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By: Raphael Bosano

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By: Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel

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MANILA BULLETIN

VP Duterte: Climate change is 'personal,' urges preparedness
By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

Vice President Sara Duterte has called for stronger national and local action on climate resilience, saying the Philippines continues to suffer the harshest consequences of global warming despite contributing the least to global emissions.

RAPPLER

Philippines falls behind in new climate policy, mitigation rankings
By: Iya Gozum

The Philippines slipped in the rankings of a recent assessment gauging countries' efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions but still remains among the top 20.

THE MANILA TIMES

Climate resilience seen reshaping Asia-Pacific agriculture
By: Ludwig Federigan

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

NEWS5

Marcos renews climate action pledge after typhoons' onslaught
By: Mary Dei Torres

President Bongbong Marcos on Wednesday reaffirmed his vow to address the impacts of climate change, as experts raised concerns that powerful typhoons such as Tino and Uwan are becoming more frequent due to global warming.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PBBM calls for stronger national action on climate resilience

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has reaffirmed his administration's strong commitment to climate action.

ABS CBN

'Choice matters': VP Sara tells Filipinos, LGUs to act vs climate change
By: Harlene Delgado

Vice President Sara Duterte is pushing for greater collective planning and action in developing communities against the adverse effects of climate change.

This, as she noted that the Philippines contributes “minimally to global emissions yet bears a disproportionate burden from climate impacts”.

“As we observe Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Month, let us recognize that climate change is personal—it affects the land we farm, the waters we fish, the homes we build, and the future we leave our children,” she said in a video message Wednesday, November 19.

Duterte noted that this year, fifteen typhoons ravaged shores, displaced thousands of people and “left communities in poverty and incredible state of destruction.”

“Climate change-related calamities test our resilience and readiness as families, as communities, and as a nation,” the vice president stated.

“Let us remind ourselves that our choice matters—how we consume, what we waste, how we build. Each decision either deepens the challenge or helps us adapt, reduce, or prepare for the more adverse effects of the climate crisis,” she added.

Duterte said that the Office of the Vice President has planted 1 million trees all across the country in just 3 years, saying this was their “commitment in the advocacy to strengthen our defenses against the impact of climate change”.

“I urge local governments to prioritize climate preparation and adaptation in development planning. This should include the preservation and rehabilitation of remaining forests, mangroves, rivers, and seas,” she further noted.

The second in command also said that investment in “early warning systems is necessary as part of the vision to develop resilient communities”.

“I encourage Filipino families to teach our children that caring for nature means caring for each other—reduce waste, avoid single-use plastics, and embrace sustainable practices,” Duterte said.

“Let this month ignite a lasting commitment to a livable future, preserved and passed on for generations to come,” she further stated.

Philippines slips in global climate performance ranking
By: Raphael Bosano

The Philippines is considered a medium-performing country in so far as climate mitigation performance is concerned as it drops 12 rungs in ratings of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).

Sixty three countries, which comprise 90 percent of all global emissions, were assessed in four categories; Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use, and Climate Policy. Emissions formed 40% of the overall ranking while the other three, 20% each.

The Philippines fared rather well in emissions with a high rating and ranking of 12th.

But for for Jameela Joy Reyes, Technical Adviser of the Manila Observatory's Kilma Center, it doesn't come as a surprise as the country's emissions is less than one percent. Similarly, its ranking for energy use per person is high with rating of 15.82.

However, the country was assessed as a low performer when it comes to renewable energy (6.41) and climate policy (10.58).

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?
"Bumaba tayo pero I guess may ibang countries which have been performing even worse maybe with regard to their historical emissions. So, based of off a more holistic look. We're bad in climate policy work, we're bad but in terms of GHG emissions, energy use we're still ok naman," she said.

(We ranked lower but I guess there are countries which have been performing even worse with regard to their historical emissions.)

Reyes adds that while the country's energy use rating is high, but comparing it to renewable energy and its broader impacts it cannot be said that it's fully reflected.

For climate advocate JL Algo, assessment on the Philippines' performance in climate mitigation point to one thing — the efforts to update climate policies, which has never been more relevant that it is today, are not enough.

