 190 kilometers and the total drainage area of about 17,540 square kilometers across Regions III, IV-A and the National Capital Region," Cimatu said.

In January, the DENR kicked off a three-phase rehabilitation program, dubbed Battle for Manila Bay, where over 10,000 people joined a massive cleanup activity on Roxas Boulevard in Manila and other parts of the bay.

More than two months since the launch, the DENR and the Laguna Lake Development Authority have already issued hundreds of notices of violation and cease and desist orders to establishments found to have violated pertinent environmental laws.

The DENR seeks to restore the quality of waters of Manila Bay to Class SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation.

Meanwhile, the agency had removed an illegal drain pipe found along El Nido's beachfront.

The pipe, which was found discharging black and foul-smelling liquid directly into Bacuit Bay, was traced to Outpost Beach Hostel located in Barangay Corong-Corong.



ANALYSIS

Groups line up for land reclamation

By Arra B. Francia
Senior Reporter

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS and local government units (LGUs) alike are rushing to get a slice of the robust demand for real estate projects in the so-called Bay Area, with the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) awash with almost two dozen applications to reclaim more land along the Manila Bay coastline.

Land reclamation is the process of recovering land from bodies of water like the sea, lake or riverbeds with the aim of putting the new land to productive use.

As of March 11, the PRA had 22 reclamation projects along Manila Bay's coastline on its table, six of which have secured approval and one already in implementation stage (see map).

These projects are typically partnerships between a private developer and an LGU.

"They (companies) have proposals with the LGUs, so on their part, undoubtedly that is a business endeavor. On the part of the LGU, that is probably part of their economic trust," PRA General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Janilo E. Rubiato told *BusinessWorld* in a Feb. 28 interview.

Since its establishment in 1977 under the late strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos, the PRA has accomplished one reclamation project in Metro Manila: the Bay City Reclamation Project, which was formerly called Boulevard 2000.

The Bay City Reclamation Project, composed mostly of business parks, encompasses the cities of Pasay and Parañaque.

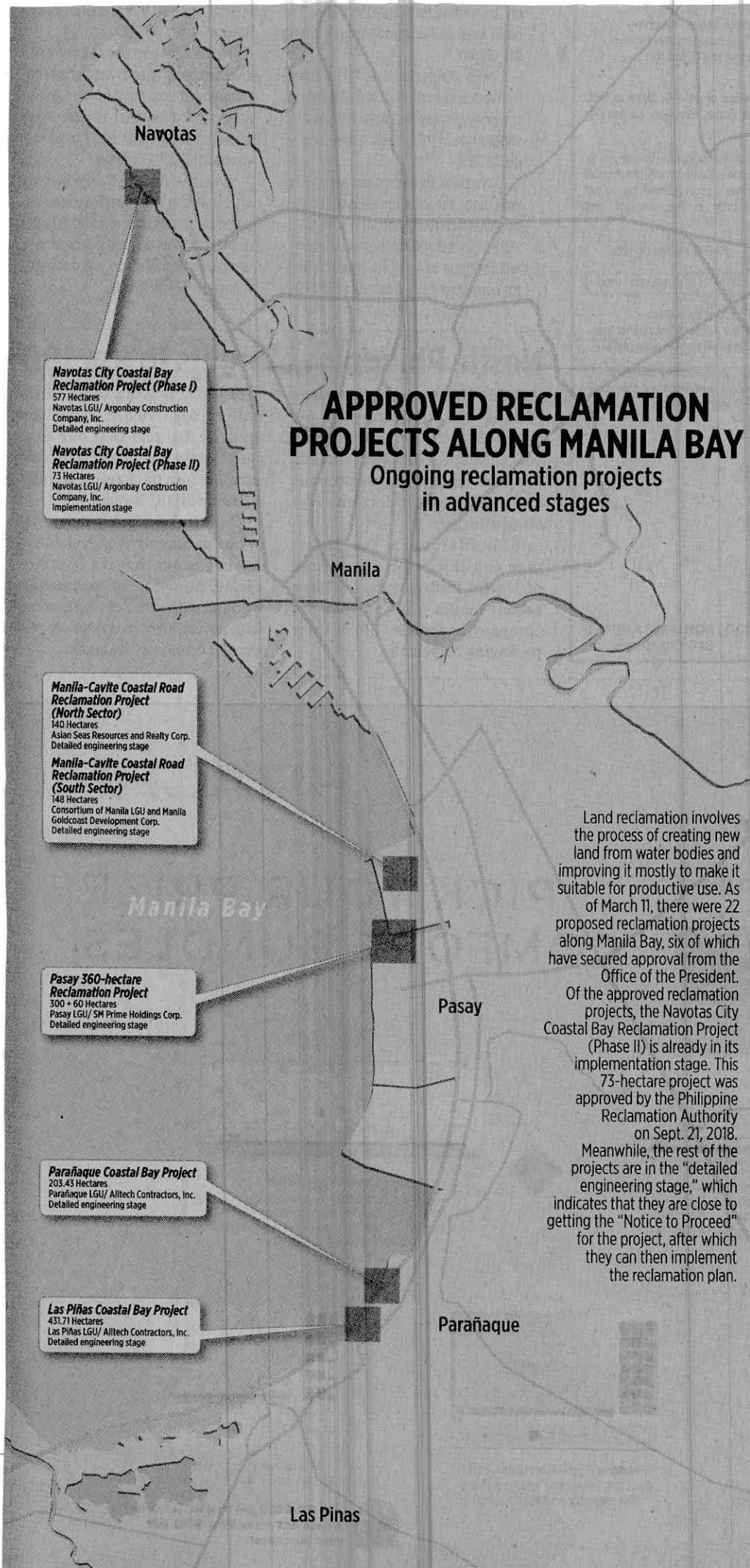
One of the major landowners in the project is the SM Group, which property analysts say has contributed to the major boom in demand for projects in the Bay area.

"What SM did was to develop a practical mass of land in the area, and it has succeeded in doing that. They started with a church, then we had a mall.

Reclamation, S1/4

APPROVED RECLAMATION PROJECTS ALONG MANILA BAY

Ongoing reclamation projects in advanced stages



Land reclamation involves the process of creating new land from water bodies and improving it mostly to make it suitable for productive use. As of March 11, there were 22 proposed reclamation projects along Manila Bay, six of which have secured approval from the Office of the President.

Of the approved reclamation projects, the Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project (Phase II) is already in its implementation stage. This 73-hectare project was approved by the Philippine Reclamation Authority on Sept. 21, 2018.

Meanwhile, the rest of the projects are in the "detailed engineering stage," which indicates that they are close to getting the "Notice to Proceed" for the project, after which they can then implement the reclamation plan.



Reclamation, from S1/1

People started going to the Mall of Asia, and then people saw the start of office and condominium projects," Colliers International Philippines Research Manager Joey Roi Bondoc said in a phone interview.

The Metrobank Group of Companies also had its stake in the Bay City Reclamation Project, where it has since put up a dealership for auto unit Toyota Motors Philippines, residential condominiums, as well as a mix of retail and commercial establishments.

OPPORTUNITY

Since then, demand for more property developments in the Bay Area has escalated.

For instance, D.M. Wenceslao & Associates, Inc. (DMWAI) — the developer of mixed-use estate Aseana City in the Bay Area — said that undeveloped land in its property now commands rates of P400,000-500,000 per square meter (/sq.m.).

"Reclamation projects are essentially real estate projects. The financial viability of the real estate potential of these projects is on a case-by-case basis. The benefit lies only if there is a high probability of the future development potential of the property," DMWAI Chief Executive Officer Delfin Angelo C. Wenceslao said in an e-mail.

Colliers projects office supply to reach about 1.16 million sq.m. in the Bay Area in 2021, a 72% increase from a supply of 673,200 sq.m. by the end of 2018.

"If you were just to base it on supply and demand, it really shows you that this sublocation is really receiving a lot of strong demand. So the tendency for developers that have vast experiences in reclaiming land is to gravitate towards the Bay Area and we are seeing the growing opportunities there," Mr. Bondoc explained.

This demand is primarily sustained by outsourcing firms followed by Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs). The latter has been thriving over the past three years ever since President Rodrigo R. Duterte assumed office in 2016, whose administration paved the way for the institutionalization of the offshore gaming sector in the country.

types of projects is the creation of jobs for Filipinos and foreigners alike.

"More office buildings, more condos being built — that means more construction workers being hired and basically if we have an economy that is growing 6-6.5% per annum, now there is an opportunity to develop more support facilities for that growth," Mr. Bondoc said.

Mr. delos Reyes noted that Metro Manila still accounts for approximately 40% of the country's economic output, resulting in the "agglomeration of business in the metropolis."

The JLL Philippine executive noted that the limited amount of reasonably priced land within the region has prompted developers to resort to reclamation projects.

"Typically, investors would require huge tracts of lands for investments which is difficult to find in Metro Manila, in addition to the challenge of consolidation," Mr. delos Reyes said.

Asked if land reclamation is a more efficient land banking strategy for developers, Mr. delos Reyes said that this depends on the market conditions of the area.

"Mature real estate markets and geography-challenged areas are best suited for reclamation projects. Meanwhile, land acquisition is a better strategy in emerging markets that still have a large number of available and undeveloped land," he explained.

For DMWAI's Mr. Wenceslao, reclamation becomes efficient only if there is a shortage of available land supply in a specific location "deemed essential" by businesses concerned.

Mr. Wenceslao explained: "The only reclamation worth exploring is responsible reclamation (which) can be defined by: in terms of adequately assessing the supply-and-demand justification for the project; if the proposed project is legally compliant (including environmental, etc.) and financially feasible; and finally, the project has to take into account the execution capability and track record of the relevant party/parties proposing the project."

