

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 30 MAY 2016

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

30 MAY 2016

DATE

2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR seeks help in fight vs wildlife trade

BY ELLALYN B. DE VERA

With human activity being one of the major threats to biodiversity loss, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is calling on Filipinos to help the government in its fight against wildlife trade.

"We celebrate Environment Month this year with the renewed and strengthened conviction to care for the land we live on, the air we breathe, and the water which gives us life. More than any time in this planet's history, it is now that we must put our acts together to combat increasing threats to our ecosystems," said DENR Secretary Ramon Paje.

This is in line with the DENR's celebration of the Philippine Environment Month starting June 1, 2016.

With the theme, "Go Wild for Life, Combat Biodiversity Loss," Paje said that the fight against illegal wildlife trade must continue, noting that the extinction of species is irreversible and losses are permanent."

He added that biodiversity loss has adversely affected the livelihood of many Filipinos especially those in the agricultural and fisheries sector and even caused losses in the economy due to natural calamities.

The month-long celebration begins with a three-day Young Eco-Ambassador's Camp that will be held at the University of the Philippines

National Engineering Center on June 1. The said event will be the first national camp for high school students.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau will host the Philippine Eagle Week celebration in collaboration with Enchanted Kingdom (EK) in Sta. Rosa, Laguna with the theme "Saving Eagles, Protecting Forests, Securing our Future" on June 4.

Philippine Eagle Week is observed annually from June 4-10.

The EMB will also hold a multimedia exhibit on combating biodiversity loss and beating climate change at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas Center, Quezon City, from June 6 to 8.

The EMB's Air Quality Management Division will conduct an orientation on ecosystem-based adaptation at its Air Quality Management Training Center (AQMTC) on June 6, and an emission inventory training-workshop for the EMB regional offices.

The EMB's Environmental Education and Information Division will bring together hundreds of bloggers for the Environmental Blogger's Forum to promote the hashtag #GreenEnvironmentGawingForever at the Cocoon Boutique in Quezon City on June 7.

A General Assembly and Consultation Workshop on the Upland National Implementation Action Plan on June 7 and a workshop on the draft Revised Chemical Control Order for Cyanide and its compounds will be held June 9 at the EMB AQMTC Conference Room.

To showcase an environment-friendly building, the Laguna Lake

Development Authority will conduct a "Green Building Tour" of its office on June 8.

The annual Clean Air Forum, which is DENR's sustaining effort to further improve air quality, and the activity on the Capacity Development of Micro and Small Medium Enterprises in compliance with the Environmental Permitting Requirements are scheduled on June 14 and 15-16 respectively, at the DENR Social Hall in Quezon City.

On June 16, the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center Amphitheater in Quezon City will feature the live mural painting by A.G. Saño and the youth artists, as the "Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign" will be held in General Santos City.

The EMB will also hold the 2nd Integrated National Solid Waste Management Summit on SM Megatrade Hall on June 21-24, and the Training on Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Management for Industries in Cebu City on June 23-24. An orientation on the Globally Harmonized System will be held on Davao City on June 24.

The Philippine Arbor Day, a nationwide tree planting activity, will be spearheaded by the Strategic Communication Initiatives Service of DENR at the Upper Marikina Watershed and the Ipo Watershed on June 25.

Activities that will be spearheaded by the EMB's Climate Change Division will be training on Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Development Planning on June 27-29 for selected DENR employees.

30 MAY 2016

Malaya Business Insight

www.malaya.com.ph

DATE

B-2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Environment Month tackles wildlife trade

THE fight against illegal wildlife trade will be the focus of Philippine Environment Month in June, said Environment Secretary Ramon Paje.

Paje said biodiversity loss has affected the livelihood of many Filipinos, especially those in the agricultural and fisheries sector, and has even caused losses through natural calamities.

With a theme "Go Wild for Life, Combat Biodiversity Loss," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will kick off the month-long celebration with a three-day Young Eco-Ambassador's Camp at the University of the Philippines (UP) National Engineering Center in Diliman, Quezon City on June 1.

The Environmental Manage-

ment Bureau (EMB) will hold a multi-media exhibit on combating biodiversity loss and beating climate change at the Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas Center from June 6 to 8.

The EMB's Air Quality Management Division will give an orientation on ecosystem-based adaptation at its Air Quality Management Training Center (AQMTC) on June 6, and an emission inventory training-workshop for the EMB regional offices.

The EMB's Environmental Education and Information Division (EEID) will bring together hundreds of bloggers for the Environmental Blogger's Forum to promote the hashtag #GreenEnvironmentGawing-Forever at the Cocoon Boutique in Quezon City on June 7.

The Manila Times

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 MAY 2016

DATE

A-7

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

EMB: Fuel leak in Bataan more serious

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan: The Environment Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Sunday said it considers the present fuel leak in Dinalupihan, Bataan more serious, as the search for the source of the leakage of unleaded gasoline continued on the third day.

"Mas grabe ito dahil dikit at diretso sa ilog. Noon madaling na-kontrol dahil ang oil leak sa drainage canal [It is more serious because it adjoins the river and flows directly into it. Before, it was easier to control because the oil leak involved the drainage canal]," Engr. Climaco Jurado, Jr. of the EMB in Region 3 said.

He said the oil leak poses danger. *"May danger ito kasi gasolina ang laman. Naaamoy ng tao kaya may effect sa tao [It poses danger because it contains gasoline. It can be smelled, so it affects people],"* Jurado said.

The present oil leak in the 94-kilometer pipeline from Subic Bay Freeport to Clark in Angeles City, Pampanga was discovered Friday in Barangay Luakan, Dinalupihan. The pipeline in Luakan rests in the portion of the river below the bridge.

Last February 4, an oil leak was found along the concrete culvert of a drainage canal in Barangay San Ramon, also in Dinalupihan.

Jurado said workers of Coastal Corporation, the company maintaining the pipeline owned by the Clark Pipeline and Depot Company Inc., have pinpointed the site of the pipes on Saturday night. *"Nakita na kung saan ang pipeline pero hindi pa nakikita ang portion kung saan may leak [The pipeline has been located, but the leaking portion has yet to be found],"* the engineer said.

He said the water in the river where the pipeline is located has to be drained for the pipes to be exposed.

Coastal officials in the area begged off to be interviewed. They prevented taking of video near the affected area. *"Delikadong sumabog tayo [There is the danger of explosion],"* they said.

Jurado said EMB was in the area to make sure that proper containment methods are applied. *"May possibility na maapektuhan ang ilog kaya tinitingnan natin para hindi maapektuhan ang water bodies [There is the possibility that the river will be affected, so we are*

checking it, to prevent water bodies from being affected]," he said.

He said they were collecting water samples downstream and upstream of the river for laboratory analysis. *"Gusto nating malaman agad kung tama ba o may kulang pa sa ginagawang oil containment [We would like to know whether or not the oil containment being made is sufficient],"* Jurado said.

Rosemarie Jocson, who lives near the Luakan bridge, uses a face mask distributed by the municipal government.

"Matindi ang amoy simula noong alas-2 ng hapon noong Biyernes [The odor was terrible since 2 p.m. last Friday]," the woman said.

She said one of her grandchildren complained of aching stomach upon inhaling the bad odor from the fuel.

The big buck hoe that was seen busy excavating on Saturday was on rest while workers below the bridge siphoned off and collected oil residues for loading to a small and a big fuel tankers.

Oil spill booms were seen at the river. Workers on the opposite side of the bridge collected oil residues and placed it in oil drums.