"We have very ambitious plans this year in terms of developing new climate policies. The drop in rankings is a significant drop. We're talking about 12 ranks down compared to the last year."

Algo adds, the CCPI results also show that other countries are progressing in climate mitigation strategies and implementation more than the Philippines.

TOP THREE RANKS EMPTY

The top three spots of the CCPI are empty. And that's not a glitch.

Thea Uhlich, policy advisor at Germanwatch, says it simply means "no country is doing enough across all four categories."

Leading the ranking, for the 6th time in a row, is Denmark.

"Denmark shows, across all four categories, the best performance. Notably, received a very high rating in the renewable energy category, high rating in climate policy and GHG emissions but medium performance in energy use. This says that Denmark also has room for improvement," she explained.

Trailing behind is the United Kingdom, Morocco, Chile and Luxembourg.

Niklas Höhne of the NewClimate Institute explains that ranking very high in the index means that a country has a "long history of doing the right things."

"So countries that go back and forth with one government changing, and then the other government changing completely; with that kind of course, you cannot be doing good climate policy," he said.

Therefore, countries with higher rankings are usually those who have a consistent, long-term trajectory.

Höhne adds that if only each country would do at least one climate mitigation action well—as in the case of Brazil's reduction of deforestation, the UK's carbon law framework, Denmark's renewable energy—then the world will really go a long way.

VERY LOW PERFORMERS

Looking at the rest of the rankings, more developed countries are actually rated as very low-performing countries. These include Australia, Canada, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Korea, Russian Federation, the United States, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

At least 10 of the very low performers belong to the Group of 20 (G20) countries

"This is very concerning because we know that G20 countries are responsible for about 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions. So they have a responsibility to reduce their emissions. At the moment not all G20 countries are doing that fast enough," Uhlich said.

The countries at the bottom of the list are those that really depend on producing and exporting fossil fuels. But science has also shown that to slow down global warming which causes extreme weather, the world will need to shift away from fossil fuels.

“As long as we burn fossil fuels, as long as we emit carbon dioxide, global average temperature will increase. With that damages will increase. They will only stop increasing once we stop burning fossil fuels,” Höne said.

Despite the continuous dependence of developed countries on fossil fuel and their very high emissions, Algo says the world has gone a long way in the last decade in so far as slowing the rise in global temperature.

“The Paris Agreement did succeed in mitigating certain levels of climate pollution.”

The fact, however, remains that the world is still not on track to limit long-term global warming to 1.5 degrees Celisus. This, he says, can be attributed to countries in the G20 “have not fulfilled their obligations under the Paris Agreement.”

While the CCPI rankings shows that Philippines in a relatively better position compared to many other countries, it is also an indication of the need of government to push for even better policies to manage the growing climate crisis.

And as negotiations at the UN climate conference peak, experts are hoping that the Philippines will make a stronger stand to secure much needed climate financing to make the country more prepared during extreme weather events which are only bound to become more frequent.

BUSINESS WORLD

Philippines slips 12 spots in climate performance rank

By: Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel

THE PHILIPPINES dropped 12 spots to 19th in the 2026 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) as weak renewable energy expansion and soft climate policies offset its strong record on greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.

The annual index, published by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, and Climate Action Network, ranks the climate mitigation performances of 63 countries and the European Union, which collectively account for 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The index looks at the progress in emissions, renewables, energy use, and climate policies.

The Philippines, which ranked 7th in the previous edition, slipped to a “medium” performance rating, overtaken by countries that advanced more rapidly in deploying clean energy and firming up climate policies. Despite the drop, the Philippines outperformed its peers in Southeast Asia with an overall score of 62.78, highest in the region.

The top three spots in the ranking remain empty as the authors noted that “no country is doing enough to prevent dangerous climate change.” Denmark again received the top ranking at fourth place, followed by the UK, Morocco, Chile and Luxembourg. Fossil fuel suppliers Saudi Arabia, Iran, the US and Russia were at the bottom of the table.