Data from Colliers show that POGOs accounted for 30% of total office space absorption in Metro Manila in 2017 and about 20% in 2018. Despite the smaller share last year, absolute figures were at 310,000 sq.m. and 303,000 sq.m., respectively, showing the sustained demand from the sector.

The residential sector has also been riding along the robust demand for office spaces. Prices of condominium units have shot up in the previous years, with Colliers noting that the presence of Chinese employees in POGOs have prompted a 30-50% increase in rental rates for condominium units in the area.

For real estate consultancy services firm JLL Philippines, reclamation projects can provide several benefits to the Philippine economy.

"(Reclamation projects provide) revenue source for the government; better masterplanned communities which combine infrastructure with real estate; and, if successful, [a driver of] economic growth in the area," JLL Philippines Head of Research and Consulting Janlo delos Reyes said in an e-mail.

Colliers' Mr. Bondoc said the most immediate effect of these

While the prospects of land reclamation seem promising, the Duterte administration has recently changed the rules for the approval of such projects.

The president signed last month Executive Order (EO) 74, transferring control and supervision of the PRA to the Office of the President (OP) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

This also gave the PRA Governing Board the authority to approve all reclamation projects, a power previously held by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), while the PRA had the right to continue to process, evaluate and recommend approval of proposed reclamation projects to the NEDA Board.

PRA's Mr. Rubiato said that despite being transferred to the OP, the approval process for reclamation projects will probably remain the same for proponents.

"*Hindi naman sabing mapabilis* in the sense *na* it would become reckless and negligent," he explained.

THE FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <bit.ly/Reclamation042219>



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

22 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Manilans flock to 'Baseco Beach'

Thousands of Manila residents yesterday flocked to the so-called "Baseco Beach" in Tondo to beat the summer heat.

Adults and children enjoyed the waters of Manila Bay amid the warning of the Department of Health (DOH) and the city government against swimming in the bay.

The DOH said Manila Bay's water is still not safe for swimming because of its high coliform level.

An estimated 3,000 people were on Baseco Beach as of 10 a.m. yesterday, according to the Manila Police District.

People set up tents and picnic mats along the bay.

Among the beachgoers was Edmundo Roquero, of Road 10 in Port Area, and his family.

"I cannot afford to bring my kids to expensive beach resorts so we decided to swim in Manila Bay. We brought food and drinks," Roquero told *The STAR*.

Earlier, DOH Undersecretary and spokesman Eric Domingo said swimming in polluted water may cause skin diseases, sore eyes, gastroenteritis, hepatitis A and typhoid fever.

— Rey Galupo

People swim in Manila Bay along Baseco in Tondo, Manila yesterday.

KRIZJOHN ROSALES

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

14

metro

EDITOR: DULCE A. SANCHEZ

MONDAY | APRIL 22, 2019





Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PAGE
UPPER

LOWER
PAGE 1
STORY
BANNER
STORY
EDITORIAL
CARTOON

22 APR 2019

DATE



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BASECO BEACHFRONT – Bathers fill the strip of beach at Baseco in Tondo, Manila, on Easter Sunday, unmindful of warnings by authorities that the waters are woefully polluted. (All Vicoy)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Abante **TONITE**

MABILIS SA BALITA

3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Mga Manileño nagtampisaw sa Baseco beach

Daan-daang mga Manileño ang dumagsa sa dalampasigan ng Baseco sa Tondo, Maynila nitong Linggo ng Pagkabuhay.

Mistulang resort ang eksena sa Baseco dahil nag-picnic ang mga pamilyang dumagsa dito at may mga nagtayo pa ng tolda para maging pananggalang sa matin-

ding sikat ng araw.

Binalewala ng mga tao kahit na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal pa ang pagtampisaw sa dagat sa Baseco na bahagi ng Manila Bay na kasalukuyang isinasailalim sa rehabilitasyon.

Sabado pa lang ay marami na ang tao sa Baseco para magtampisaw sa dagat dito.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



13
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



DAHIL sa matinding init ay hindi napigilang magtampisaw ng mga residente sa tinawag na Baseco beach, bahagi ng Manila Bay, kahit pa ipinagbabawal ito ng gobyerno.
Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**

BASECO BEACH DINAGSA

DINAGSA kahapon ang dalampasigan sa Baseco sa Tondo, Manila ng mga taong gustong magpapresko dahil sa matinding init sa paggunita ng Linggo ng

Pagkabuhay.

Sa pagtataya ay nasa 3,000 ang naglangoy sa tinawag na Baseco beach, na kahit na ipinagbabawal dahil sa patuloy na rehabilitasyon

sa Manila Bay at hindi pa natitiyak kung bumaba na o nabawasan ang lebel ng bakterya na matatagpuan dito, na makasama sa kalusugan ng tao.



'Mini Boracay' sa Baseco dinagsa

Umabot sa mahigit 5,000 ang nag-swimming kahapon sa dinarayong "Baseco mini Boracay" sa Manila Bay.

Halos araw-araw ay dinadagsa ang nasabing lugar 'di alintana ang posibleng makuha ng sakit dahil sa polusyon dala ng mga basura, langis at waster water mula sa mga kalapit na establisimyento.

Suot ang kanya-kanyang swimwear, ang iba ay may dala pang mga tent at mistulang picnic

ground din ang baybayin dahil sa mga baon na pagkain ng pami-pamilya at mga grupo na nagbonding kasama pa ang mga alagang aso.

May entrance fee sa Baseco beach na P5.00 sa bata at P10.00 sa matanda, na pondo umano para sa pagbabayad ng tagalinis at taga-ayos ng lugar.

Naniniwala ang mga iba pang dumarayo na hindi naman sila nagkasakit kaya pabalik-balik lamang sa paliligo doon

sa kabila ng paulit-ulit na babala ang Department of Health (DOH) na maaring makakuha ng iba't-ibang sakit tulad ng skin diseases, diarrhea, gastroenteritis, skin diseases, hepatitis A, at typhoid fever dahil hindi pa sapat ang ginawang rehabilitation kamakailan.

Wala na ring magawa ang Manila Police District (MPD) para pagbawalan ang mga maliligo kundi mag-antabay na lang sila para sa seguridad ng mga ito. (Ludy Bermudo)



BULGAR

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

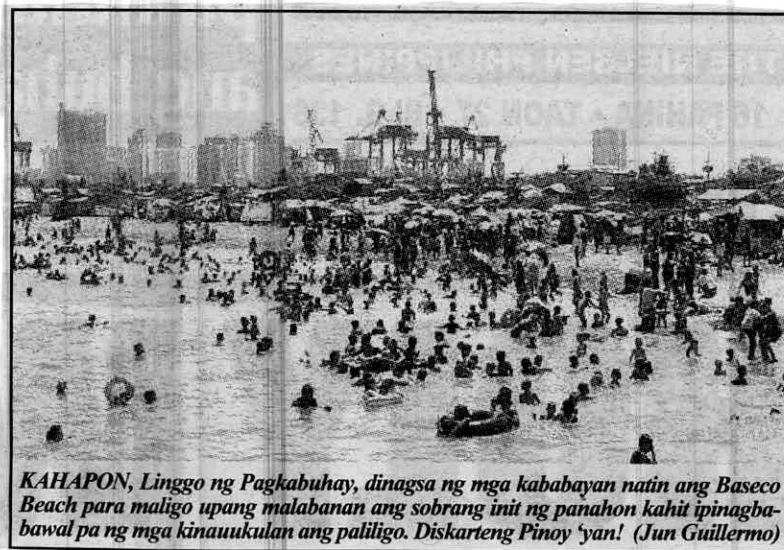
EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019

DATE

BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN



KAHAPON, Linggo ng Pagkabuhay, dinagsa ng mga kababayan natin ang Baseco Beach para maligo upang malabanan ang sobrang init ng panahon kahit ipinagbawal pa ng mga kinauukulan ang paliligo. Diskarteng Pinoy 'yan! (Jun Guillermo)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA

4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019

DATE



TEKA, SAAN PA AKO? Pami-pamilyang residente ng Baseco sa Tondo, Maynila ang nagsipaglangoy kahapon sa tinaguriang Baseco Boracay Beach. **ALI VICOY**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

46
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



HOT IN THE CITY. Beach lovers take a cool dip on Easter Sunday along the Pasay City portion of Manila Bay despite the strict implementation of a swimming ban by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. **Ey Acasio**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

11
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019
DATE

DENR taps deputies to enforce environment laws

By **MINERVA BC NEWMAN**

CEBU CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas will deputize people in the communities to help enforce environmental laws especially those pertaining to clean and sustainable water and solid waste management.

As part of efforts to upgrade the water quality of 10 rivers in Central Visayas, provincial environment officers in Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor have entered the waterways into the Rivers for Life 2019 awards that would advance community and stakeholder empowerment.

DENR Regional Executive Director Gilbert Gonzales said the Rivers for Life awards is a regional and national competition among 10 rivers in Central Visayas.

The rivers are Batuanon River in Mandaue, Bulacao River in Bulacao and Luyang River in Luyang Carmen,

in Cebu, Abatan River in Cortes, Wahig River in Inabanga, and Manaba River in Garcia Hernandez in Bohol, Banica River in Valencia, Panam-angan River in Bais and Sicopong River in Santa Catalina in Negros Oriental as well as Señora River in Siquijor.

The goal is for the stakeholders to help improve the water quality of the rivers in six months to make them safe for swimming, Bohol provincial environment officer Charlie Fabre said.

“All barangays along these rivers will be trained and deputized to enforce all environmental laws, or those which are applicable to the river,” Gonzales said.