ERNIE ESCONDE

BusinessWorld

INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

30 MAY 2016

DATE

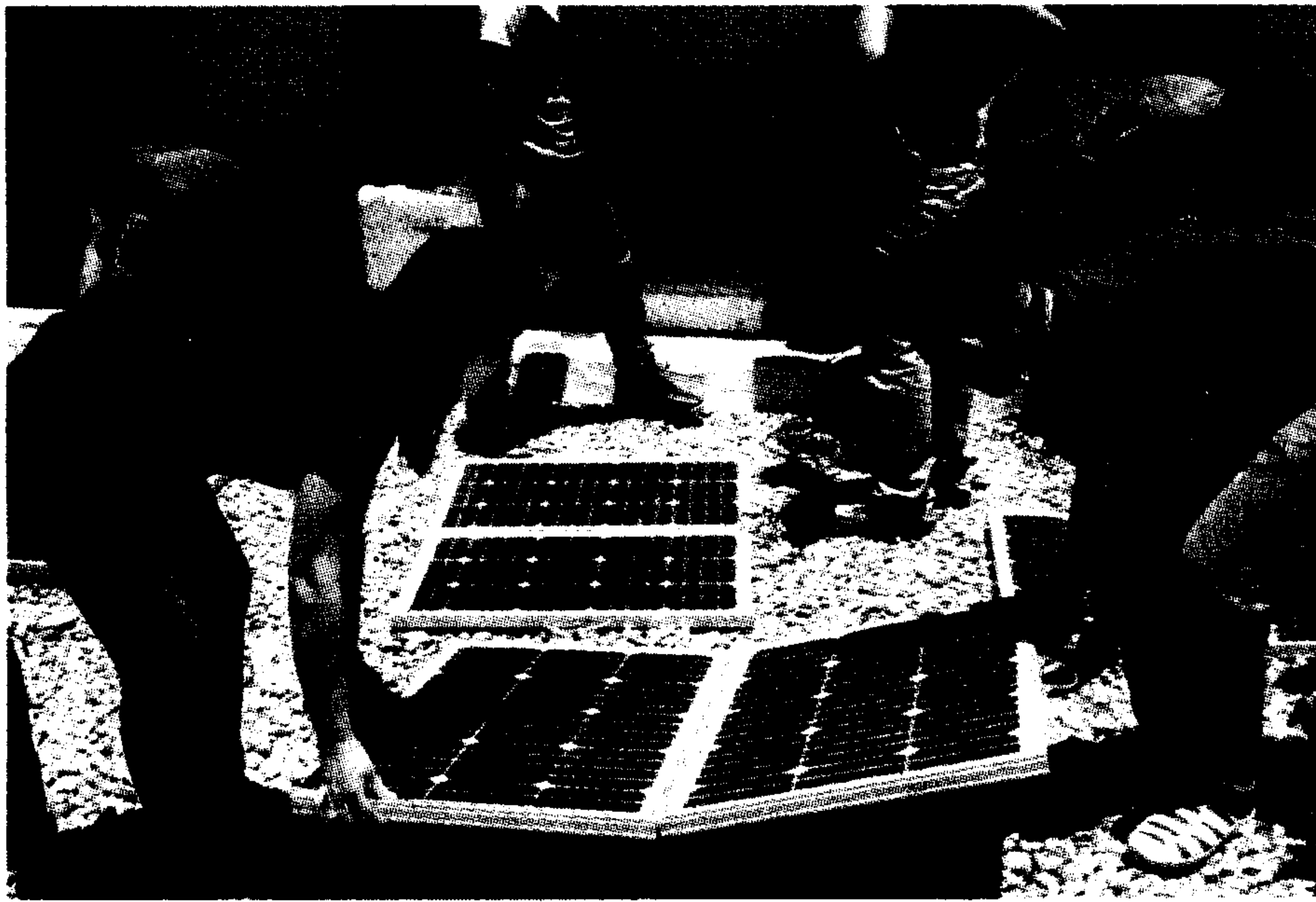
5111

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



EASTERN VISAYAS: LEYTE Green energy use

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial office is championing the use of renewable energy in Leyte given a wide mix of available potential sources. — **Lottie S. Salarda**

>> See full story on
<http://goo.gl/epZMe0>

**THE INSTITUTE for Climate and Sustainable Cities-
Re-Charge Tacloban** trains locals in Yolanda-affected areas on disaster response through the use of renewable energy.

BusinessMirror

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

MGB seeks higher budget for next year to develop geologic maps

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said it is seeking a P1.77-billion budget, or 63 percent higher than its 2016 budget of P1.08 billion, to finance its operation next year.

Essentially, MGB Director Leo L. Jasareno said the bulk of the budget increase being sought for next year will be used for the development of geologic quadrangle and groundwater maps.

"We hope to complete the maps before the end of the year [2017]," Jasareno said.

He said the various activities related to the development of the two important maps started early this year.

Activities include actual land surveys, soil and rock testing by experts from the MGB.

The MGB is also using ground-penetrating radar in the process of identifying aquifer or rock formations, and the types of rock formation underneath the earth's surface.

The development of the maps is part of the priority programs of the MGB, alongside programs on disaster preparedness and mitigation, Jasareno said.

Last year the MGB completed the development of bigger geohazard maps, with a scale of 1:50,000, to pinpoint areas that are prone to landslides and flashfloods.

These maps have been distributed to local government units (LGUs) to aid local governments come up with comprehensive land-use plans (CLUPs), as well as disaster risk reduction and management plans, in the face of climate-change impacts being experienced in various parts of the country.

According to Jasareno, for groundwater maps assessment for the entire country, 55 map sheets at 1:250:000 scale will be produced this year and next year. The budget for groundwater map this year started with P18 million, while the budget for next year's activities is P149 million.

Jasareno said the scale of the map for groundwater resources is enough to pinpoint and estimate the volume of groundwater in aquifers.

The groundwater map will aid policy-makers on how to best conserve the

country's groundwater.

"The groundwater map will be very useful for various agencies to protect our groundwater. The map will identify the volume of groundwater in the area, which is already depleted. That way policy-makers will be able to have informed decision on request for groundwater extraction," Jasareno said.

He said groundwater, especially those in aquifer that are not easily replenished, should be conserved for future use.

"*Dapat kasi surface water muna ang gamitin at 'wag groundwater. Dapat reserve ang groundwater for future use,*" Jasareno said.

The groundwater map will be very useful for the National Water Resources Board, the Local Water Utilities Administration and LGUs, according to Jasareno.

Meanwhile, the geologic quadrangle map will be useful in determining what kind of minerals can be exploited in a particular area and is hoped to boost mining investment in the country, he said.

In its 2017 budget proposal, of the total budget, P855.21 million is allocated for Personnel Services; P715.91 million for Maintenance and

Other Operating Expenses; and P201.96 million for Capital Outlay.

Of the total proposed budget, P1.09 billion, which is within the budget ceiling, will be used for the government's priority programs, including National Geohazard Assessment for Land and Coastal Areas, Geologic Quadrangle Mapping, Mining Industry Development Program, National Mineral Reservation Program, Mineral Investment Promotion Program and Rehabilitation of Abandoned mines.

An additional P676.47 million was also proposed to finance other activities, including establishment of national geoparks, ISO Certification, information and communications technology, and upgrading and operationalization of the newly established Negros Island Region, among others.

The proposal was done through the online submission for budget proposal system, as required by the Department of Budget and Management, in time for the scheduled technical budget hearings.

The Manila Times

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 MAY 2016

DATE

B 7

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

Large hectares of forest, to become site for cacao

A 1,060-hectare species-rich mixed forest and 890 hectares of agro-forestry areas in Panay will be the site for planting of cacao in a partnership of German GIZ, Cocoa Foundation of the Philippines (Cocoaphil), and government.

A continuing phase of "Forest and Climate Protection in Panay" (FCPP) is being pursued by international cooperation agency Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) under a new memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Cocoaphil.

This is also in a tieup with the

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) over 2.5 years until 2018.

"The natural forest in Panay is the most important carbon sink in the region. Conservation is therefore vitally important. With local people's participation, forest land use plans are developed," according to GIZ.

Cocoaphil President Edward E. David the project will help beef up the country's cocoa production and seize export market. Cocoa global shortage is predicted at one million metric tons (MT) by 2020.

BusinessWorld

INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

30 MAY 2016

DATE

51/4

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

SC reverses writ of kalikasan against Zambales miner

By Vince Alvic Alexis F. Nonato
Reporter

THE Supreme Court has reversed an environmental protection order issued by the Court of Appeals against LNL Archipelago Minerals, Inc. (LAMI), a metallic ore miner accused of violating mining and forestry laws and leveling a "mountain" to build its seaport in Zambales.

In a 26-page en banc decision dated Apr. 12, the high court said that contrary to the appellate court's findings, LAMI "did not cause any environmental damage" that may harm the inhabitants of Sta. Cruz, Zambales, and nearby towns in neighboring Pangasinan province.

Voting 14-0, the full court set aside the CA's Sept. 13, 2013 amended decision and reinstated its original decision on Nov. 23, 2012 that denied the issuance of the writ of kalikasan.

The appellate court originally denied the petition by Agham party-list, led by former Rep. Angelo B. Palmones. It later granted the group's appeal and stated that scraping off land for port reclamation removed a barrier against tropical depressions that frequent the area.

A writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy which generally orders the adverse party to cease and desist from questioned activities and restore the damaged environment. It also requires the government to strictly monitor the subject area and submit periodic reports to the court.

The SC, in a decision penned by Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio, said that the CA did not provide any basis to support the reversal of its decision. It said that Agham continued to fail to present evidence warranting the issuance of the writ of kalikasan.

The high court said Agham failed to prove its claim that LAMI violated the Revised Forestry Code and the Philip-

pine Mining Act. For one, the decision noted that LAMI was able to secure the proper permits to clear the trees within the port site.

It found the mining law was not applicable in this case as LAMI did not conduct any actual mining activity on the port site. Agham also did not present any evidence of violations, and only "alleged in very general terms that LAMI was destroying the environment" without conducting any scientific study or submitting expert testimony.

The high court noted that "even the facts submitted by Agham to establish environmental damage were mere general allegations."

It said that when Agham failed to prove violations of law, it "shifted its focus" on the claim that LAMI had "flattened a mountain." However, several government entities denied that a mountain existed, with the Mines and Geoscience Bureau (MGB) concluding that it was only an "elongated mound."

The high court also disagreed with Agham's claim that LAMI had no environmental compliance certificate (ECC). The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued a notice of violation on June 1, 2012, but later restored the ECC upon compliance with the requirements, it noted.

The decision noted that under the rules on the writ of kalikasan, the petitioner has the burden to prove that environmental rules have been violated and that ensuing damage harms the inhabitants in two or more cities or provinces.

"Agham, as the party that has the burden to prove the requirements for the issuance of the privilege of the Writ of Kalikasan, failed to prove (1) the environmental laws allegedly violated by LAMI; and (2) the magnitude of the environmental damage allegedly caused by LAMI in the construction of LAMI's port facility in Brgy. Bolitoc, Sta. Cruz, Zambales and its surrounding area," the decision read.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

30 MAY 2016

DATE

A19

PAGE

PAGE 1 / 2

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Palawan tribe bears brunt of drought

By Redempto D. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATARAZA, Palawan—The unusual and severe dry season that has swept the country for over seven months is taking a deadly toll on a community of Palaw'an indigenous tribes living in Bataraza town's most remote interiors hardly reached by basic government services.

In the village of Sumbiling at the foothills of the Bolanjao mountain range, the tribal communities are running out of food traditionally coming from the forest, as most of their water sources have dried up and traditional farming has become unsustainable because of the absence of rainfall.

A barren landscape of dried up grass, a dry Sumbiling River and parched lands has replaced a once lush lowland forest, now strewn with pockets of "kaingin" (slash and burn) farms vainly waiting for rain.

