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Rappler

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By: Rappler

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United Nations

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By: Felipe de Carvalho

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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The conference comes on the heels of a “sweeping” International Court of Justice advisory opinion on climate change. This is also the year that parties to the Paris Agreement, including the Philippines, are expected to update their Nationally Determined Contributions. The Philippines, the host of the Loss and Damage Fund Board, has yet to update its NDCs.

According to COP30 host Brazil, the main challenges of this year’s summit include “aligning the commitments of developed and developing countries in relation to climate finance, ensuring that emission reduction targets are compatible with climate science, and dealing with the socio-economic impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations.”

Bookmark and refresh this page for real-time news, photos, videos, and context and analyses on COP30.

United Nations

New Brazil-led fund aims to put forest protection at the heart of climate action
By: Felipe de Carvalho

Tropical forests, vital allies in the fight against climate breakdown, are vanishing at an alarming rate. On Thursday, in a bid to help reverse this trend, Brazil launched a new initiative at a summit of world leaders in Belém, the gateway to the Amazon.

The move comes ahead of COP30, the UN climate talks where countries will present updated plans to cut planet-warming emissions, alongside measures to protect forests and boost funding for renewable energy.

Known as the Tropical Forests Forever Facility, the fund will reward countries that succeed in halting deforestation. Aiming to make forests worth more standing than cleared, it could channel up to $4 billion a year to as many as 74 nations.

Tropical forests vital to climate stability

“Tropical forests breathe life into our planet. Yet they remain under relentless assault – treated as short-term profit, not long-term value,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres, underscoring the urgency of the launch, which he saw as “a statement of solidarity and hope.”

Under the fund, countries conserving their forests will receive $4 per hectare per year, adjusted according to verified performance using satellite monitoring.

A total of 74 countries are eligible, collectively hosting over one billion hectares of tropical and subtropical forests. Priority areas include the Amazon, the Atlantic Forest, the Congo Basin, the Mekong region, and the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia.

“The Tropical Forest Forever Facility is a bold mechanism to make standing forests more valuable than cleared land – aligning conservation with opportunity, and solidarity with shared prosperity,” said Mr. Guterres, adding that “tropical forests are vital to climate stability.”

“Together, we can ensure tropical forests stand forever – as living pillars of climate stability, biodiversity, resilience, and peace,” he underlined.

Supporting local communities

During the UN General Assembly’s high-level week this past September, Brazil’s President Lula da Silva announced the inaugural investment in the fund – $1 billion.

Speaking to UN News then, COP30 Executive Director Ana Toni confirmed that 20 per cent of each country's payments would go directly to local communities, reinforcing the focus on Indigenous Peoples and others protecting forests in their communities and beyond.

"This demonstrates the Brazilian Government's determination not only to keep forests standing but also to reward those who are protecting them, with special attention to Indigenous Peoples."

Building an international coalition

The fund's creation began at COP28 in Dubai in 2023 and culminated in its official launch at COP30.

So far, five tropical forest nations have joined: Colombia, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Potential investor countries include Germany, the United Arab Emirates, France, Norway, and the United Kingdom, contributing to a blended investment mechanism where dividends are shared between investors and forest nations.

Mobilising billions for forests
Investor governments are expected to contribute $25 billion over the coming years, leveraging more than $100 billion from private sources. Brazil estimates the fund could generate around $4 billion annually, nearly triple the current concessional financing available for forest protection.

Yet global forest finance remains insufficient.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), annual investment must rise from $84 billion in 2023 to $300 billion by 2030 and $498 billion by 2050, leaving a yearly shortfall of $216 billion.

Why it matters
By linking financial rewards to forest conservation, the Tropical Forests Forever Facility aims to transform global efforts to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.

The initiative also signals a shift towards fair, inclusive, and predictable finance, ensuring that support reaches those protecting forests with their hands, hearts, and heritage.