Cleaning up the rivers will be a lot easier when communities help to manage solid waste, regulate the control of effluent discharge, put up the necessary and appropriate treatment of household sewage and using fertilizers that are less destructive, he said.

Gonzales has earlier announced the deputization of local government officials as Wildlife Enforcement Of-

ficers (WEOs) to help protect wildlife species in the region.

Gonzales said DENR sent invitations to the aviation police and seaports officials for WEO deputations to keep an eye out on commonly traded wildlife in airports and seaports.

“We’ve noted a decrease in illegal wildlife trading in 2018 to date,” he said.

DENR Regional Ecosystem Management Specialist Rainier Manlegro said DENR provides training on how to handle and identify commonly traded species and strengthening the IEC and social media presence, specifically on Facebook.

Manlegro told Manila Bulletin said it is particularly difficult to apprehend Facebook wildlife trading because those involved use multiple personal accounts.

According to Manlegro, the ports in Cebu was chosen as pilot training areas for illegal wildlife trading as a transnational boundary crime. (With reports from Brandon Ormega, USC intern)



#nationataglance

MIMAROPA: EL NIDO, PALAWAN

DENR removes illegal drainage pipe connected to a hostel in El Nido

THE ILLEGAL drainage pipe discovered along El Nido's beachfront has been removed, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported on Sunday. In a statement, the department said the pipe, which was discharging dirty and foul-smelling liquid directly into the Bacuit Bay, was found to be connected to the Outpost Beach Hostel. The DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) has issued a notice of violation against the establishment. "DENR Mimaropa Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado ordered the immediate removal of the sewage pipe-



OUTPOST BEACH HOSTEL FB PAGE

line, which measured six inches in diameter and six meters in length, after its source was traced to a chamber of the hostel," DENR said. The regional director also noted that the hostel showed a "blatant disregard for the environment" and was a clear violation of the Water Code of the Philippines under Presidential Decree 1067, and Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004." The DENR has been undertaking measures to restore one of Palawan's famous beach and diving destinations since last year. On March 18 this year, it started a survey using DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau's ground penetrating radar along the coastal areas to be able to detect hidden waste pipeline that harm the bodies of water. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

1/2

Earth Day: Revolutionary paint offers solution to air pollution

By JANVIC MATEO

An innovative type of paint developed by a Philippine company is slowly transforming regular walls into giant air purifiers, revolutionizing the fight against air pollution in different parts of the world.

Local paint manufacturer and distributor Boysen (Pacific Paint) has developed a type of paint that can eliminate harmful air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide (NOx) and other volatile organic compounds.

Mainly generated by vehicle emissions, NOx is a common air pollutant known to have serious consequences for health and the environment, including causing acid rain and smog.

Turn to Page 10

Earth Day From Page 1

Called KNOxOUT, the paint contains ultrafine titanium dioxide that breaks down NOx and converts it into harmless substances.

"Even before we developed KNOxOUT, there had been several studies proving that the active ingredient, the nano-sized titanium dioxide, is a photocatalytic product that can help eliminate pollutants in the air," Patrick Negrete, assistant manager at the technical service department at Boysen, told **The STAR**.

"What our company did was to actually produce the product and market it here in the Philippines. Eventually, when

other countries heard about it, we started exporting it to them," he added.

The paint is activated using light energy, enabling the active ingredient to convert NOx into nitric acid, which is rapidly neutralized to produce harmless quantities of calcium nitrate, water and negligible amounts of carbon dioxide.

Negrete said the company has invested heavily in the development and testing of the product, which was launched about a decade ago.

The motivation behind it, he noted, was simple: find a solution to the worsening problem of air

pollution.

During testing, which included painting a metro rail transit station in Makati, Boysen discovered that one square meter of wall painted by KNOxOUT could remove up to 160 grams of NOx per year, comparable to the air cleaning impact of a mature tree.

A recent test conducted at King's College London confirmed results of the Manila trial.

In urban areas where tree planting is not viable due to lack of space, the company said painting walls using their product could be a feasible alternative.

This was the idea behind Project EDSA, an initiative that involved painting lung-shaped trees and other artworks along the country's busiest thoroughfare.



A motorcyclist speeds past images of lung-shaped trees along EDSA. The stylized trees were painted using KNOxOUT, which paint manufacturer Boysen says can remove nitrogen oxide from the air.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019
DATE

TITLE:

EARTH DAY: REVOLUTIONARY...

PAGE 1

2/2

"With Project EDSA we're not only transforming the city's main artery into a showcase for art, we're creating massive, solar powered air purifiers along the city's most polluted roadway," Pacific Paint vice president Johnson Ongking was quoted as saying in an article published in the *Asia Pacific Coatings Journal*.

"It's using the beauty of art and the power of science to help address the ugly problem of air pollution in our city," Ongking said.

Similar projects have cropped up in other countries, including Peru, Colombia and the US.

Boysen said KNOxOUT is ideal in places where air pollution builds up the most, including in tunnels, bus terminals, car parks, vehicle entranceways to build-

ings, walkways and courtyards.

The paint can also be used indoors, as the active ingredient reacts to fluorescent light as well.

In Mexico City, a hospital installed a hive-like facade that uses KNOxOUT to purify air entering the building.

A tunnel in The Hague, in the Netherlands, and an indoor car park in Paris, France have also used the paint.

Despite its positive impact on the environment, however, KNOxOUT has yet to dominate the market.

Negrete said this might be due to the cost of the product, which is about three times more expensive than regular paint.

"Not everyone would be willing to pay for it," he says. "But for

some, the cost is negligible if you think about how it will benefit future generations."

He said the company will continue to push for the use of KNOxOUT and develop other products that are geared toward protecting the environment.

"KNOxOUT is here to stay," he said. "If you think about it, this is the trend, where we're going - developing products to benefit our children."

This article is being published as part of Earth Beats, an international and collaborative initiative gathering 18 news media outlets from around the world to focus on solutions to waste and pollution. Use the hashtag #EarthBeats on social media to learn about other stories on the global fight for the environment.



P-1

PHIL EAGLE: ULTIMATE SURVIVOR

STORY BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

WITH only about 400 pairs left in the wild, the iconic Philippine eagle, scientifically named *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, one of the largest and most powerful eagles in the world, is on the brink of extinction.

Despite threats posed by hunting and habitat loss, every pair of this giant raptor struggles to survive in dwindling forests.

With the ever-increasing human population, which adds pressure on wildlife habitats, is there a chance for this rare bird of prey to survive and defy natural extinction?

Defying extinction

WORLD-RENOWNED wildlife cinematographer Neil Rettig said there is a chance for the Philippine eagle to survive.

But its natural habitats, or what's left of it, must be seriously protected, expand the forest cover through massive reforestation activities, and more importantly, educate the people and inspire communities to help protect the country's iconic bird.

"There are several different, very necessary steps to save the Philippine eagle. No. 1 is to protect all the remaining primary forest.... Protect it seriously, guard it. No. 2, encourage replanting of trees so that biodiversity could grow. Three, family planning for the country may be good. That is the way it is all around the world. Even in the United States. Then control poaching, educate and inspire the people, then maybe, the eagle has

a chance," Rettig, a six-time Emmy award winner, told the BUSINESS-MIRROR in an interview.

Actually, Rettig was surprised that the Philippine Eagle continues to exist in fragmented forests.

He noted the rehabilitation of degraded forest and the declaration of ban on logging that helped protect and conserve the country's biological diversity are "encouraging," as they are needed for species like the Philippine eagle to survive.

From the time of his first visit to the Philippines in the late 1970s, Rettig said efforts to save the Philippine eagle from extinction, citing the works of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), have somehow paid off and bought it more time.

Fighting alongside eagles

A PRIVATE nonstock, nonprofit organization, the PEF works toward giving the Philippine Eagle a fighting chance to survive and thrive in its natural territory.

Since the 1990s, the organization has embarked on a successful captive-breeding program. A Philippine eagle named "Pag-asa," meaning hope, was hatched on January 15, 1992. A male eagle, it was the first Philippine eagle to be bred and hatched in captivity. To date, there are 28 Philippine eagles successfully bred and hatched in captivity.

The PEF maintains a rescue and rehabilitation center, the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City, where it is also conducting scientific research and breeding of the eagle.

Besides rescue, PEF also works with communities to protect the eagle's natural habitat and the forests, and mitigate the problem of deforestation and continuous degradation of the environment.

According to Dennis Salvador, executive director of PEF, the PEF remains critically endangered. He said that one way to save it from extinction is to increase the awareness about the eagle and to protect its habitats for its population to rebound.

"They [Philippine eagle] continue to be shot in the wild. That is the problem. We need policymakers to address the issue of law enforcement and, hopefully, help change the behavior of the people," he said.

According to Salvador, it is important for communities to protect the forest against destructive activities, including illegal mining, quarrying and logging.

He said the PEF continues to work with communities around known nesting sites of the Philippine Eagle, through various capacity-building and livelihood training, to lessen their dependence on the forest, and more importantly, become partners in conservation.

"They must be able to protect the forest, the watershed, on our behalf," he said.



P-3

PHL Eagle: Ultimate Survivor

the roles played by individuals in protecting, conserving and saving it from extinction.

Flashback: Marcos era

IN the documentary, veteran journalist Marites Vitug said forest destruction during the Marcos era was done with impunity.

"No one was watching, so they destroyed the forest with impunity," Vitug said.

Howie Severino, another veteran journalist, said: "There were organizations working to conserve the forests, but there are powerful people they are up against. They are gaining ground, but time was not on their side."

"We don't have the luxury of space in the Philippines," Severino added, as he discussed the issue of the ever-increasing population that added stress on the environment.

The late Elias Balut Sr., a resident of Apayao, said commercial logging companies back then destroyed Apayao's forest, cut their trees and destroyed the rivers.