"We need the rains to irrigate our farms. It has not rained in a long time. There is not even mist in the evenings to dampen the soil," said Kennedy Correo, a Palaw'an tribal leader.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecasts the end of the long El Niño cycle by the start of June and warned that the reverse climatic pattern La Niña would bring heavy rains soon.

On Wednesday, the Palawan government declared a state of calamity in the entire province due to the drought. The provincial agriculture office estimated crop losses to have reached P400 million.

Previously, local governments in three towns—Dumaran, Roxas and Taytay—and the City of Puerto Princesa issued separate state of calamity declarations to allow the local governments to use their calamity funds for drought-hit communities.

Resilience

"We have missed the planting season. It's going to be hard for our families because we have nothing to harvest," Correo said.

Integral to their culture, the Palaw'an, for centuries, have lived off the land using mainly a traditional form of slash and burn farming. They would clear patches of forests for one planting season but would ensure its regrowth after harvest.

Around the Bolanjao mountain range adjacent to the protected area of Mt. Mantalingahan live around 200 Palaw'an families distributed in 11 villages of Bataraza.

The unpredictability of weather patterns has challenged the Palaw'an's traditional way of life. Their lead-

ers have admitted that the pressure on them to produce food for their sustenance under difficult circumstances have led to environmental problems.

"We have experienced forest fires in Bolanjao started off by our kaingin. That is why we have started to avoid doing it in the upper areas. We would rather stop kaingin but we have little option to provide for our livelihood," Correo said.

Mining royalty

A mining company, the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RT-NMC), that has been operating for over two decades in Rio Tuba, Bataraza, has been paying the mandatory annual royalty fees that are shared by the affected villages, with all of 11 villages around Mt. Bolanjao having been designated as "impact areas."

The royalty, which this year

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

30 MAY 2016

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

PAGE

PAGE 2/2

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



MEMBERS of the Palaw'an tribe in Bataraza town in Palawan struggle as severe drought dries up their mountain farms and water sources.

REDEMPTO D. ANDA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

SPECIAL REPORT

amounts to over P3 million, goes to projects like scholarship programs for about 100 high school and several college students, assistance through farm inputs, a milling facility and similar projects identified in the mining company's social development and management program.

In Sumbiling, however, many community members have become weary of the projects.

"Yes, we have the royalty, but this is not what we need for our daily existence. What we need is our land that will provide for

our needs in the long term," said Isabel Curio, a community leader.

Expansion

RTNMC is seeking to expand its operations into the Bolanjao range, right into the ancestral land claims of the Palaw'an tribes. It is being met with resistance by the tribes that have organized themselves into an association, the Samahan ng mga Magsasaka at Katutubo (Samaka).

"As long as we protect the mountains, we are assured of survival and we will be able to send our children to school," said Liminda Bartolome, a non-tribal leader and former presi-

denr of Samaka.

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), a regulatory body that serves as clearing house for environmentally sensitive projects in Palawan, has endorsed the expansion of RTNMC into Mt. Bolanjao, setting off protests from the tribes and from local officials.

RTNMC officials, during the PCSD deliberations on the firm's expansion, claimed that Bolanjao is part of their Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) area.

"We haven't felt any help from the provincial govern-

ment. They have proposed a water project for our community but nothing happened. Most residents here do not want mining," said Francisco Tablazon, a village councilor of Sumbiling.

Curio credited outgoing President Aquino for having influenced the non issuance of a permit to expand RTNMC operations during his term.

Bartolome said the President issued an executive order freezing all new applications for mining projects in Palawan due to the critical status of the province's environment.

Kennedy Correo, a Palaw'an elder from Sumbiling, said their community wanted their mountain preserved.

"What matters most is that our mountain remains intact. Regardless of who will assume the presidency, we will fight for our mountain because our livelihood and survival depend on it," Correo said.

30 MAY 2016

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

DATE

AG

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

SC junks Agham raps vs miner

By Rey E. Requejo

THE Supreme Court has overturned an environmental protection order issued by the Court of Appeals against LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. accused of violating mining and forestry laws for allegedly leveling a "mountain" to build its seaport in Zambales.

In an en banc decision penned by Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio, the high court ruled that contrary to the CA's findings, LAMI "did not cause any environmental damage" that may harm the inhabitants of Sta. Cruz, Zambales, and nearby towns in neighboring Pangasinan.

The high court set aside the appellate court's Sept. 13, 2013 amended decision and reinstated its original decision on Nov. 23, 2012 that denied the issuance of the writ of kalikasan.

The CA originally denied the petition filed by Agham party-list, led by former Rep. Angelo B. Palmones, but subsequently granted the group's appeal, stressing that scraping off land for port reclamation removed a barrier against tropical depression that frequents the area.

According to the SC, the appellate court failed to provide any basis to support the reversal of its decision. It also said that Agham continued to fail to present evidence warranting the issuance of the writ of kalikasan.

The high court stressed that Agham failed to prove its claim that LAMI violated the Revised Forestry Code and the Philippine Mining Act. For one, the decision noted that LAMI was able to secure the proper permits to clear the trees within the port site.

It found the mining law was inapplicable to this case as LAMI did not conduct any actual mining activity on the port site. Agham also did not present any evidence of violations, and only "alleged in very general terms that LAMI was destroying the environment" without conducting any scientific study or submitting expert testimony.

"Even the facts submitted by Agham to establish environmental damage were mere general allegations," the SC noted.

The tribunal observed that when the party-list group failed to prove violations of law, it "shifted its focus" on the claim that LAMI flattened a mountain. However, several government entities belied that a mountain existed, with the Mines and Geoscience Bureau concluding that it was only an "elongated mound."

BusinessMirror

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

SC sets aside writ of kalikasan issued by CA against Chinese mining firm

BY JOEL R. SAN JUAN

✉ @jrsanjuan1573

THE Supreme Court (SC) has set aside the amended decision issued by the Court of Appeals (CA) in 2013 that granted the petition filed by a party-list group seeking to permanently stop Chinese mining firm LNL Archipelago Minerals (Lami) from cutting and leveling a mountain in Barangay Bolitoc, Santa Cruz, Zambales, by virtue of a writ of kalikasan.

In a 26-page decision penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, the court unanimously ordered the reinstatement of the CA's original decision issued on November 23, 2012, which denied the petition for the issuance of the privilege of the writ of kalikasan filed by Party-list Rep. Angelo Palmones of Agham.

The appellate court, in the said ruling, held that there was no basis on the claim of the petitioner that LNL was undertaking leveling of a mountain and that the fear of immense environmental damage to the inhabitants of Zambales province and the nearby towns of Pangasinan province was baseless.

The Supreme Court said the CA failed to provide any basis, in fact and in law, to support the reversal of its original decision.

It noted that Agham, in its motion for reconsideration, did not present new evidence to refute its claim that Lami leveled a "mountain" or that there was an environmental damage of considerable significance that will harm the life, health and properties of the residents of the municipality of Santa Cruz and its neighboring towns or cities, or even the provinces of Zambales and Pangasinan.

"It is well-settled that a party claiming the privilege for the issuance of a writ of kalikasan has to show that a law, rule or regulation was violated or would be violated. In the present case, the allegation by Agham that two laws—the Revised

Forestry Code, as amended, and the Philippine Mining Act—were violated by Lami was not adequately substantiated by Agham. Even the facts submitted by Agham to establish environmental damage were mere general allegations," the SC said.

Furthermore, the SC noted that Agham's allegation that there was a "mountain" in Lami's port site was earlier established as false as the "mountain" was nonexistent as proven by the testimonies of the witnesses and reports made by environmental experts and persons who have been educated and trained in their respective fields.

Likewise, contrary to Agham's

claim that Lami had no Environmental Compliance Certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the SC said the DENR actually restored Lami's ECC.

The High Tribunal added that the alleged scraping off or leveling of land at Lami's port site is deemed insignificant to pose a detrimental impact on the environment.

"In sum, contrary to the findings of the appellate court in its amended decision dated September 13, 2013, we find that Lami did not cause any environmental damage that prejudiced the life, health or property of the inhabitants residing in the municipality of Santa Cruz, the province of Zambales or in the neighboring province of Pangasinan," the Court ruled.

In its amended decision, the CA took into consideration the claim of the petitioner that the leveling of the hill by LNL to build a seaport for shipping chromite-rich soil from the Philippines to China was not sanctioned by the DENR, since it was not even issued with an ECC.

It agreed with the petitioner that the leveling, which has se-

rious impact on the ecological balance of the affected towns and provinces, was undertaken without conducting consultations among the residents.

The CA noted that it found out that what LNL did was not to simply level the land formation but scrape and remove a small mountain and,

thereafter, reclaim a portion of the adjacent waters with the earth it took therefrom, making out of the soil gathered to conduct a seaport.

The activity being undertaken by LNL, according to the CA, "indeed poses an imminent danger as an environmental hazard" not only to the residents in the vicinity of Barangay Bolitoc, Santa Cruz, Zambales, but to the inhabitants of the province and the nearby Pangasinan province.

Aside from permanent cease and de ceased order, the CA also directed the DENR to "protect, preserve, rehabilitate and restore" the subject land formation.

It also ordered the DENR to monitor strict compliance with its decision and orders and to make periodic reports on a monthly basis on the execution of the final judgment.

But, the SC said even the Geoscience Foundation Inc., which conducted a scientific study on the port site regarding the possible damage to the environment from the construction of the port facility, found that the landform was too small to protect against typhoons, monsoons and floods due to heavy rains and storm surges.