COP30 will run until 21 November. The conference brings together world leaders, negotiators, and stakeholders to accelerate action on climate change, with a focus this year on tropical forests, finance, and nature-based solutions.

Daily Tribune

Climate change question wins crown for Czech Republic's Natalie Puskinova
By: Jefferson Fernando

Under the shimmering lights of The Cove at Okada Manila, Natalie Puskinova of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss Earth 2025, leading a powerful celebration of environmental advocacy, cultural unity and the 25th anniversary of the world's premier eco-pageant.

Under the shimmering lights of The Cove at Okada Manila, Natalie Puskinova of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss Earth 2025, leading a powerful celebration of environmental advocacy, cultural unity and the 25th anniversary of the world's premier eco-pageant.

Nearly 80 delegates from around the globe competed in this historic silver-jubilee edition of Miss Earth, themed "The Silver Lining." The show, streamed live on Facebook and YouTube, brought together viewers from every continent, honoring a quarter century of beauty with purpose — the kind that plants hope as much as it inspires change.

Natalie Puskinova's journey to the crown was marked by intelligence, empathy and authenticity. In the final question round, the four remaining delegates were asked about Bill Gates' controversial proposal to divert climate-change resources toward combating hunger and disease.

Natalie's eloquent answer — ending in Filipino — instantly won over the crowd:

"I will not choose which problem deserves more. We are one humanity facing the same challenges, and the only way to move forward is through unity. If we work together, we can fight hunger, heal disease, and protect the planet. Protektahan natin ang kalikasan (Let us protect our environment)."

Her ability to connect with both the judges and the Filipino audience sealed her victory, earning her thunderous applause and admiration from fans worldwide.

Courage born from loss

Earlier in the competition, during the Top 8 round, Natalie reflected on the word "parenthood," revealing how the death of her father at 16 shaped her worldview.

"Losing my father changed everything. But it also taught me strength — to fight for my dreams, for what is right, and for our future. I stand here for every child who learned courage through loss, and for every person who believes that our world can still heal."

That vulnerability and conviction showcased the depth of a woman ready to embody Miss Earth's mission — protecting nature while embracing humanity.

Elemental Court

Completing this year's circle of elemental queens are:

Miss Earth Air 2025 – Sóldís Ívarsdóttir (Iceland)

Miss Earth Water 2025 – Mu Anh Trinh (Vietnam)

Miss Earth Fire 2025 – Waree Ngamkham (Thailand)

Each of them stood out for their clarity of thought, environmental leadership and their passionate commitment to sustainability and social impact.

Philippines' Joy Barcoma captures hearts

Representing the host country, Joy Barcoma earned a spot among the competition's top finalists — continuing the Philippines' remarkable Miss Earth legacy. The 26-year-old environmental advocate and television host from Bacoor, Cavite, was lauded for her authenticity and activism.

In the question segment, she spoke powerfully about governance and justice:

"No one is above the law. The policies our leaders pass shape the lives of all people. Environmental justice is human justice — every decision must uphold equality and dignity for everyone on Earth."

Before stepping onto the stage, she paused to offer prayers for victims of the Cebu typhoon — a deeply human gesture that reminded audiences that empathy and leadership often bloom together.

A silver year for a greener future

As fireworks illuminated the Manila skyline, the 25th Miss Earth pageant closed with a powerful message — that the beauty of the Earth lies in its people's courage to protect it.

Natalie Puskinova now carries the torch of "The Silver Lining," symbolizing hope, resilience and renewal — a reminder that even in a changing world, there will always be women who rise for the planet, for peace and for a greener tomorrow.

BBC

COP30: World leaders take aim at Trump for climate inaction

By: Esme Stallard,Climate and science reporter, BBC News and Matt McGrath,Environment correspondent, BBC News

US President Donald Trump has been criticised by world leaders for his stance on climate change, ahead of the global COP30 summit.