"We are at the losing end at the end of the day," he added.

Pat Dugan, a forester, said during those times, the government was so corrupt that one just had to bribe the inspector to get away.

National treasure

THE Philippine eagle, considered a national treasure, is one of its kind of species in the world.

Actually, scientists have declared in a peer-reviewed paper that it is a prehistoric animal that existed long before the humans have first walked on Earth. Thus, losing the eagle means a loss for humanity, and it is the duty and responsibility of the Filipinos to protect them and prevent their extinction.

The late biologist Perry Ong, in the documentary, said: "The Philippine eagle could be found only in the Philippines, but it's the property of the world."

Ong, a trustee of PEF, led a team that studied the genetics of Philippine eagle from Luzon, Samar and Mindanao, and found out that these populations are genetically similar.

Pedro Walpole, executive director of the Environmental Science for Social Change, said for his part: "You might dismiss it as silly, but the value of the Philippine eagle is immeasurable."

Awareness, attitude and hope

"IF you are looking for an A for awareness, I am looking for an A for attitude, and that is something that sticks in your gut," he added.

Jayson Ibanez, PEF director for research and conservation, said that to save the Philippine eagle, everybody should move forward.

For the Philippine eagle, as well as other threatened species, hope springs eternal.

"There are no hopeless cases, but only people losing hope," he said.



P-4

PHL Eagle: Ultimate Survivor



A PAIR of Philippine eagles watch over their newly hatched chick on top of their nest. PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION/CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY



#nationataglance



BW/LEAN S. DAVAL, JR.

#ProtectOurSpecies

This year's Earth Day celebration, observed every April 22 since 1970, focuses on protecting plants and animals, all of which have a role in the ecological balance — and all have come under threat by one specie: Humans.

"The unprecedented global destruction and rapid reduction of plant and wildlife populations are directly linked to causes driven by human activity: climate change, deforestation, habitat loss, trafficking and poaching, unsustainable agriculture, pollution and pesticides to name a few. The impacts are far reaching," the Earth

THE PHILIPPINE Eagle, the country's national bird, is one of the rarest and biggest raptors in the world. It is considered critically endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.

Day movement writes on its official page (www.earthday.org). In the Philippines, environmental group EcoWaste Coalition called on voters, who will be electing national and local level officials in the May midterm poll, to choose "true champions for the environment." In a statement on Sunday, EcoWaste Coalition National Coordinator Aileen Lucero said, "As we mark the Earth Day on April 22, we call upon all registered voters to pick national and local candidates and party-list groups who will genuinely work with and for the people in ensuring a clean, healthy, safe and sustainable environment for all... We want to see local government units promulgating ordinances that will promote health and safety and enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology."



EARTH DAY 2019 Protect Our Species

“The unprecedented global destruction and rapid reduction of plant and wildlife populations are directly linked to causes driven by human activity: climate change, deforestation, habitat loss”

“In nature, nothing exists alone.” American marine biologist, author, and conservationist Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring* which together with her other writings are credited with advancing the cause of the global environment movement. This message of interdependence in nature puts forward an activism that calls for a deeper understanding of nature and how each entity within—from the smallest to the biggest—would do well to recognize individual duties to keep interde-

pendence at its optimum.

Under the theme “Protect Our Species” Earth Day 2019 is celebrated with a special remembrance of Carson’s inspiring words with the hope that the world will always remember why each being needs another. Why it needs all others.

Earth Day Network says, “Nature’s gifts to our planet are the millions of species that we know and love, and many more that remain to be discovered. Unfortunately, human

beings have irrevocably upset the balance of nature and, as a result, the world is facing the greatest rate of extinction since we lost the dinosaurs more than 60 million years ago. But unlike the fate of the dinosaurs, the rapid extinction of species in our world today is the result of human activity.”

Earth Day Network is asking people to join the Protect our Species campaign, whose goals are to:

Educate and raise awareness about the accelerating rate of

extinction of millions of species and the causes and consequences of this phenomenon.

Achieve major policy victories that protect broad groups of species as well as individual species and their habitats.

Build and activate a global movement that embraces nature and its values.

Encourage individual actions such as adopting plant based diet and stopping pesticide and herbicide use.



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

B4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BACKLATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019

DATE

EARTH DAY 2019

Protect our species

A call to educate and raise awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of millions of species

CLIMATE change, deforestation, unsustainable agriculture, pollution and pesticides — these extreme human activities have caused harm and danger not only to humans, but also to other living species, such as plants and animals, taking shelter in this planet called Earth.

In the last 60 million years since the extinction of dinosaurs, which are believed to have inhabited the planet prior to human civilization, scientists estimate that the planet is facing a massive extinction rate of a vast number of species across the globe.

At a normal rate, scientists explained that between one and five species go extinct on an annual basis. However, this number has reached alarming rates as the planet now loses species at around 1,000 to 10,000 times the normal rate.

Not only that, the decline in species have also declined its habitat, variation and biodiversity, among other pressing issues, and it is all said to be heavily affected by human activity, most notably, since the industrial revolution.

As it celebrates 49 years of the modern environmental movement today, April 22, the Earth Day organization, Earth Day Network, honors the planet's inhabitants, with its theme, campaign and battle cry focused on "Protect our species."

The campaign aims to educate and raise awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of millions of species and the causes and consequences of the phenomenon; achieve major policy victories that protect broad groups of species as well as individual species and their habitats; build and activate a global movement that

embraces nature and its values; and encourage individual actions such as adopting plant based diet and stopping pesticide and herbicide use.

Global species decline

Data posted on the Earth Day Network's website listed 10 facts on the current situation of the planet's mass extinction, covering species across animals and plants.

Due to the current "normal" extinction rate the planet faces today, scientists fear that with the multiple extinctions happening daily, multiple species may have likewise disappear before given the chance to be studied or learned of the benefits they bring to the planet and its entire ecosystem.

Meanwhile, a new study suggested that the insect population in Germany have decreased by more than 75 percent in the last 28 years, affecting 80 percent of wild plants that rely on these insects for pollination and 60 percent of bird species that rely on insects as source of food.

Scientists point this massive decline to habitat destruction, exploitation and climate change as the driving forces for the loss of half of the world's wild animal population.

Included in the declining species is the primate population, which is facing an extraordinary

1/2



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Founded 1858

The Manila Times

84
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

22 APR 2019

DATE

2/2



threat as about 60 percent of its 504 species is facing extinction while 75 percent is in severe population decline.

On to marine life, more than 650,000 marine mammals are annually caught or seriously injured by fishing gear worldwide, primarily declining the whale population that is composed of 48 known whale species.

In fact, over the last 20 years, 75 percent of all toothed whale species (such as dolphins, porpoises and 65 percent of baleen whale species) along with 65 percent of pinniped species (sea lions) have been affected through bycatch in fishing operations worldwide.

Even the world's bird species have declined by 40 percent, while 1 in 8 birds is threatened with global extinction.

Land mammals, too, are experiencing a crucial decline in population.

Around the world, big cats such as tigers, leopards and cheetahs are exploited for body parts and skin, with China remaining as the world's largest market of these endangered species along with the black rhino and other species. Scientists fear that many of its species might become extinct by the next decade.

Moreover, the lizard population has also been affected, with a recent study projecting 40 percent of lizard species becoming extinct by 2080.

Lastly, the American Bison, once numbered in millions, now occupy less than one percent of its original habitat, with existing habitats becoming so compact and tightly controlled.

These shortlisted animals and plants are only among the larger number of living species that are facing either threat or extinction owing to the human civilization.

Good news, however, because the decline in species can be altered by slowing it down until the species can recover itself, which is why the Earth Day organization calls for a united global movement to demand immediate action.

Birth of modern environmental movement

The observance of the annual Earth Day traces its roots to the sociopolitical landscape of the United States in 1970.

At the time, mainstream America was facing the height of counter-culture, mourning over the death of rock sensation Jimi Hendrix and the release of the last Beatles album, and engulfed in the raging war in Vietnam.

Amid these events, the American public had begun to take awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment, pollution and public health, owing to the publication of author Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962.

Come 1970 when Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a US senator from Wisconsin, sparked the idea for a national day to focus on the environment after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California.

Nelson announced his idea of a "national teach-in on the environment" to the national media. Consequently, he persuaded Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey to serve as his co-chairman, while environmental advocate Denis Hayes was chosen to be national director.

On the first Earth Day on April 22 of the same year, 20 million Americans from thousands of colleges and universities as well as various environmental groups took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to rally for a healthy, sustainable environment.

The rally has resulted to a rare political alignment where massive support came from Republicans

and Democrats, rich and poor, city natives and country farmers as well as business tycoons and labor leaders.

By the end of the year, it had led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

After two decades of observance, in 1990, environmentalists urged Hayes to organize a campaign far bigger than US alone that enabled Earth Day to go global.

On the world stage, Hayes was able to mobilize 200 million people in 141 countries to give concern on environmental issues. By 1992, the United Nations Earth Day Summit was held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As the new millennium came, Hayes organized another campaign focused on global warming and a push for clean energy, mobilizing 5,000 environmental groups in 184 countries worldwide — and with the advent of the Internet, he was able to organize activists online.

By 2020, the Earth Day observance marks its 50th anniversary, with a new set of ambitious goals that is aimed to shape the 21st century environmentalism.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



22 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Senators make strong pitch for Earth Day

By Macon Araneta

CITING estimates by scientists that the world is losing plants and animals species at 1,000 to 10,000 times the normal rate, Senator Loren Legarda on Sunday joined calls to protect the species, which is the theme for this year's Earth Day celebration today.