The SC added that the DENR composite team, in its report of investigation conducted in 2012 on Lami's port site to ensure that Lami undertook mitigating measures in its property, found that Lami's activities posed only a minimal or insignificant impact to the environment.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1908

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

30 MAY 2016

DATE

B-1

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PH's investment treaties threaten mining rules – report

The Philippines has been urged to halt negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement and to review existing bilateral investment treaties because these agreements could severely constrain the government's ability to regulate polluting mining operations, a new report by an international research and advocacy group stated.

In its report entitled "How investment agreements threaten regulation of the mining industry in the Philippines", the Transnational Institute (TNI), an international research and advocacy institute committed to building a just, democratic and sustainable planet, the Philippines

was cited as one of the five countries worldwide with the highest overall mineral reserves with a web of investment treaties which severely constrain the government's ability to regulate or close polluting mines.

"This legal straitjacket will become even tighter if the EU-Philippines FTA and the RCEP proceed," the report said.

According to the report, mining firms have been one of the main corporate sectors worldwide to take advantage of investor-state dispute (ISD) mechanisms to sue states for regulation of mining. So far, the report said mining firms have sued governments for a total of \$53.

►B-9

PH's investment... ◀B-1

ISD mechanisms give corporations the right to sue states if they take any measures – including public interest legislation – that might threaten profits. ISDS mechanisms are included in most new FTAs. Nevertheless, several governments are starting to reconsider their commitments to ISDS as they recognize the danger that it poses to their sovereignty.

TNI said that its extensive research highlights how ISDs give corporations far-reaching rights that curtail governments' sovereignty and drain limited public budgets.

The report noted that the Philippines has a network of investment treaties including 31 bilateral investment treaties (BITs) and seven Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), all of which have investment protection chapter. These include treaties with Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and the UK — all host nations of major multinational mining companies.

"All of these treaties, bar very few exceptions, allow investors to sue the government at international arbitration tribunals if they consider that their profits have been unduly

affected," the report said.

BITs, TNI said, are intended to regulate the commercial investment relationships between two countries. These are supposed to facilitate trade and investment by providing security for investments.

However, it is common practice for BITs to establish ISD mechanisms that allow for transnational companies to sue the states in which they operate based on a very broad interpretation of damage to investments. This has led to a surge in litigations against states and prompted a growing number of governments to seek to cancel or amend existing BITs. Globally, TNI said, extractive companies have been one of the sectors most given to launching arbitration lawsuits, and 52 current cases worldwide are relating to mining.

Based on the 44 cases for which data are available, mining companies have sued governments for a total of \$53 billion.

Denying or revoking mining permits because of environmental concerns or violation of the human and social rights of indigenous communities has already led to at least ten investment treaty cases.

TNI said that the governments of Bolivia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Peru and South Africa have all faced costly lawsuits after taking measures to tackle fraud within the mining industry, make mining companies comply with an agreed pollution clean-up, and remedy past discrimination. Indonesia and South Africa eventually lowered environmental standards in order to pre-empt such lawsuits.

The Philippines has yet to face a mining-related arbitration lawsuit, but has already experienced a very costly case launched by the German company, Fraport. The report has recommended for the Philippines to roll-back investor protection instead.

It cited a growing number of countries that are beginning to understand the financial, social and environmental costs of the system of investors' rights—with countries as diverse as Australia, Bolivia, India, Indonesia and South Africa revising their investment treaty policy.

The report has called the Philippines government's move to negotiate RCEP and the EU-Philippines FTA, which will extend investors' rights with more countries, a dangerous step as these agreements will prevent effective regulation of the country's mining industry. (BCM)

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

30 MAY 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

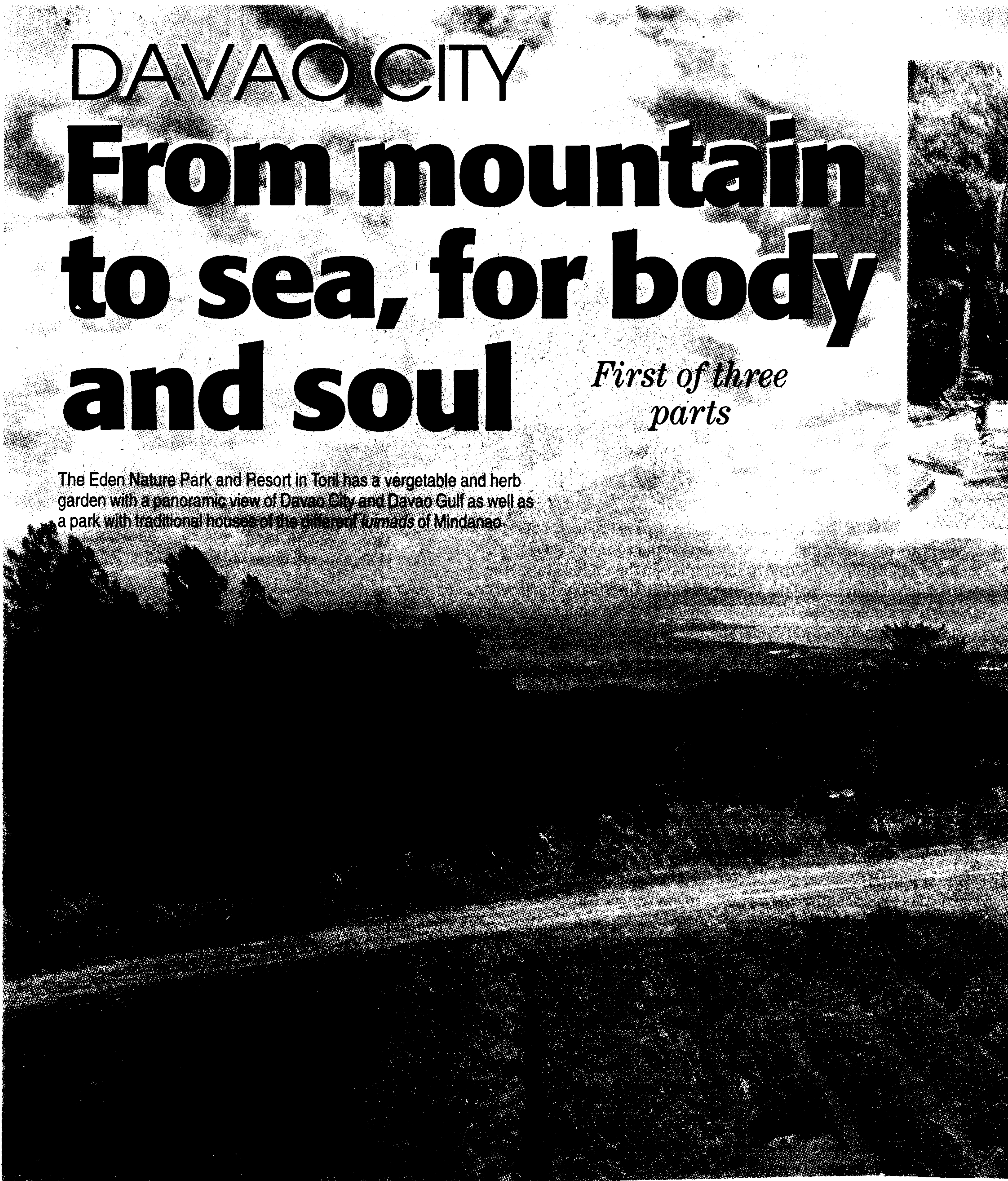
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DAVAO CITY

From mountain to sea, for body and soul

*First of three
parts*

The Eden Nature Park and Resort in Toril has a vegetable and herb garden with a panoramic view of Davao City and Davao Gulf as well as a park with traditional houses of the different lumads of Mindanao.



Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

30 MAY 2016

DATE

12
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Davao City

Text and photos by Roel Hoang Manipon, Assistant Editor

This summer, Davao City is well known for one thing, Rodrigo Duterte, its iron-fisted and foul-mouthed mayor, who would win the presidential elections last May 9. The commercial and industrial hub of southern Mindanao, which stretches up to 2,444 square kilometers to be the biggest city in land area in the Philippines, trumpeted itself to be Duterte country. The often controversial