President Trump, who is not attending the meeting in the Amazonian city of Belém, was called a liar by the leaders of Colombia and Chile for his rejection of climate science.

UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer acknowledged the waning political support on climate change. He said it had been a unity issue internationally and in the UK but "today sadly that consensus is gone".

Over the next two weeks countries will try to negotiate a new deal on climate change, with a particular focus on channeling more money to forest protection.

Many leaders from the world's largest nations – India, Russia, US and China - are notably absent from this year's summit.

And while Trump isn't attending this meeting in Belém, his views on climate change are certainly on the minds of many of the other leaders present.

Speaking at the UN in September, the US president said that climate change was "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world".

He said: "The entire globalist concept, asking successful industrialised nations to inflict pain on themselves and radically disrupt their entire societies, must be rejected completely and totally."

Without naming the US leader, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil warned on Thursday of "extremist forces that fabricate fake news and are condemning future generations to life on a planet altered forever by global warming".

The leaders of Chile and Colombia went further, calling the US president a liar, and asking other countries to ignore US efforts to move away from climate action.

Maisa Rojas, Chile's environment minister, told the BBC: "The science is very clear. It is very important not to falsify the truth."

But while Trump-bashing went down well with the audience, getting agreement on new steps to tackle warming is proving much harder.

Only a few dozen leaders have turned up here in Belém, and a majority of countries have failed to submit new plans to cut carbon emissions, the root cause of rising temperatures.

Despite Starmer acknowledging that global political support for the climate movement is waning, he told the gathering of those that were present: "My message is that the UK is all-in."

However, on Wednesday night, in a blow to the Brazilian hosts, the UK chose to opt out of its flagship $125bn (£95bn) fund to support the world's rainforests.

President Lula hoped that $25bn could be raised for the Tropical Forests Forever Facility from public sources – mainly from developed countries like the UK – to support governments and communities protecting the world's rainforests like the Amazon and the Congo Basin.

The protection of these ecosystems is crucial for tackling climate change - they cover just 6% of the world's land, yet store billions of tonnes of planet-warming gases and host half of the planet's species.

The move by the UK has come as a surprise as it had been heavily involved in the fund's design, and launched a global commitment for countries to halt deforestation by 2030 when it hosted the COP summit in Glasgow in 2021.

Lord Zach Goldsmith, who worked on the issue when he was former environment minister, told the BBC's PM programme: "The assumption was that the UK would be a leading participant and at the last minute the UK has walked away. It has caused real frustration to put it mildly here in Brazil... the Brazilian government behind the scenes is furious."

The decision also seems at odds with the stance of the Prince of Wales. Also addressing leaders on Thursday he declared the fund "a visionary step toward valuing nature's role in climate stability" and shortlisted it for his £1m Earthshot Prize.

Prince William tried to encourage leaders to overcome their differences and move forward with action.

"I have long believed in the power of urgent optimism: the conviction that, even in the face of daunting challenges, we have the ingenuity and determination to make a difference, and to do so now," he said.

And he urged them to take action for the sake of their children and grandchildren.

"Let us rise to this moment with the clarity that history demands of us. Let us be the generation that turned the tide - not for applause, but for the quiet gratitude of those yet to be born," he said.

From Monday, countries will spend two weeks negotiating further action on climate change - with crucial questions on how to raise finance previously pledged for those already affected by the worst impacts of climate change.

The last few weeks have seen devastating extreme weather globally.

Hurricane Melissa, which hit the Caribbean last week, is one of the strongest the island nations have ever experienced - resulting in the deaths of more than 75 people.

Recent analysis from Imperial College has suggested that climate change increased the extreme rainfall associated with the Category 5 hurricane by 16%.

ABS CBN

Potential super typhoon may make landfall at or near peak intensity – PAGASA
By: Ariel Rojas

MANILA — The weather disturbance being monitored outside the Philippine area of responsibility could hit land at or near its peak intensity as a super typhoon on Monday, November 10, PAGASA said.