Reelectionist Senator Sonny Angara echoed the call and urged Filipinos to make a conscious effort to live a more environment-friendly lifestyle as the Philippines joins the rest of the world in celebrating Earth Day.

Angara said the annual event to spread awareness about the environment does not have to be limited to one single day, believing that "Earth Day must be observed every day of the year."

"Raising awareness about the importance of protecting the only planet we have and the need to take action should be more than an annual activity," said the lawmaker. "It doesn't need to end after April 22. It should continue every day and become a regular part of our lifestyle."

With a few easy lifestyle changes, Angara said people can help save the planet for future generations.

"We can start by eliminating the need for plastic bags and other single-use plastic products that end up in landfills or polluting our rivers and oceans," he said.

Angara said it is high time to think positively about reducing plastics and take effective action to tackle plastic pollution, which has devastating effects on the environment and marine life.

For her part, Legarda cited the warning of the Earth Day Network that normally, between one and five species will go extinct annually.

The senator, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Climate Change and UNISDR Global Champion for Resilience, said that stronger biodiversity protection efforts must be put in place to prevent loss of species especially since thousands of species are becoming extinct every year.

She related that the biodiversity loss, which is mainly caused by habitat destruction and wildlife trade, is heightened because of climate change.

Studies indicate that 30 percent of species would be at risk of extinction due to the warming climate.

"We need to take greater action to protect the delicate ecological balance. It is incumbent upon us humans, who are the stewards of the Earth, to be more responsible as most of our actions are the very threats to other species," said Legarda, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment.

She underscored the need for a stronger convergence among government agencies and local government units and collaboration with the private sector, civil society and all our citizens, to protect our species and conserve our biodiversity," she stressed.

The government, Legarda said, must strictly enforce laws that protect biodiversity, such as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992, and the Expanded NIPAS of 2018, which she principally authored.



Earth Day amid the scourge of climate change

BY HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ

TODAY, April 22, we mark the annual celebration of Earth Day, organized 49 years ago in 1970 through the initiative of US Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. It was on April 4, 2000, when the national participation of the Philippines in Earth Day was established through a resolution I sponsored in the Senate to celebrate Earth Day to protect the abundance and promote the beauty of the Earth.

Earth Day is now observed by all 194 countries, to save Mother Earth from ultimate disaster—climate change—unless mankind can reduce and finally remove carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere.

Since 200 years ago, when man started to use machines, we have been burning fossil fuels—coal and oil—to produce electricity for our development and comfort. The process of producing electricity has produced CO2, methane, black carbon from diesel, and other GHGs which last for at least 150 years in the atmosphere.

From the report of the United Nations science body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there is now a concentration of 3,100 billion metric tons of GHGs in the atmosphere that brought about the overheating of the Earth to 1.3° Celsius, higher than before the industrial revolution. This overheating of the Earth is the cause of melting of the North Pole and the South Pole, the rising of the oceans, and severe and more frequent typhoons and storms, intense drought, including the widespread vector-borne diseases—dengue and malaria—of which there is currently an alarming increase in the number of cases in the Philippines.

Unless we reduce CO2, the heating will continue and if it reaches 2° Celsius mankind cannot stop this overheating anymore that will see the gradual death of corals and reduction of fish life. The reduction in the principal source of protein for the human brain could mean the certain destruction of human civilization.

Climate change is a threat multiplier. It is undermining the economic and political stability of nations. And ecological disasters are wreaking turmoil in many societies to the point where huge numbers of people are being displaced, becoming “environmental migrants” or “climate refugees.”

Deforestation, removal of vegetation and exploitative agriculture have degraded lands, whipping up typhoons and tropical storms that are becoming more intense, exacting a higher toll on lives and properties. In Mindanao and Cagayan Valley, we have suffered an

intermittent drought that leads to enormous crop failures and the loss of livestock. Also, the elderly are becoming victims of heat stroke.

The Philippines has advocated keeping the temperature rise at 1.5° Celsius for the survival of archipelagic and small island states. The 2019 celebration of life is focused on protecting our biodiversity of species. Accordingly, in Santiago, Isabela, we linked the reflection on Holy Week during Palm Sunday with a techno-arts workshop with a culminating presentation by the Earthsavers Unesco Artist for Peace, with DepEd and NCCA partnership, about the “Agony, Death and Resurrection of the Forests and Seas” at the St Francis of Assisi Church.

Earth Day must be a consciousness awakening to protect life, to reduce CO2 that is causing the overheating of the Earth.

To avoid climate catastrophe, governments, communities, individuals, must all join hands to reduce CO2. Rapid carbon cuts are the only way to stop the severe impact of climate change.

We reduce CO2 by using more clean and renewable sources of energy. We reduce GHGs by managing our garbage, stopping the pollution of our rivers and lakes, growing trees and mangroves along our coastal areas, by reducing the wasteful and excessive lifestyle and consumption by man. Governments should promote a dramatic shift in policy to use alternative fuels systematically after ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement and create the infrastructure to connect a wide range of action for climate justice and actualization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Earth Day is dedicated to saving future generations from the destructive impacts of climate change due to global warming.

I hope to be a distinct voice in Congress to provide legal protection, advancement of new policies to slow down species extinction, encourage changes in consumer behavior and climate resilience through inclusive lifelong learning while countering deforestation habitat, wildlife and underwater heritage loss. It is heroic to save our ailing mother earth.

“Let us make Earth day everyday.”

The author served as a senator, congressman, ambassador, Concon delegate and secretary in the cabinet for agrarian reform, environment, climate change and overseas Filipinos. He is the chairman of the advisory board of Climate Institute and is founding chairman of Earthsavers. He is also a PDP-Laban candidate for congressman for the fourth district of Isabela.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

22 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



Protect our species

Under normal circumstances, experts say that between one

and five species will become extinct every year. Today, however, scientists warn that the planet is losing species at an alarming 1,000 to 10,000 times the normal rate, with multiple extinctions recorded daily. Scientists say that many species will become extinct before humans even find out about their existence or their possible benefits to life and the environment.

This is the greatest rate of extinction, scientists warn, since dinosaurs disappeared from the planet 60 million years ago. Unlike the extinction of the dinosaurs, however, the unprecedented rapid species extinction is attributed largely to factors caused by human activity. These include global warming, pollution, unsustainable agriculture and pesticide use, deforestation, habitat loss, wildlife trafficking and poaching.

Because humans are causing the extinction, humans can also stop the destructive activities. Today's Earth Day celebration has chosen the theme "protect our species" to highlight what can be done to significantly slow down the rate of extinction and save millions of species from disappearing.

Endangered species include the smallest insects to the largest beasts

EDITORIAL

on land and marine creatures as well as coral reefs. The dis-

appearance of even a seemingly insignificant insect can threaten the natural propagation of wild plants and the food of certain bird species.

The United Nations is supporting a united global movement that can promote policies and actions as well as educate people on what can be done. The Earth Day Network aims to raise global awareness about the problem and its implications on life, push for government policies that will protect large groups of species, and inspire individual actions such as minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides and adopting sustainable fishing methods.

Governments can crack down on wildlife traffickers. The Earth Day Network noted that China remains the largest market for body parts and skins of big cats as well as the black rhinoceros. The Chinese are major harvesters and buyers of the endangered geckos, giant clams, marine turtles and pangolins of the Philippines, where wildlife trafficking is also rampant.

The Philippines is blessed with bountiful biodiversity, but it must do more to be an effective custodian of these natural riches. Every country has a critical role to play in protecting our species.



1/2

Environmental groups press return of waste to Canada

Trash in 77 containers rotting in Manila, Subic ports

By **Tonette Orejas**
@ttorejasINQ

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The EcoWaste Coalition and four other environmental groups have renewed their call for Canada to take back waste sent to the Philippines six years ago, following a legal opinion that the north American country has violated the Basel Convention.

Falsely declared

The Pacific Center for Environmental Law and Litigation (PCELL) said Ontario-based Chronic Inc. shipped 35 40-foot containers of misdeclared trash to the country in 2013, which amounted to “illegal traffic” under Article 9 of the Basel Convention. This treaty regu-

lates the movement of all forms of rubbish, particularly toxic waste.

PCELL said: “The wastes were falsely declared to contain homogeneous plastic scrap material when in fact these shipments contained mixed waste, including household garbage, and since the wastes were deemed to be hazardous under Philippine law.”

In their April 15 letter, Aileen Lucero of EcoWaste, Kathleen Ruff of RightOnCanada, Theresa McClenaghan of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Dr. Tadesse Amara of IPEN (International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network) and Jim Puckett of the Basel Action Network asked Canadian

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to act immediately on PCELL’s statement.

The groups said Trudeau must “provide a clear and definite date by which it will repatriate its garbage so that this protracted ordeal can finally be promptly ended.”

“Canada should meet the standard set by the Republic of Korea which has acted to promptly arrange the return of its wastes illegally dumped in the Philippines, citing convention obligations,” they said.

Three batches

EcoWaste said the trash arrived in three batches at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) between June 23 and Aug. 4 in 2013 for con-

signee Chronic Plastics in Valenzuela City. At least 15 more containers arrived in MICP from Aug. 10 to 21.

Customs impounded all 50 containers, transferring 23 to the Port of Subic in August 2014 to decongest MICP. Customs disposed of 1,375 tons of wastes from 26 containers in a landfill operated by the Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. in Capas, Tarlac, which drew local protests.

From December 2013 to January 2014, Chronic Inc. sent a second batch of 48 containers and a third batch of five containers, all consigned to Live Green Enterprises. These containers were unclaimed.

All in all, 103 containers of wastes were illegally brought

to the Philippines, Lucero said. Minus the 26 containers emptied in Tarlac, 77 containers might be leaching and rotting in MICP and Port of Subic, she said.