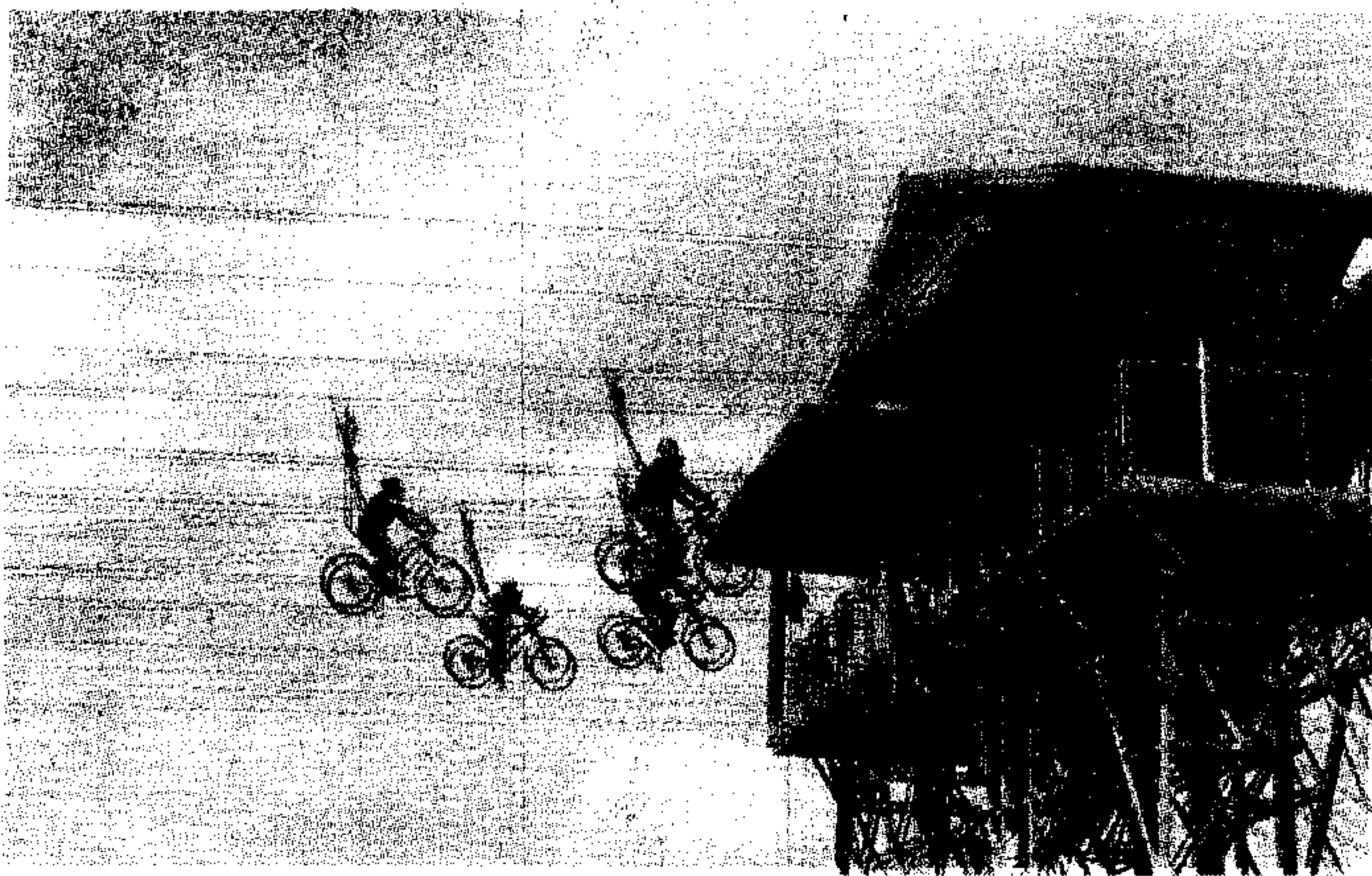
the Philippine eagle. Davao City is the only place where one can see and get close to the critically endangered bird.

The Philippine Eagle Center

Endemic to the Philippines, the Philippine eagle is one of the largest and most powerful birds in the world. Called *banoy* in Tagalog and Filipino, *mamboogook* and *malamboogook* in Mandaya and Manobo, and *tipule* in Subanon, it was declared the country's national bird in 1995 through Proclamation No. 615, saying that the eagle's

park of 12 hectares planted with different plants and trees that includes the orchid *waling-waling* (*Vanda sanderiana*), an endemic Davao icon for which many people lobby to be declared the national flower to replace the Indian jasmine or *sampagita*.

Turn to page 11



The Sky Bike, one of the attractions at Eden Nature Park and Resort

mayor is a hero and icon here, credited for the orderliness and safety of the city, leading to its progress. So much so that Davao's summer tourism campaign and promotion, the Visit Davao Fun Sale, teetered into becoming an election campaign and victory party. The tour guide opened the tour with a greeting and a hope that visitors would vote for Duterte. Hosts of events were lavish with praises for Duterte. The cityscape was riddled with Duterte campaign posters, billboards and even standees of his figure. If you are a Duterte fan, the trip would be a happy union with kindred spirits, but if you're not, it could be a tad uncomfortable.

Nevertheless, Davao City and its surrounding areas have so much to offer the tourists, several of which are icons themselves. Take for example, the country's national bird,

"uniqueness, strength, power, and love for freedom exemplifies the Filipino people."

The Philippine eagle's home stretches from eastern Luzon, Samar and Leyte islands in the Visayas, to the island of Mindanao. Because of habitat loss, their population drastically dwindled, and the largest concentration of eagles left can be found in Mindanao. Thirty-four Philippine eagles can be found at the Philippine Eagle Center, an 8.7-hectare sanctuary at the foot of Mount Apo, the highest peak in the country, inside the Malagos Watershed Area in the district of Baguio, about 27 kilometers from the city proper of Davao.

The center is run by the private, non-stock and non-profit organization Philippine Eagle Foundation, which traces its roots to the Monkey-Eating Eagle Conservation Program,



Artisanal cheeses at the Malagos Garden Resort

established in 1969 through the efforts of Filipino scientist Dr. Dioscoro Rabor and famous American aviator Charles Lindbergh and sustained through the efforts of Peace Corps volunteers with the Parks and Wildlife Office of the Philippine government. The present foundation was organized in 1987, dedicated to the research, rehabilitation and captive breeding of Philippine eagles.

A milestone of the foundation is the first breeding in captivity of the eagle in 1992. The birth of Pag-asá (literally means "hope") and Pagkakaisa ("unity") was big and joyful news then. Pag-asá is among the attractions of the Philippine Eagle Center, which has been a top destination in Davao City.

Visitors regularly trooped to the center, which aims to educate people not only about the Philippine eagle but on the importance of environmental conservation. They are provided with a guide who will accompany them to the gardens allowed to visitors. They can see a few of the center's Philippine eagles. The captive-bred ones now number 18. Some were rescued. The center also houses 10 other species of birds such as the brahmyn kite and serpent eagle. Flying lemurs and Philippine sailfin lizards are occasionally spotted.

Cheeses, chocolates and wine

In the same upland *barangay*, in Purok 2, one finds the Malagos Garden Resort, an expansive theme



The author at the Philippine Eagle Center



The national bird, the Philippine eagle

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

30 MAY 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

Davao City...

From page 12

Owned and established in 1987 by the Puentespina family, the Malagos Garden Resort has been a favorite destination among locals as well as tourists. A chief draw is the cooler temperature, being at 375 meters above sea level at the foot of Mount Talomo, Davao's second highest mountain. Thus, the name of the district, Baguio, inspired by the country's Summer Capital in northern Luzon. But Malagos also offers a host of touristic and recreational activities. Primary of these is the garden and park, lush with trees and plants, both native and ornamental, as well as some local wildlife. It is known for the *waling-waling*. Malagos credits the family matriarch, Charita Puentespina, in pioneering the culturing of the endemic orchid as well as establishing a garden dedicated to it. The family owns a flower farm, Puentespina Orchid Gardens, near the park, which sells cut flowers as well as offers tours.

Inside the park, strewn with several sculptures of National Artist Napoleon Abueva, there is a butterfly garden with different butterfly species including the



The exhilarating Sky Swing at the Eden Nature Park and Resort

country's largest, the *Triodes radamanthus* and *Triodes megallanus*. A petting zoo has donkeys, miniature horses, goats, sheep, and other farm animals, while the bird park have lorikeets, peacocks, ostrich, pheasants, kingfishers and wandering whistling ducks. Malagos Garden Resort started in 2005 a successful interactive bird show, one of the several shows and tours the park conducts. It has cottages for stays as well as function rooms for corporate activities and venues for weddings. Malagos Garden



The Philippine eagle named Fighter at the Philippine Eagle Center

Resort has three restaurants – the Koi Restaurant, the Garden Restaurant and the View Deck Café – which serve international and Filipino dishes. Interestingly, we came here for the food one rainy afternoon – artisanal cheeses, chocolates and *bignay* (salamander tree fruit) wine, made by the park's farms.

The platter had several kinds of cheese including mango *chevre* or cheese made from goat's milk with mangoes, Blue Pepato and ricotta made from cow's milk with dried pineapples, some of the 16 cheeses that Malagos manufactures through local cheese-maker, Olive Puentespina, Charito's daughter-in-law.

Olive's idea of making cheese sparked in 2004 when her husband Roberto Puentespina Jr. was taking care of the farm's goats (the farm has about 200 dairy goats and 20 dairy cows) and she was thinking of things to make out of their milk. For several years, she experimented in churning out artisanal and flavored cheeses. Now, her cheeses are being sold under the brand name, Malagos Cheese.

Chocolate making is an earlier venture, now led by Charito's son Rex Puentespina, who heads Malagos

Agri-Ventures Corp., established in 2012. He related that when his parents leased additional tracts of land there were already cacao trees growing on them. Charita rehabilitated the trees, which then bore cacao fruits. She harvested the seeds and made callets, locally called *tablea*, by hand. Malagos started making single-origin cocoa liquor and then chocolate bars and other chocolate products. Malagos Chocolate was launched in June 2013.

The *bignay* wine, on the other hand, is one of the several fruit wines made with fruits harvested from trees growing inside the park.

Malagos Garden Resort also offers tours to the production facilities that make these delights.

Up in the air

A similar mountain retreat and recreation facility is the Eden Nature Park and Resort at the foot of Mount Talomo in Toril. At 2,650 feet above sea level, the theme park is best known for a panoramic view of Davao City and the Davao Gulf.

The property, owned by the Ayala family, is about 80 hectares and half of it developed with attractions and amenities. It was acquired by Jesu Ayala in 1971, a piece of mountain slope depleted by loggers and overgrown with wild grass. The new owners planted it with pine trees, which now thrive in the park.

Eden offers a 45-minute guided tour in a shuttle that brings one to different gardens, adventure trails, tree orchards, playgrounds and vegetable and herb farms. Trekkers are offered a four-kilometer mountain trail through forested areas and creeks.

There are room accommodations as well as facilities for team building and other corporate activities, and venues for wedding pictorials. The fresh produce of the park are used in its Vista Restaurant and Café Vista.