While the Philippines is often cited as a vocal advocate for climate-vulnerable nations, the CCPI gave the country a weak grade on national climate policy and a medium rating in international climate policy.

Jose Enrique A. Africa, executive director at think tank IBON Foundation, told BusinessWorld via Viber that while the Philippines is vocal about vulnerability, adaptation, and climate justice, there is “really not much real action to see.”

“The CCPI’s international-policy score presumably also assesses how the government translates international talk into domestic practice — and the Philippines isn’t really showing large-scale and consistent domestic reforms nor, actually, correspondingly credible international engagements,” Mr. Africa said.

He added that a major portion of the Philippines’ climate-mitigation budget under the Marcos administration is being poured into “corruption-ridden flood control projects.”

Climate advocacy organization Aksyon Klima Pilipinas (AKP) recently reported that the Philippines’ climate strategy is infrastructure-heavy, with the majority of its climate-mitigation budget over the past five years going to flood control and drainage projects.

“More public funds should go towards environmental protection and conservation, and genuine climate action, especially nature-based solutions. They are more cost-effective and even have co-benefits,” AKP National Coordinator John Leo Algo, who also contributed to the CCPI’s climate policy evaluation, said in a briefing last week.

According to the CCPI, only five of the 63 countries assessed earned a “high” overall rating for climate policy, while 41 countries received “low” or “very low” scores.

“Despite some visible achievements, current climate targets and their implementation are still not at a sufficient pace to keep global warming below 1.5°C. Most countries now have climate policies in place, though their effectiveness varies,” the report said.

Renewable energy also remains a major weak spot for the Philippines. According to the Department of Energy (DoE), renewables accounted for about 26% of the energy mix in 2023, with the government targeting a 35% share by 2030, based on the Philippine Energy Plan for 2023 to 2050.

While renewable energy capacity has increased in recent years, the index shows that the overall share of renewables in the Philippines is still low. The country’s 2030 targets also fall short of levels that will allow it to hit the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the rise in global temperatures to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels.

Meanwhile, the Philippines continues to perform well in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, with the index reporting relatively low per-capita levels.

The Philippines also scored well on energy use, with lower per-capita consumption than more industrialized economies. The report also found that the Philippines’ energy use trends and targets are in line with the pathways that will limit warming to well below 2°C.

Mr. Africa said the Philippines seems to do well in emissions and energy-use metrics “simply because of our economic backwardness.”

“Measured by GDP per capita, the country is still among the poorest one-third globally with correspondingly moderate per-capita emissions,“ he said.

To improve its climate change performance, Mr. Africa said the Philippines should scale up public investment in the green transition, especially in renewable energy, grid modernization, and energy storage.

“There has to be a stronger push to phase out fossil-fuel infrastructure with strengthened regulatory agencies resistant to corporate capture. Decentralized renewable generation, micro-grids, and community energy systems in remote islands to reduce vulnerability and accelerate deployment are long overdue,” Mr. Africa said.

He added that climate policy must be integrated with social development by linking climate action to labor policy, social protection, inclusive rural electrification, equitable energy access, and retraining displaced workers who depended on fossil fuel-heavy jobs.

The 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) is entering its second week in Belém, Brazil, where countries are negotiating stronger climate action and mobilizing climate finance for vulnerable nations.

The Philippines, consistently ranked among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, hosts the board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, a newly established financing mechanism that provides grants to developing nations to address the impact of climate-related disasters.

MANILA BULLETIN

VP Duterte: Climate change is 'personal,' urges preparedness

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

Vice President Sara Duterte has called for stronger national and local action on climate resilience, saying the Philippines continues to suffer the harshest consequences of global warming despite contributing the least to global emissions.

In her message for the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Month, Duterte stressed that climate change is no longer an abstract global issue but one that directly affects Filipino families.

“Climate change is personal,” she said on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

“It affects the land we farm, the waters we fish, the homes we build, and the future we leave our children,” she added.

The Vice President noted that 15 typhoons struck the Philippines this year, displacing thousands and leaving communities “in poverty and an incredible state of destruction,” underscoring the urgency of preparedness and adaptation.