In June 2016, Judge Tita Bughao Alisuag of the Regional Trial Court in Manila ordered the 50 containers to be sent back to Canada, stating that “our country should not be made a trash bin by another country.”

“This should not be made a precedent for other countries to follow,” she ruled.

At the 31st summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in November 2017, Trudeau said it was “now theoretically possible to get [the trash] back.” INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019

DATE

2/2

TITLE:

PAGE 17



Editor
Robert Jaworski L. Abaño

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
REGIONS

TUG OF TRASH Canada has not taken back its containers full of household trash that were misdeclared and smuggled into the country in 2013. —PHOTO FROM METRO CLARK WASTE MANAGEMENT CO



PHL races to lift tight testing rule by Japan for banana exports

Planet or plastic?



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

RISING SUN

THIS is a question that we need to start asking ourselves every day. It is also the theme of this year's Earth Day Run organized by National Geographic. Held on April 14, the event was meant to "raise awareness about plastic pollution and help reduce the amount of single-use plastic that enters the world's oceans." While the event has passed, it is only fitting for all of us to keep this question in mind, especially today as we celebrate Earth Day.

People the world over are pledging to lead a plastic-free lifestyle or to at least reduce their use of single-use plastic. It is time to review our own practices and habits and see if we can contribute something to this global campaign. People in Asia are especially encouraged to make the pledge because, according to data, "Asia is responsible for more plastic waste leakage than the rest of the

world combined." To be more specific, five Asian countries are the sources of 55 percent to 60 percent of the 9 million tons of plastic that end up in the oceans. This is according to Ocean Conservancy.

The plastic that ends up in our oceans is said to remain there for 450 years, or even longer. This poses a grave danger to millions of marine animals that may become entangled

"Asia is responsible for more plastic waste leakage than the rest of the world combined." To be more specific, five Asian countries are the sources of 55 percent to 60 percent of the 9 million tons of plastic that end up in the oceans. This is according to Ocean Conservancy.

in the waste, suffocated by it, or that may ingest the plastic, which may lead to their eventual death. According to experts, this problem is getting worse. That is why everyone must do their part to help and contribute to the rehabilitation of the planet's marine ecosystems.

Still in relation to the celebration of Earth Day this year, the annual environmental summer concert Earth Day Jam will be on April 26 at Tomas Morato in Quezon City. The event this year is focused on another significant theme—wildlife species protection. The concert, which is now

on its 19th year, will feature performances by ABRA, Autotelic, Chicosci, Gracernote, Itchy Worms, Kjwan, Mayonnaise, Moonstar88, Noel Cabangon, Nyoy Volante, PI Jazzfest, Rouge, Sandwich, Tanya Markova, The Joyrides, and the Earth Day Jam Foundation Founder and Chairman herself, Ms. Lou Bonnevie.

Finally, allow me to share National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Earth Day social-media campaign. The space agency is inviting social-media users on Instagram, Twitter, and the Nasa Earth Facebook event page to post close-up photos of their favorite natural features on our planet. Add the hashtag #PictureEarth, explain where the photo was taken, and upload it today, April 22. The photos will be showcased in videos and composite images that Nasa will share on social media after Earth Day.

Let us celebrate our planet, cherish it, protect it and love it. We only have one home. Happy Earth Day, everyone!



editorial

Ban plastic bags?

DURING the construction of The Enterprise Center in Makati City—completed in 1999—former San Miguel Corp. Chairman Andres Soriano III had this to say about the project at one of the company's annual shareholder meetings.

To comply with Makati City law, the building had some 1,400 underground parking spaces. Mr. Soriano said that according to the building feasibility study, it would take three hours for the 1,400 cars to physically exit the garage. He suggested that it would have been better to reduce the number of spaces and instead use the construction cost to contribute to a better city-wide mass transit system.

Obviously, both parking and mass transit are necessary. But how do we balance both needs?

Plastic bags are a scourge-creating litter, clogging drains and waterways, and causing a host of environmental problems. No one would disagree. Towns and resort areas all over the Philippines have banned their use.

There is no question that those places that have banned plastic bags in particular have seen a significant reduction in this terrible waste problem. Globally, there is a move to ban plastic bags.

However, there's an unintended hypocrisy to the issue. Replacing a plastic straw with paper to be used in a 24-ounce plastic cup is just one example. Further, as in the case of the parking spaces at The Enterprise Center, there are some unintended offsets to eliminating plastic bags.

University of Sydney (Australia) Assistant Professor Dr. Rebecca Taylor is an expert on the topic, having a degree in agricultural and resource economics. Her doctorate dissertation was titled, "It's Not Easy Being Green: Lessons from Disposable Carryout Bag Regulations." Dr. Taylor has written several papers on the subject. While an advocate of more "environmentally friendly" practices, she also has examined in detail the results of banning plastic bags.

Her most recent studies found the following results. In California, Taylor found these bag bans did what they were supposed to: People in the cities with the bans used fewer plastic bags, which led to about 40 million fewer pounds of plastic trash per year. But people who used to reuse their shopping bags for other purposes still needed bags. "What I found was that sales of garbage bags actually skyrocketed after plastic grocery bags were banned. This was particularly the case for small, 4-gallon bags, which saw a 120-percent increase in sales after bans went into effect."

Other studies found similar results. A 2011 study by the UK government found a person would have to reuse a cotton tote bag 131 times before it would become better for climate change than using a plastic grocery bag once. The Danish government recently did a study that took into account environmental impacts beyond simply greenhouse-gas emissions, including water use, damage to ecosystems and air pollution. These factors make cloth bags even worse. They estimate you would have to use an organic cotton bag 20,000 times more than a plastic grocery bag to make using it better for the environment.

Banning plastic bags is not a bad solution. But ultimately, taking care of the environment (or not) is a personal choice we all have to make.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 APR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



NEWS

Group aims to save Candaba wetlands

A conservation group and partner government agencies have developed a community-based initiative to transform a portion of Candaba Marsh into a bird-watching haven, with farmers trained as guides. The ecotourism program will be launched this year and will feature bird-watching, carabao cart rides, wetland walks, local delicacies and other attractions, while increasing farmers' income. —STORY BY GREGG YAN, CONTRIBUTOR

A14



Conservationists, gov't partners tap farmers to save Candaba wetlands

1/2

By Gregg Yan

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—It's 5 in the morning and we're on a cart, about to be pulled by an unusually large carabao. A jolt and we grunt, giggle and try to enjoy the bumpy ride along ponds and rice fields still shrouded in darkness.

Soon the dawn reveals a landscape teeming with birds. Hundreds of them.

In Candaba Marsh, a place I've visited regularly over the years, birds typically flit and fly by the thousands. Egrets and herons glide above basking bitterns. Shrikes jostle for choice trees. A soaring marsh harrier searches for breakfast.

But where are the rest of the birds? The hundreds of birds we are seeing are but a shadow of the thousands that used to darken the skies over the marsh.

Development has apparently come to Candaba and dried up most of the wetlands that used to provide food and habitat for thousands of birds fleeing colder climes.

Farmers as guides

Recently, however, a wetlands conservation group and its partner government agencies have come up with a community-based initiative to transform a portion of the marsh into a bird-watching haven, with farmers trained as guides.

The ecotourism program to be launched this year will feature bird-watching, carabao cart rides, wetland walks, Kapampangan delicacies and other attractions, while also increasing the income of farmers in the area.

Says Gaudencio de Leon, who has spent four decades tilling this land: "The land cannot stay still forever. Development is coming and the marsh is changing."

He points at a clump of trees about half-a-kilometer away. "Behind that was a fishpond where birds would catch tilapia, carp and catfish. It's been sold and is being turned into a plantation. No more free fish."

A famed bird-watching site, Candaba Marsh sits 60 kilometers north of Manila and spans 32,000 hectares, roughly the size of Antipolo City.

Stopover

It's an important "fuel station" or stopover for migratory birds flying from as far south as

New Zealand and as far north as the frozen steppes of Siberia.

Birds in colder climates often migrate thousands of kilometers to warmer zones, searching for better food and nesting sites.

In Candaba, bird watchers have confirmed 54 resident and 68 migratory bird species, including endangered Philippine mallards (*Anas luzonica*) and rare black-faced spoonbills (*Platalea minor*).

"Candaba Marsh once hosted hundreds of thousands of birds. A decade ago, we recorded up to 20,000 birds per visit, still just a shadow of what was," laments Mike Lu, founding president of Wild Bird Club of the Philippines.

An average of 7,000 birds have been recorded annually and more than 100,000 ducks were observed in a single day in 1982 in Candaba. But this year, just 2,188 birds belonging to 16 species were counted.

Disappearing wetlands

Because swamps are usually thought of as wastelands, they are often targeted for conversion, either for agriculture or industry.

The world's wetlands have been in full retreat for a century, with an estimated 54 percent to 57 percent lost since the 1900s.

"In terms of management, our underrated wetlands have enjoyed limited conservation priority," explains Biodiversity Management Bureau Director

Crisanta Rodriguez.

"They provide habitats for many creatures while generating food and water for millions of people. In many ways, wetlands are the earth's kidneys, filtering and purifying water."

Wetlands absorb and store far more carbon than forests, making them excellent tools for fighting climate change.

Flooding

Peatlands in particular store a third of all land-based carbon yet occupy just 3 percent of the earth's land area. When burned, they release massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

Acting as giant sponges,

wetlands absorb excess rainwater to ease flooding. Possibly owing to Candaba's continued conversion, the Pampanga river basin was flooded 43 times from 1994 to 2006.

In April last year, I was stranded on the Subic Clark Tarlac Expressway as a massive flood submerged portions of it. Both sides of the highway resembled a water world—a murky chocolate sea spanning the horizon.