An interesting feature is the Tinubdan, a 5,000 square-meter outdoor museum and cultural park with its different traditional houses of the different indigenous groups in Mindanao. Plots are planted with native herbs used in traditional healing practices. Through statues and murals, the Bagob creation story is told.

For adrenaline junkies, the park's new adventure rides – the Skycycle, bikes on cables; Sky rider, a 200-meter zipline; and the Skyswing, a large swing that takes riders up 95 feet in the air – will engender excitement.

To be continued on June 1



A hibiscus-filled well at a garden at the Eden Nature Park and Resort

P.1

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate change hastens extinction of 'pawikan'

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

CLIMATE change is partly being blamed for the dwindling global population of marine turtles. Conservation experts in the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS) suggest that the problem could be worse.

They said El Niño and beach erosion caused by climate change-triggered effects, such as sea-level rise and storm surges because of the intensifying typhoons, might hasten the extinction of these mysterious creatures of the sea.

The downtrend in the number of nesting marine turtles and eggs in the TIWS has been observed over the past decade by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) working under Pawikan Conservation Program (PCP) on Turtle Islands, Tawi Tawi.

Aggravating rampant illegal wildlife trade that targets *pawikan* and the human habitation of beachfronts are the longer hot season, an effect of El Niño and beach erosion, which destroys marine turtle's nesting grounds.

Experts said it has become extremely hard for these mariners of the sea to dig a pit for their eggs.

One theory is the long dry season, which makes the sand in beaches drier and harder to dig a pit. Another theory is erosion, which causes the sand to shrink, leaving *pawikan*

no choice but to instinctively scale up and move farther away from the ocean where the sand covering the soil is thinner and much harder for the *pawikan* to dig.

Whichever is the case, the country's top biodiversity official said there is a need to validate these theories, particularly at the TIWS, to address the problem.

"We have to validate and know the extent of the effect to beaches caused by El Niño. But what we know is that beach erosion exposes the soil underneath the sand that is harder and more difficult for turtles to dig a pit for their eggs," Theresa Munday Lim, director of DENR-BMB, told the BUSINESSMIRROR in an interview on Wednesday.

'Pawikan' sanctuary

COMPOSED of six islands, Turtle Islands is a municipality in Tawi-Tawi. It was declared as a sanctuary for the endangered *pawikan* by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 171 on August 26, 1999, creating the TIWS under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act.

TIWS covers an area of 138,357 hectares, which constitute of six islands, namely, Boan, Lihiman,

Great Bakkungan, Langaan, Taganak and Baguan. As a wildlife sanctuary, the entire town is basically reserved for the conservation of the endangered *pawikan*, a migratory marine species believed to have existed for millions of years, along with the dinosaurs.

TIWS is part of the bigger Philippine-Sabah Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA), which was forged through a historic bilateral agreement between the Philippines and Malaysia, creating the first and only trans-frontier protected area for marine turtles in the world. TIHPA is one of the biggest *pawikan* sanctuaries in the world.

TIHPA is composed of a total of nine islands for the purpose of conserving *pawikan*, three of which are in nearby Malaysia.

The management of the TIHPA is shared by both countries, making possible the conservation of habitats and sea turtles over a large area independent of their territorial boundaries.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate change hastens extinction of 'pawikan'

Two of the six islands—Buan Island and Great Bakkungan Island—have been stricken out of the list of nesting sites being monitored by the DENR-BMB because of human encroachment of beach fronts causing pawikans to lay their eggs elsewhere.

Not exclusive for 'pawikan'

THE TIWS as a sanctuary, according to the DENR-BMB, is not exclusively for the conservation of *pawikan*. A profile of the TIWS indicates the area is rich in terrestrial and marine flora and fauna.

Turtle Islands supports a diverse population of marine fauna of corals and fishes, as well as two species of endangered marine turtles. TIWS exhibited the highest diversity in terms of marine communities among all Nipas sites in the country.

Two species of endangered marine turtles are found in Turtle Islands. Eighty percent of the country's remaining marine turtle resource is found in the area.

Turtle Islands is regarded as the only major nesting ground, with more than 1,000 nesters of green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) annually in the Asean Region. There are only 10 remaining nesting sites worldwide.

The hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) also occur on the islands, but with a low density in nesting in contrast to the green turtle.

Worldwide, marine turtle population have critically declined, hence, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has declared all species of marine turtles as endangered.

Other wildlife

THE coastline of Baguan Island, according to a biological profile prepared by the DENR-BMB revealed that its coastline is encroached with tropical trees, such as tropical al-

mond and coconut, and many others.

Around 50 seaweeds species were also recorded in the area, which represents 32 percent of the 158 of macrobenthic seaweeds identified from 18 coastal province in the country.

Of the 50 species identified, 23 species are of class of green algae, four species of brown algae and 23 species of red algae.

In terms of diversity, Baguan Island exhibits a significant difference in comparison to the other islands by possessing 47 species of seaweeds compared to Langaan and Taganak with only 25 and 20 species, respectively, according to the DENR-BMB.

The islands composing the TIWS are also inhabited by endangered reptiles, such as the monitor lizard, the natural predator of marine turtle eggs and hatchlings. Baguan Island is known to have more monitor lizards compared to the other islands.

There are two other species of lizard in the TIWS—the gecko and scincid.

Meanwhile, 12 species of birds were identified on Turtle Islands, two of which are endemic to the Turtle Islands, namely the Asian glossy starling and *Treton v. vernans*. In all islands, black rats, and fruit and insect bats were also observed.

Cool chicks, hot dudes

ACCORDING to Lim, scientific studies suggest that a marine turtle's gender is influenced by the temperature of the nest—something *pawikan* conservation experts manning *pawikan* sanctuaries and hatcheries are concerned about with the advent of climate change.

"With warm temperature, it is likely that all eggs will develop into females. This will be a big problem if all hatchlings are all females," Lim said.

Lim, who started her career in the DENR as one of the staff under Task Force Pawikan, which focuses

on the conservation efforts on the Turtle Islands, said marine-turtle eggs are very delicate, too.

While an average of 80 percent of eggs laid actually hatch, very few of *pawikan* hatchlings may actually survive and become sexually mature to lay eggs and repopulate, a process which takes 30 to 40 years.

Causes of death

SCIENTISTS believe that effects of climate change to the population of *pawikan* have varying degrees.

At the TIWS, natural predation and climate-change effects, such as sea-level rise, storm surge and extreme heat adversely affect marine-turtle population.

"Storm surge and sea-level rise cause beach erosion. This means we are losing our nesting grounds for *pawikan* faster," Lim said.

Also she said typhoons that trigger storm surge are known to destroy marine-turtle nests and exposure to saltwater causes plasmolysis, which destroys the

eggs of *pawikan*. Accidents, such as falling with their back on the ground to lay eggs, also causes death because of direct exposure to sunlight. A *pawikan* can die within two hours because of extreme heat.

Another natural phenomenon, called sand switching, is a natural occurrence that shifts sand to other parts of an island or other islands, therefore, diminishing the nesting grounds of *pawikan*.

Too hot, too dry

LATELY, protectors of TIWS, particularly its most-treasured *pawikan*, concluded that the number of nesting at the TIWS continues to decrease because of prolonged dry season, which is causing the sand in beaches to become stiff.

Minda Bairulla, TIWS Protected Areas Superintendent, in an e-mail message, told the BUSINESSMIRROR that from 2011 to 2015, *pawikan* nesting in the TIWS is decreasing.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate change hastens extinction of 'pawikan'

"It has been observed that due to prolonged dry season, marine turtles were unable to nest because the sand is very dry and they find it hard to dig a pit to lay their eggs," she said.

"*Pawikan* lays eggs all throughout the year but the peak are in the months of May, June and July. Around 30 to 50 nesting *pawikan* are observed to lay their eggs every night on the Turtle Islands," she said.

In 2015 a total of 12,577 nesters were counted on the islands of Baguan, Langaan and Taganak.

From January to April this year, a total of 1,982 nesters were counted on Baguan and Langaan.

Beaches becoming dry and hard owing to El Niño is also occurring in other *pawikan* nesting grounds, which calls for the establishment of more marine turtle hatcheries.

With a *pawikan* nursery in place, the eggs are protected and released back to their natural habitat upon hatching.

Several hatcheries were created in select areas where many *pawikan* have been spotted to lay eggs.

Under normal circumstances, *pawikan* hatch from eggs on shore. Hatchlings struggle from their nesting ground to the beach. It takes at least a decade for marine turtles to become sexually mature. Very little is known of how these hatchlings live in their natural habitat until they return decades later for their turn to lay eggs.

Using their fins, female marine turtles dig at least a foot deep to lay their eggs and cover them back with sand.

The incubation period range from 45 to 60 days, according to the DENR-BMB working under the *Pawikan* Conservation Program (PCP), which expanded the coverage of the Task Force *Pawikan*, from the Turtle Islands to the entire archipelago.

The effects of climate change due to longer dry season and hotter

temperature increases the mortality of hatchlings during the incubation period, said Elsie Milana, a *pawikan* conservation expert who has a long experience in monitoring the behavior of the marine turtles during nesting at the TIWS.

She repeated earlier statements that the hot weather hardens the sand giving the *pawikan* difficulty to make their nest. Milana said as part of the conservation effort in the TIWS, after the *pawikan* succeeded in digging a pit and laying their eggs, the eggs are carefully transferred to *pawikan* hatcheries where they will be protected against natural predators, including people living in the islands who get the eggs for food.

Beach rehabilitation

ACCORDING to Bairulla, the DENR office in Zamboanga Peninsula, which has jurisdiction over protected areas in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, is eyeing to rehabilitate the eroded beaches.