The potential super typhoon could make landfall over Central or Northern Luzon, the state weather bureau said.

At 10 a.m. Wednesday, the tropical depression was located 1,835 km east of northeastern Mindanao.

It was packing winds of 55 kph with up to 70 kph gusts. It was moving eastward at 10 kph.

it will pick up strength and speed while moving northwestward from Thursday.

The disturbance may enter the Philippine area of responsibility late Friday, November 7 or early Saturday, November 8 as a strong typhoon.

It will be assigned the local name Uwan – the second storm in the country this November and the 21st overall this year.

Uwan will intensify further up to super typhoon strength while over the Philippine Sea.

PAGASA said weather conditions in northern Luzon could begin to deteriorate from Sunday, November 9.

However, ahead of the storm's approach, wind signals will be hoisted over the eastern parts of Luzon and Visayas as early as Friday evening. Signal no. 5 will be the highest wind warning that may be raised.

Potentially life-threatening conditions due to the super typhoon's violent winds, torrential rains, and high storm surge may be experienced in Northern Luzon and parts of Central Luzon on Monday and Tuesday.

The weather bureau advised the public to continuously monitor the disturbance as the uncertainty in the track and intensity forecast remained high.

The country is still reeling from the devastation of typhoon Tino, which made eight landfalls while crossing the central Philippines on Tuesday and early Wednesday.
At least 66 were reported dead, with Cebu province bearing the brunt of the storm's havoc.
Wind signals remained hoisted in parts of Mimaropa as Tino continued to move away from land.

It may exit the Philippine area of responsibility late Wednesday or early Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police said it was preparing for the potential super typhoon.

"Ang koordinasyon ng PNP sa Office of Civil Defense ay sinabi na 'yung data na immediately after nitong Tino ay huwag pong pagsisihan sa paghahanda. Halimbawa, hindi sila binaha ngayon bagyong Tino, huwag daw itong mga basehan para sa darating na bagyo. Mayroon po tayong tatlong araw para maghanda," PNP spokesperson BGen. Randulf Tuaño said.

"We will try again to improve 'ang ating mga preparation with this upcoming na mas malaki pa na bagyo based on the PAGASA issued weather bulletin. Hopefully, makahanda tayo ng higit pa nang sa ganun ma-prevent ang further damages and casualties," he added.

As of Wednesday, a total of 9,745 police officers and over 300 mobile units have been deployed for evacuation, rescue operations, and humanitarian assistance in areas affected by Tino.

Rappler

Tropical depression outside PAR intensifies into Tropical Storm Fung-wong
By: Acor Arceo

Tropical Storm Fung-wong is 1,715 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao as of 4 am on Thursday, November 6, still outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

Manila, Philippines – The tropical depression outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) strengthened into a tropical storm at 2 am on Thursday, November 6, and was given the international name Fung-wong.

Fung-wong, which means “phoenix,” is a name contributed by Hong Kong.

The tropical storm was last spotted 1,715 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao as of 4 am on Thursday, moving northwest at 20 kilometers per hour (km/h).

It now has maximum sustained winds of 65 km/h from the previous 55 km/h, while its gustiness is now up to 80 km/h from 70 km/h.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) expects Fung-wong to rapidly intensify into a severe tropical storm within 24 hours; a typhoon on Friday, November 7; and a super typhoon on Saturday, November 8.

It is expected to enter PAR as a typhoon late Friday evening or early Saturday morning, and would be given the local name Uwan.

PAGASA maintained that while there is still high uncertainty in the forecast, there appears to be “an increasing chance of landfall” in Northern Luzon or Central Luzon on Monday, November 10.

The weather bureau may raise tropical cyclone wind signals in the eastern part of Luzon and portions of Samar Island as early as Friday evening or Saturday morning to give these areas time to prepare for fierce winds.

If the future Uwan becomes a super typhoon, Signal No. 5 would be the highest possible wind signal.