The rains have been a boon to the farmers, says De Leon, president of the Macatagal Irrigators' Association. "When the rains come in June, we become fisherfolk. We use nets to catch tilapia, marteniko, gourami,



2/2

even janitor fish," he adds.

He and his kin farm rice, watermelon and other crops from November to April, when the water recedes.

Converted, drained

But the problem is that "portions of the marsh have been converted and drained. During El Niño years, the marsh dries up and farmers make do with minimal water," Lu says.

For many farmers, the seasonal combination of farming and fishing is simply not enough.

To augment the income of farmers, conserve the wetlands of Candaba and save the birds, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW) and its partners, particularly the Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia and the departments of tourism, of agriculture and of environment and natural resources are developing a community-based initiative.

The initiative would transform a portion of the marsh into a bird-watching haven while also training farmers to be bird-watching guides to augment their income.

"For an activity to be sustainable, it has to pay for itself while also helping the locals," says SCPW executive director Amy Lecciones.

Ecotourism package

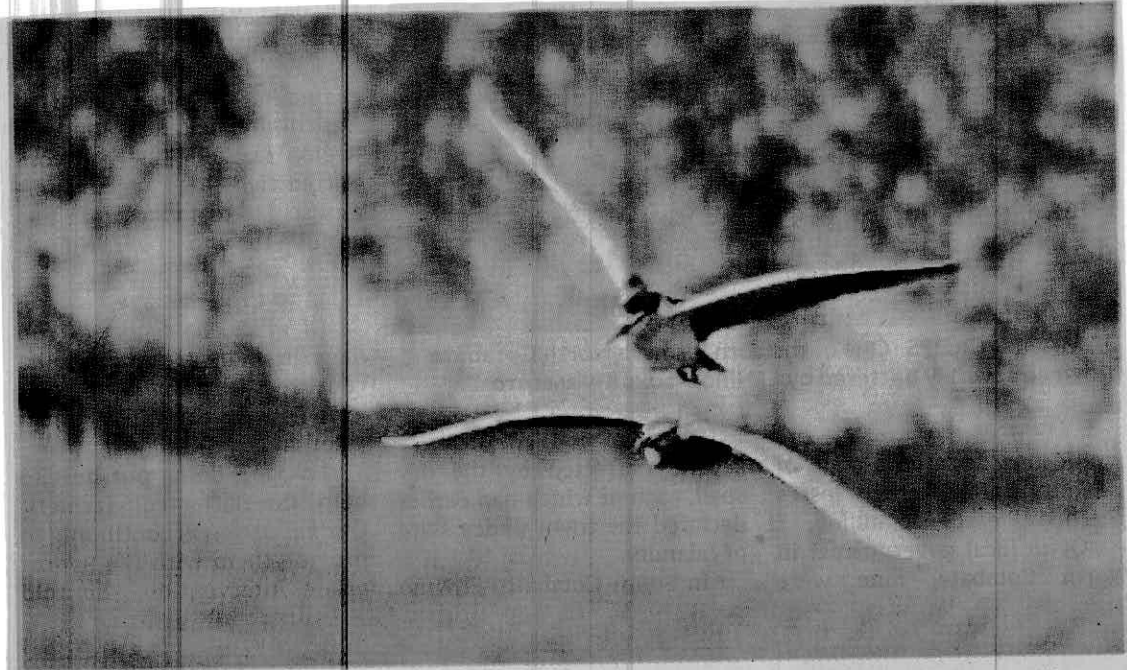
Already, an ecotourism package is in the works that will feature tourist-oriented activities aside from bird-watching, with the launch scheduled this year.

The plan might yet prove that sometimes, the best way to save something is to make it indispensable.

Making birds critical to the income of farmers means developing them as strong allies against poachers and those who would do harm to their wetland homes. Properly done, ecotourism's advantages can outweigh the lure of development.

"Now we can earn extra while ensuring that more Filipinos will keep enjoying the sights and sounds of Candaba," De Leon laughs while gazing at flying egrets.

"Who would have thought our feathered friends can attract droves of tourists and improve our lives? *Ang mga ibon pala ay talagang hulog ng langit* (Birds are truly heaven-sent!)," he says. —CONTRIBUTED INQ



WETLANDS VISITORS Black-crowned night herons are among the hundreds of regular visitors to Candaba Marsh in Pampanga province. Development, however, has apparently come to Candaba and dried up most of the wetlands that used to provide food and habitat for thousands of birds fleeing colder climes. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREGG YAN/BEST ALTERNATIVES



BIRD-WATCHING GUIDE Farmer Gaudencio de Leon will now be a bird-watching guide under a community-based initiative being planned by a wetlands conservation group and its partner government agencies.



Shark defenders form lobby group

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

SAN PEDRO CITY—A pregnant blacktip reef shark that Batangas divers and conservationists said was most likely captured and finned brought to the fore a call to strengthen marine life protection.

Vince Cinches of the Save Sharks Network Philippines (SSNP) said his group would talk to political parties on May 2 to seek the commitment of senatorial hopefuls in legislating the Philippine Shark Conservation Bill.

As with the recent case of the shark killed in Batangas, “unregulated fishing is killing our seas because most shark species are apex predators,” Cinches said on Sunday.

Unregulated trade

He said shark fin trade in the Philippines continues, however “highly unregulated,” which is why they could not ascertain the volume of fins being taken out.

Shark fins are usually used to make soup—a Chinese delicacy,

Environmentalists have been calling out the “cruel” process of slicing off the fins and discarding the shark to die eventually underwater.

“This what we are trying to address,” Cinches said.

Found in Batangas

Cinches was asked to comment on photos of the blacktip that divers found dead near Twin Rocks, a popular dive site and protected area in Barangay Anilao, Mabini, Batangas, during the Lenten week.

Diver Mark Genuino on Friday found the 4-foot-long carcass at a depth of 19 meters, with a “line” still attached to its tail and its dorsal fin missing.

The next day, another diver and underwater photographer, Jorge Ida, found the shark but pushed down deeper to 21 meters by the strong current.

Ida, this time, saw at least five dead pups around the adult shark.

Veterinarian Marco Espiritu of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon said the shark

must have only drifted into that part of the Balayan Bay.

When shown the photos, Espiritu said it was already in the “moderate to advanced” stage of decomposition and may have been dead for “a few days to a week.”

“Looks like human inflicted,” Espiritu said, noting that even at decomposition, the shark’s fin would not detach in such a way.

The pups that later came out of the carcass also means the shark was pregnant when captured.

4th in shark diversity

The Philippines ranks fourth globally in terms of shark biodiversity as it hosts about 200 species of sharks, rays and chimaeras.

However, present laws only provide for the protection of 21 shark species.

In February, the Congress approved and transmitted to the Senate the Shark Conservation Bill that is meant to put in place tighter measures in line with the SSNP’s 2020 Conservation Roadmap. INQ



DEAD PUP An unborn shark pup emerged as the carcass of a blacktip reef shark rotted at the Balayan Bay floor in Batangas. —JORGE IDA



Angat Dam water for irrigation to be reduced next month

THE allocation for irrigation from the Angat Dam will be reduced starting May as the harvest season kicks in, the National Water Resources Board said.

In a radio interview, NWRB executive director Seville David Jr. said the allocation for irrigation will be decreased from 35 cubic meters to only 10 cubic meters on May 1.

"The irrigation requirements for our palay have already been met. Since the harvest season is fast approaching, our farmers will no longer need as much irrigation allocation," he said.

"Because of this, we can already reduce the allocation for irrigation from Angat Dam. This will also help us ensure our dam's water supply level," David added.

Angat Dam's water level was at 183.55 meters, or 28.45 meters below its normal high water level of 212 meters, as of Sunday morning.

David said the critical level of 180 meters may be reached by the end of the month given the prolonged dry spell caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

"We believe the critical level will be hit before the end of April. Once that level reaches 180 meters, we have to prioritize our domestic water requirements," he said.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



22 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Large decrease in nat'l water stock seen in 2015

By CZERIZA VALENCIA

A significant decrease in the country's water stock was recorded in 2015 as the agriculture sector and households demanded the most use of the resource, the Philippine Statistics Authority said in a report.

Its Asset Accounts for Surface Water and Soil Water released recently showed that the stock of surface and soil water in the country declined 20.4 percent in 2015.

In the beginning of 2015, the stock of water was placed at 94.6 billion cubic meters (BCM), declining to 75.3 BCM at the end of the same year.

The largest reduction in stock was attributed to abstraction of water – extraction from natural source – as input to economic activities. This was equivalent to 46,279 million cubic meters (MCM) of water either used by the abstracting unit or collected and then distributed to other economic units.

Out of the total abstracted volume, the bulk – 43.7 MCM – was used by the abstracting units, while the remainder was distributed by water concessionaires and local water districts to other industries and to households.

"The largest share of water abstracted for own use went to the agriculture sector, while households received the largest amount of distributed water," PSA said.

During the reference period, not all water abstracted reached the intended users for final consumption as 677 MCM was lost in the distribution process.

The report was based on data collected from various water agencies such as the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Power

Corp. (NPC), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD).

PSA said the asset and flow accounts for water resources follow the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) 2012 Central Framework.

According to SEEA, there are three main types of water resources: surface water, groundwater and soil water.

At present, there are no available data on the stocks of groundwater hence, the opening and closing stocks cover only surface water and soil water.

Stocks of water in rivers and streams are not yet obtained and thus, surface water in this compilation includes only artificial reservoirs, lakes and fishponds.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

22 APR 2019

DATE

Dorms can help reduce pollution in Metro – survey

By **JAMES A. LOYOLA**

A survey conducted in partnership with Tangere Marketing Survey and MyTown has shown that Metro Manila's carbon emissions can be reduced with development of more co-living buildings as these bring down the number of vehicles on the roads daily.