It is also coordinating with law enforcement agencies to conduct monitoring and patrolling on the islands, which is reportedly being frequented by foreign fishing vessels targeting *pawikan*.

According to Lim, the DENR-BMB will compare old and new aerial photos of the islands within the TIWS to see if the beaches have really changed over the past years, and assess the extent of the potential damage caused by beach erosion.

She said the same investigation may be conducted in other areas that are known to host *pawikan*-nesting areas.

Meanwhile, Lim, cautioned against beach rehabilitation by resort developers to improve beaches using heavy equipment. The process involves hauling sands back to beaches, which may damage existing nests.

She also warned against building walls in beachfronts by some resort owners to prevent erosion,

saying the process also prevents nesting *pawikan* from going to beaches to nest and lay their eggs.

"Beaches have natural defense against erosion, which happens because of extensive damage to coral reefs. What we need to do is look into the condition of the corals and rehabilitate these areas where the damage has been extensive. That way, we will have a natural defense against beach erosion," she said.

She said during her last visit at TIWS early this month, she received reports of the extensive damage to corals caused by dynamite fishing and other destructive fishing methods. This alone, she said, should be addressed with the help of local government units.

Lim is planning to revive the plan to promote Turtle Islands for ecotourism, which will involve the help and support of concerned local government officials.

Tourism, she said, will boost conservation efforts on Turtle Islands as the people become involved and gainfully employed in ecotourism activities instead of illegal wildlife trade.

P. 4

BusinessMirror

DATE

A12

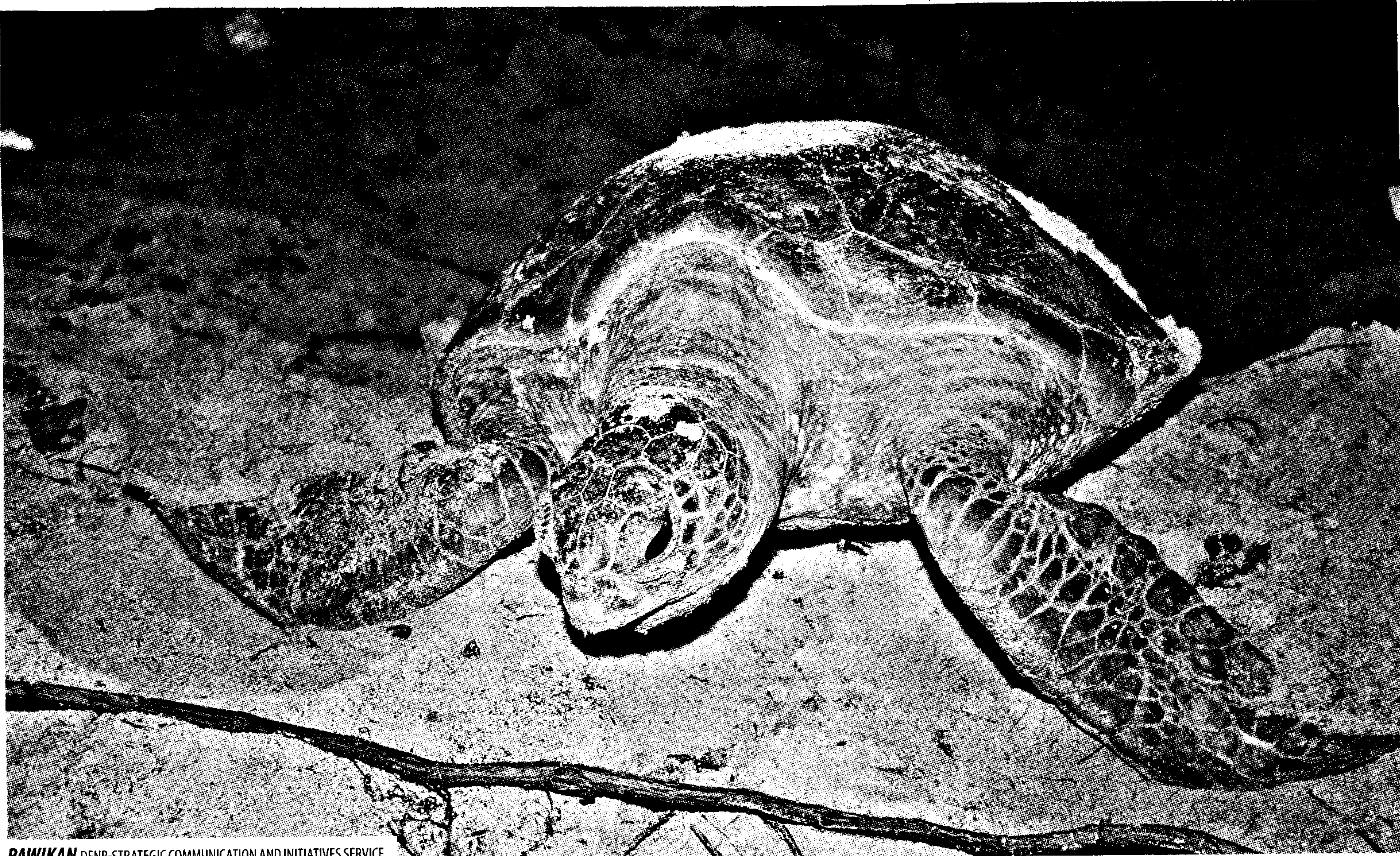
PAGE

UPPER HALF

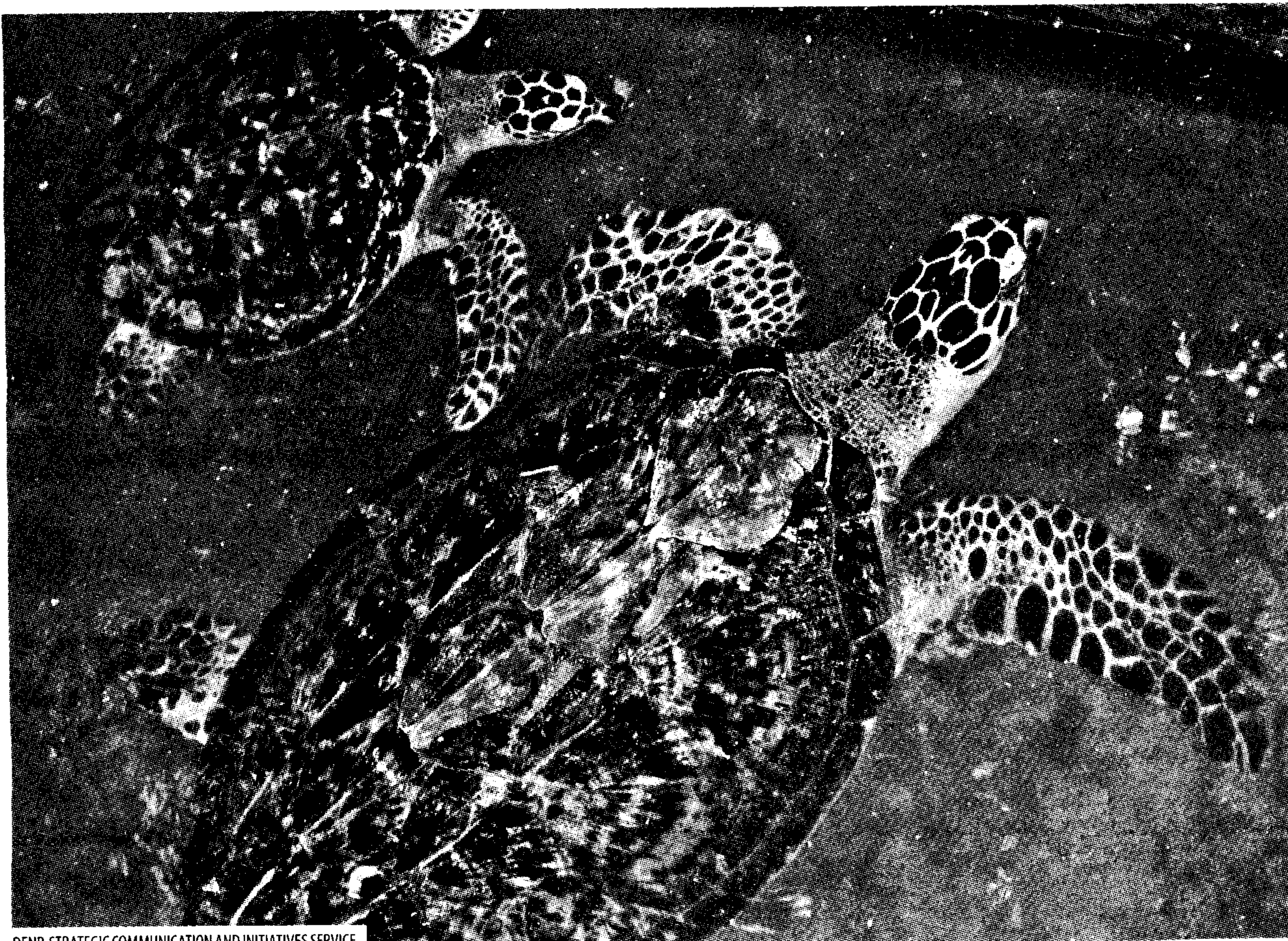
LOWER HALF

climate change hastens extinction of 'pawikan'

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PAWIKAN DENR-STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR-STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

30 MAY 2016

DATE

13

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate change threatens rice terraces in Cordilleras

By Cristina Lee-Pisco

THE Rice Terraces in the Cordillera Administrative Region are among the 31 natural and cultural World Heritage sites in 29 countries across the world that are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, a new report released by the United Nations said.

This prompted the UN to urge governments to reduce carbon emissions to protect the world's most treasured cultural and natural resources.