PAGASA warned the public that weather conditions may start to deteriorate on Sunday, November 9. By Monday and Tuesday, November 11, “potentially life-threatening stormy conditions may occur over Northern Luzon and portions of Central Luzon,” added the weather bureau.

PAGASA may also release storm surge warnings as early as Saturday, with a high coastal flooding risk seen in Northern Luzon and the eastern coast of Central Luzon.

For the country’s seaboards, moderate to rough conditions could begin in the northern and eastern seaboards of Luzon and the eastern seaboards of the Visayas and Mindanao on Friday or Saturday. The western and southern seaboards of Luzon may also have moderate to rough seas by mid-Saturday or on Sunday.

From Sunday onwards, sea conditions will already be hazardous for all vessels in most of Luzon and the eastern seaboard of the Visayas, with waves reaching very rough, high, very high, or “phenomenal” levels.

PAGASA advised the public to keep monitoring updates on the incoming tropical cyclone, especially since forecasts can still change.

CCC IN THE NEWS

Manila Bulletin

Philippine youth, government, UNICEF push 12-point climate action ahead of COP30
By Merlina Hernando-Malipot

Filipino youth unveiled a 12-point climate action agenda to the Philippine government ahead of COP30, with strong support from UNICEF and national agencies for youth-led efforts promoting inclusive and resilient climate policies.

Ahead of the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Brazil, Filipino youth have stepped forward with a bold call for climate action, presenting a 12-point National Youth Statement to redefine resilience amid the worsening climate crisis.

In a statement issued on Thursday, November 6, UNICEF said the recommendations — reflecting the voices of 38.5 million children nationwide — urge the government to implement inclusive, accountable, and transformative climate policies.

The National Youth Statement was presented following a series of regional Local Conferences for Youth (LCOY), organized by the Positive Youth Development Network in partnership with UNICEF Philippines, the National Youth Commission (NYC), and youth-led networks under the Kabataang Resilient Network.

Government agencies, including the Climate Change Commission, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Education (DepEd), and the Council for the Welfare of Children, have committed to bringing the youth's recommendations to the COP30 negotiations.

Key youth recommendations for climate action.

The highlights of the 12-point agenda include localizing climate adaptation plans at national and local levels; institutionalizing youth representation in disaster risk reduction and climate councils; ensuring protection for youth environmental defenders; advancing climate-resilient schools and inclusive curricula; promoting transparent climate finance accessible to grassroots and youth-led initiatives; and declaring a National Climate Emergency while strengthening sustainable food and water systems.

The youth emphasized that resilience must go beyond survival, insisting that policies prioritize equity, justice, and inclusive decision-making.

“We refuse to accept a future defined by mere survival, where our classrooms become evacuation centers and our communities endure repeated losses,” the statement reads. “Resilience must drive system transformation, protect communities, and safeguard our collective future.”

NYC Chairperson Jeff Ortega lauded the youth’s efforts and encouraged them to explore innovative solutions to climate challenges.

“Don’t be satisfied with being described as resilient. In the first place, hindi naman dapat tayo nagsa-suffer (we shouldn’t be suffering in the first place),” Ortega said, underscoring the government’s commitment to meaningful youth participation in climate and disaster governance.
UNICEF Philippines also praised young climate advocates for actively co-creating solutions in their communities — from hazard mapping to building early warning systems and educating peers.

“Young people in the Philippines are proving that resilience is not quiet — it is bold, loud, and brave,” said Brooke Yamakoshi, UNICEF Philippines Climate, Environment, and Resilience Chief.

LCOY Philippines, part of the global YOUNGO youth climate movement under the UNFCCC, provides a platform for Filipino youth to influence climate policy, share innovative solutions, and prepare for the Global Conference of Youth (GCOY) leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference.

UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child, particularly the most disadvantaged, ensuring they survive, thrive, and fulfill their potential.

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