In Metro Manila, traditional transportation, mostly jeepneys, buses and private cars, are major sources of carbon emissions, and the manner by which young professionals commute daily.

In a report to the Philippine Climate Change Commissioner, the Philippine Climate Change Assessment Working Group noted in late 2018 that transportation is the second highest contributor of total greenhouse gases in the Philippines, with 35 percent of total emissions.

MyTown, the first and largest co-living brand in the country, with investors such as SM Investments Corporation and Franklin Templeton, currently has over 3,000 co-living beds located in close proximity to major business districts such as Bonifacio Global City and Makati CBD.

This allows young professionals to give up their daily commute and instead enjoy the amenities and events MyTown offers its tenants.

The survey showed that young professionals living in MyTown have together managed to curb more than 875 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, up from 451 metric tons during last year's Earth Day.

This is equivalent to the carbon dioxide absorbed by around 1,000 acres of forest land for a year, or almost 14,000 tree seedlings planted for ten years, accord-

ing to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website.

The emission data used is from published work by Herbert Fabian, Transport Program Manager at Clean Air Philippines.

"With each MyTown building we build, we aim to improve people's quality of life, regain time otherwise lost in traffic, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and educate tenants about how to help do their part," said Group Director, Jelmer Ikink.

PULS, established in 2012, is a leading owner, developer and manager of purpose-built young professional housing.

It specializes in the development of rental housing communities under the "MyTown" brand at walking distance from central business districts in Metro Manila.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Co-living helps reduce harmful CO2 emissions in metro – survey

Metro Manila can benefit greatly from more co-living buildings as these reduce the daily number of vehicles on the road and subsequently, carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, a survey conducted by Tangere Marketing Survey and MyTown showed.

In Metro Manila, traditional transportation, mostly jeepneys, buses and private cars, are major sources of carbon emissions, and the manner by which young professionals commute daily. In a report to the Climate Change Commission, the Philippine Climate Change Assessment Working Group noted in late 2018 that transportation is the second highest contributor of total greenhouse gases in the Philippines, with 35 percent of total emissions.

MyTown, the first and largest co-living brand in the country, with investors such as SM Investments Corp. and Franklin Templeton, currently has over 3,000 co-living beds located in close proximity to major business districts such as Bonifacio Global City and Makati CBD. This allows young professionals to give up their daily commute and instead enjoy the amenities and events MyTown offers its tenants.

The result of the survey showed that the young professionals living in MyTown have together managed to curb more than 875 metric tons of CO2 emissions, up from 451 metric tons during last year's Earth Day. This is equivalent to the CO2 absorbed by around 1,000 acres of forest land for a year, or almost

14,000 tree seedlings planted for 10 years, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website. The emission data used is from published work by Herbert Fabian, transport program manager at Clean Air Philippines.

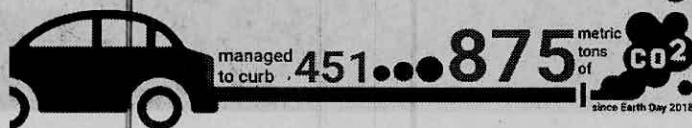
"With each MyTown building we build, we aim to improve people's quality of life, regain time otherwise lost in traffic, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and educate tenants about how to help do their part," said group director Jelmer Ikin.

MyTown is the housing brand of PULS, a leading owner, developer and manager of purpose-built young professional housing. PULS specializes in the development of rental housing communities at

walking distance from central business districts in Metro Manila. The company develops communities in which young professionals can live, play and walk to work, hence increasing the quality of life by saving on both transportation time and cost for this important and rapidly growing demographic group.

Tangere, on the other hand, is a growing mobile application committed to take the lead in the market-data industry. With about 30,000 active respondents eager to take their weekly incentivized surveys, Tangere gathers geo-specific data about products, trends and services and allows them to provide real-time market research analytics at a fraction of the cost of traditional surveys.

Co-Living Helps Reduce Harmful CO² Emissions in Metro - Survey



tree seedlings
14,000
planted for 10 years



1,000
acres of forest land for a year



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Co-living cuts CO2 emissions

A survey has shown that to reduce the capital's CO2 emissions, Metro Manila can benefit greatly from more co-living buildings, as these reduce the daily number of vehicles on the road.

In Metro Manila, traditional transportation, mostly jeepneys, buses and private cars, are major sources of carbon emissions and the manner by which young professionals commute daily. In a report to the Philippine Climate Change Commissioner, the Philippine Climate Change Assessment Working Group noted in late 2018 that transportation is the second highest contributor of total greenhouse gases in the Philippines, with 35 percent of total emissions.

With each MyTown building we build, we aim to improve people's quality of life, regain time otherwise lost in traffic, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and educate tenants about how to help do their part.

MyTown, the first and largest co-living brand in the country, with investors such as SM Investments Corporation and Franklin Templeton, currently has over 3,000 co-living beds located in close proximity to major business districts such as Bonifacio Global City and Makati CBD. This allows young professionals to give up their daily commute and instead enjoy the amenities and events MyTown offers its tenants.

The result of the survey showed that young professionals living in MyTown together managed to curb more than 875 metric tons of CO2 emissions, up from 451 metric tons during last year's Earth Day. This is equivalent to the CO2 absorbed by around 1,000 acres of forest land for a year, or almost 14,000 tree seedlings planted for ten years, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website. The emission data used is from published work by Herbert Fabian, Transport program manager at Clean Air Philippines.

"With each MyTown building we build, we aim to improve people's quality of life, regain time otherwise lost in traffic, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and educate tenants about how to help do their part," group director Jelmer Ikink said.



Plan for climate change

A dry spell indicates three consecutive months of below normal rainfall and two consecutive months of way below normal rainfall

By AJ Bajo

Amid concerns on El Niño, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said that climate change should be integrated into a comprehensive long-term plan that will aid the production sector.

"If we can expect that from time to time there will be El Niño some years and then La Niña, we have to help our production sectors be resilient with these changes in climate," Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said after a recent meeting with the National Price Coordinating Council.

For one, this means more infrastructure investment especially for irrigation facilities, he added.

Relative to this, former Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary William Dar also said the Philippines should follow the UNESCO's recommendation for a developing country to invest at least one percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on research and development (R&D), particularly on crop varieties.

The country currently spends only 0.3 percent of its GDP on R&D, he said.

"Temperature is increasing so you need to develop newer varieties that

can withstand the additional 2 degree centigrade," he said during a seminar-briefing in Baguio on 13 April.

"You need to develop varieties that are drought tolerant because water scarcity will be there. Crops that need little water will thrive better."

The country currently spends only 0.3 percent of its GDP on R&D.

Moreover, Lopez said that some farmers have started harvesting early in order to avoid the worsening impacts of El Niño.

This, along with stocking up the inventory in good facilities, serve as short-term measures to cushion the impact of the weather phenomenon on the prices of goods, he added.


As of late March, the National Disaster

Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) put total damage to agriculture in six regions due to El Niño at over P2.6 billion, affecting 79,044 farmers across the country.

The damaged crops were primarily corn, rice and vegetables.

NDRRMC previously said that 42 provinces will be placed under a dry spell by end-April when El Niño is expected to peak, while 41 others 22 others will experience drought.

A dry spell indicates three consecutive months of below normal rainfall and two consecutive months of way below normal rainfall.

Additionally, weather bureau PAGASA earlier had announced a slight delay in the onset of the rainy season as the El Niño weather phenomenon could last until June, with impacts seen as "severe." 



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

22 APR 2019
DATE

BIR to grant discounts to 'green' firms

By JUN RAMIREZ

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is granting a 50 percent income tax discount to businesses that develop, use and distribute technologies that do not harm the environment.

The tax incentive is provided under Revenue Regulations No. 5-2019 signed by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez and BIR Commis-

sioner Caesar Dulay.

The guideline was reissued last week, implementing the Philippine Green Jobs Law (RA 10771), stressing the role of the business community in reducing pollution and other environmental menace.

Qualified to join the program are businesses engaged in production, manufacturing, processing, repacking and assembly as well as the sale of goods and services.

Specifically, participants are required to come out with the so-called green technologies.

The eco-friendly technologies refer to the development and application of products, equipment and systems used to conserve the environment and natural resources.

To avail of the tax incentives, participants must register with the revenue district office where the business is registered.

The regulations stated the entity "shall be entitled to a special deduction from the taxable income equivalent to 50 percent of the total expense for skills, training and research development expenses."



Boracay: Cruise ships, bawal muna

Isinapubliko ng Department of Tourism (DoT) ang mga petsa na ipinagbabawal ang pagdaong ng mga cruise ships sa isla ng Boracay sa Malay, Aklan.

Simula Abril 16 hanggang Mayo 16 ngayong taon ay bawal muna ang cruise ships sa isla upang mabantayan ang carrying capacity ng isla, na inaasahan nang dadagsain ng mga turista ngayong summer.

Nabatid na ang carrying capacity ng Boracay ay hanggang 19,215 lang bawat araw, kasama ang 6,405 tourist arrivals

bawat araw.

Kasabay nito, umapela rin ang DoT sa publiko na huwag mag-post o mag-share ng mga lumang videos at litrato ng cruise ships sa Boracay na pinalalabas na bagong larawan, dahil maaari umano itong magdulot ng alarma at pagkalito.

Sa kabilang dako, ang iba pang "close out dates" para sa cruise ships ay sa Oktubre 26-Nobyembre 8, para sa paggunita ng Undas; at Nobyembre 23-Enero 5, 2020 para sa Pasko, Bagong Taon, at SEA Games.

Beth Camia