Increasing temperatures, melting glaciers, rising seas, intensifying weather events, worsening droughts and longer wildfire seasons at iconic tourism sites such as Venice, Stonehenge and the Galapagos Islands were among the impacts of climate change documented, the World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate report said.

The report also covers other World Heritage sites such as South Africa's Cape Floral Kingdom, the port city of Cartagena, Colombia; and Shiretoko National Park in Japan.

"World governments, the private sector and tourists all need to coordinate their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and to protect the world's most-treasured cultural and natural resources from the impact of tourism activities," said Elisa Tonda, head of the UN Environment Program's (UNEP) Responsible Industry and Value Chains Unit.

"Policies to decouple tourism from natural resource impacts, carbon emissions and environmental harm will engage a responsible private sector and promote change in tourists' behavior to realize the sectors' potential in



some of the world's most visited places," she added.

The UNEP, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) prepared the report.

Because World Heritage Sites must have "Outstanding Universal Value," the report recommended that the World Heritage Committee considers the risk of prospective sites becoming degraded by climate change before they add them to the list.

The report highlights the urgent need to identify the World Heritage sites that are most vulnerable to climate change and to implement policies and provide resources to increase resilience at those sites.

The report urged increased global efforts to meet the Paris Agreement climate change pledges in order to preserve World Heritage sites for future generations.

"Globally, we need to better understand, monitor and address climate change threats to World Heritage sites," said Mechthild Rössler, director of UNESCO's World Heritage Center.

"As the report's find-

ings underscore achieving the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to a level well below 2 degrees Celsius is vitally important to protecting our World Heritage for current and future generations," Rössler said.

The report also recommended engaging the tourism sector in efforts to manage and protect vulnerable sites in the face of climate change and to educate visitors about climate threats.

"Climate change is affecting World Heritage sites across the globe," said Adam Markham, lead author of the report and Deputy Director of the Climate and Energy Program at UCS.

"Some Easter Island statues are at risk of being lost to the sea because of coastal erosion. Many of the world's most important coral reefs, including in the islands of New Caledonia in the western Pacific, have suffered unprecedented coral bleaching linked to climate change this year. Climate change could eventually even cause some World Heritage sites to lose their status," he added.

The report includes a complete list of World Heritage sites that are at risk.

The Manila Times

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 MAY 2016

DATE

B 2

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

'Green jobs' law to boost PH climate compliance

BY JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ REPORTER

THE enactment of the Philippine Green Jobs Law would significantly help the country meet its commitment under the Paris climate accord and contribute to the worldwide effort to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

CCC Vice Chairperson Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said the new law aids the country in achieving the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

De Guzman said the green jobs law will hasten the implementation of the government's overall commitment to bring down its GHG emissions by 70 percent by 2030, subject to funding to be provided by developing countries.

"We are optimistic about this new

law. It could be an important tool to achieve the country's contribution to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which strives for a global temperature limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius," he added.

Republic Act 10771, which was recently signed into law by President Benigno Aquino 3rd, promotes the creation of "green jobs" by granting special tax deductions and duty-free importation of capital equipment for businesses that will help create a "green economy" for the country.

Green jobs refer to employment that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of environment, be it in the agriculture, industry or services sector.

These include jobs that "help protect ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce energy, materials and water consumption through high efficiency strategies, decarbonize the economy, and minimize or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution."

De Guzman said RA 10771 is consistent with the government's objective to shift to green economy that is resilient to climate change.

The law defines green economy as "one which is low-carbon and resource-efficient and results in the generation of green jobs and in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities."

Under the law, the CCC is tasked to develop and administer appropriate standards for the assessment and certification of green goods and services, as well as green technologies and practices.

In December last year, over 190 countries, including the Philippines, adopted the Paris deal, a global response to combat climate change and put in place actions and investments toward a low-carbon, resilient and sustainable future.

The agreement's main goal is to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees and to spur efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

The United Nations and scientists agree that the 1.5 degree limit is a significantly safer defense line against the worst impacts of a changing climate, which vulnerable countries like the Philippines have started to experience.

30 MAY 2016

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

DATE

A6
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate petition pushes for CHR action

PETITIONERS in the landmark human rights complaint on climate change are pressing for the Commission on Human Rights to summon the 47 oil companies for allegedly endangering the people's lives and livelihoods and the future generations.

Anna Abad, Climate Justice Campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said the petition against the fossil fuel companies worldwide, seeks investigation into, and accountability of, these companies for climate impacts.

The complaint is the first of its kind in the world and is being brought forward by typhoon survivors, advocates and non-governmental organizations, including Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

The petitioners are supported by more than 31,800 Filipinos out of the more than 128,000 global online supporters.

Abad described the petition as a big, bold step for the Philippines as it is at the forefront of campaigns on climate impacts.

"But this courageous undertaking can only succeed with the unifying support of government agencies, communities, civil society organizations and other human rights institutions from all over the globe," she said.

The petitioners submitted to the CHR copies of their petition in compliance with CHR's May 10, 2016 Order, which also enjoins the respondents to answer within 45 days upon receiving their copies.

"We demand justice. These big oil companies should acknowledge their accountability for the impacts of their irresponsible business activities on the lost homes, lives and livelihood of those that are at the mercy of climate change," said

Abad.

"Filipinos are among the most vulnerable and we hope that the investigation of the CHR will finally be able to right some wrongs," Abad said.

Last May 10, the CHR directed the petitioners to reproduce and submit copies of the petition, including supporting exhibits and annexes, for sending out to the 47 companies. These companies were accused of being part of the 90 legal entities that have contributed the lion's share of cumulative global CO2 and methane emissions to the earth's atmosphere, as identified by peer-reviewed scientific research.

The petition covering climate change and human rights was brought to the CHR initially in September 2015. By December, the CHR announced that it will open an investigation in 2016 using a National Inquiry approach. **Macon Araneta**

30 MAY 2016

DATE

A5

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

BusinessMirror

P.1

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Vietnam PM calls for G-7 climate aid

ISE-SHIMA—Vietnam is hoping Group-of-Seven (G-7) countries and multilateral organizations will continue to assist the country and other Mekong nations in managing and protecting water resources, and improving their capacity to adapt to climate change, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuân Phúc said.

The Vietnamese leader made the call while addressing the first working session of the expanded G-7 Summit in Ise-Shima, in Japan's Mie prefecture, on Friday.

He reiterated Vietnam's commitment to realizing the Paris Agreement, which was reached at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"Vietnam appreciates the 'Partnership for Quality Infrastructure in Asia' and the 'Japan-Mekong Connectivity' initiatives launched by Japan, and welcomes the support provided by other G-7 member-countries, including the US and the Friends of the Lower Mekong, for sustainable development in the Mekong River basin through a new initiative on the Sustainable Infrastructure Programme," he said.

Welcoming issues raised at the summit's agenda, the prime minister said the matters were crucial and urgent to peace, stability and sustainable development in Asia Pacific and the world at large.

"We are well aware that peace and development in Vietnam is closely linked

with peace and prosperity in the world. Contributing to handling regional and global challenges is the responsibility and in the interest of each country, regardless of its development status," he said.

Phúc also applauded Japan's efforts in ensuring peace, stability and development in the Middle East, health care and gender equality, along with the country's efforts in assisting Africa.

He said prosperity and sustainable development in Vietnam, Asia and the world may be ensured only in a peaceful and stable environment.

The leader highlighted increasingly complex challenges to regional peace, including maritime and aviation security, safety and freedom in the East Sea.

Unilateral activities that go against international law and regional agreements, such as the large-scale reclamation of man-made islands and militarization, seriously threatened regional peace and stability, he said.

The situation requires concerned parties to show restraint and address

P.2

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Vietnam PM calls for G-7 climate aid

disputes by peaceful measures in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea, enhance trust-building measures and preventive diplomacy and work toward a Code of Conduct in the East Sea, according to the Vietnamese leader.

Together with Asean, Vietnam welcomes G-7 nations to raise their voices in support of maritime and overflight security and freedom, as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes on the basis of international law.

The expanded G-7 summit saw the participation of leaders from G-7 members—Japan, the US, the UK, France, Germany, Canada and Italy—along with representatives from the EU, and invited guests, including leaders from Vietnam, Indonesia, Laos, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Papua and New Guinea, and international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank.

The expanded G-7 event includes two sessions focusing on high-quality infrastructure, regional security, women's rights, health care, the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals, and cooperation with Africa.

In Tokyo Prime Minister Nguyen Xuân Phúc met on Friday several foreign leaders on the sidelines of the expanded G-7 summit in Japan's Mie Prefecture, affirming that the Vietnamese government is determined to deepen economic ties with partners.

Prime Minister Phúc met French President François Hollande on the

same day on the sidelines of the expanded G-7 summit.

The prime minister expressed delight at the president's upcoming visit to Vietnam, which he said would help create new momentum for the strategic partnership between Vietnam and France.

He thanked France for its effective assistance in development cooperation with Vietnam and wished that both countries would improve their mechanisms for exchanging and coordinating economic and national defense-security efforts. He also urged more investment across the sectors of infrastructure, transport, energy, aerospace aviation, agriculture, food processing, pharmaceuticals and green industries.

Phúc said he hoped that France would support Vietnam to gain access to the World Bank's International Development Assistance beyond 2017.

Hollande praised contributions made by the Vietnamese community in France to the nation's development, in particular, and to relations between the two countries, in general.

The two leaders agreed to enact measures to double two-way trade turnover between Vietnam and France and increase cooperation to effectively implement the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Meeting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister Phúc urged Canada to offer technical assistance to Vietnam to improve its enforcement of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and encourage Canadian firms to invest in Vietnam. *PNA/VNS*