As climate-related calamities test the Filipinos’ resilience and readiness, Duterte urged Filipinos to recognize how daily choices—from consumption to waste—shape the country’s climate future.

“Each decision either deepens the challenge or helps us adapt, reduce, or prepare for the more adverse effects of the climate crisis,” she said.

Duterte highlighted the Office of the Vice President’s environmental efforts, noting that the agency has planted 1 million trees nationwide over the past three years as part of its commitment to strengthen natural defenses against extreme weather.

She called on local governments to place climate adaptation at the center of development planning, including forest and mangrove preservation, river and coastal rehabilitation, and investments in early warning systems.

Duterte also encouraged families to instill environmental responsibility in children by reducing waste, avoiding single-use plastics, and adopting sustainable habits.

“Let this month ignite a lasting commitment to a livable future, preserved and passed on for generations to come,” she said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PBBM calls for stronger national action on climate resilience

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has reaffirmed his administration's strong commitment to climate action.

In a news release by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday, President Marcos emphasized that the annual observance reflects the country's shared aspiration to build "a climate-resilient and environmentally sound nation."

"As Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission, I reaffirm our determination to confront the challenges of climate change with decisive action, especially now as we continue to recover from the impact of recent calamities," the President said in a video message, marking the observance of Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week) 2025.

He underscored that the week-long event serves as an essential platform for policymakers, scientists, private institutions, and communities to align national priorities with global climate commitments and the broader sustainable development agenda.

President Marcos highlighted the vital role of all sectors in strengthening the country's resilience through responsible resource use and the integration of climate intelligence in planning and decision-making.

He cited ongoing government initiatives—including the National Adaptation Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan, and expanded programs in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate finance—as key pillars in building a more secure and inclusive future for all Filipinos.

With this year's CCC Week theme: Makabagong Kilusan Para sa Klima at Kinabukasan (Innovative Movement for Climate and the Future), President Marcos urged Filipinos to actively support national efforts to enhance climate resilience.

He called on citizens to view climate action not only as a responsibility but also as a path toward long-term prosperity.

"As we realize our vision of a Bagong Pilipinas, let us uphold climate governance, protecting the beauty and bounty of our land while ensuring the welfare of generations to come," he said.

Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje thanked the President for his steadfast leadership and direction in strengthening the country's climate agenda.

“We thank President Marcos for his continued guidance and commitment. Under his administration, we will continue to advance policies and actions that safeguard our people and secure our future,” Borje said.

Under the Marcos administration, the CCC was able to complete key transformative climate policy frameworks and submissions to the UNFCCC, including the Philippines’ first National Adaptation Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan, updated Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and the Philippines’ Biennial Transparency Report.

President Marcos concluded with a message of solidarity and hope, encouraging all participants to pursue meaningful engagement throughout the week’s activities.

RAPPLER

Philippines falls behind in new climate policy, mitigation rankings
By: Iya Gozum

The Philippines slipped in the rankings of a recent assessment gauging countries' efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions but still remains among the top 20.

From ranking 7th in the previous Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), the Philippines fell to the 19th spot.

In the 2026 CCPI, the Philippines is the only Southeast Asian country among the top 20 and ranks ahead of the European Union, France, Germany, and India.

"The Philippines rank 19th in the CCPI, going from a high performer to a medium performer. The country receives a high rating in GHG (greenhouse gas) Emissions and Energy Use, but low in Climate Policy and Renewable Energy," the country analysis of the index read.

Right now, the annual climate talks (COP30) are ongoing in Brazil and delegates are expected to take action on energy transition and countries' climate plans. The Philippines, meanwhile, has yet to submit its revised climate targets or its nationally determined contributions (NDC). The absence of a new NDC, the CCPI noted, negatively affected the country's score.

The delay in NDC submission has been criticized by Manila-based groups. The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice said the delay was "not only a bureaucratic lapse but a political failure."

John Leo Algo, national coordinator of coalition Aksyon Klima, pointed out the "irony" of dropping in climate policy ranking in the year the Philippines is attempting to update its climate plan.

"It is also clear that the national government refuses to commit to an aspirational net-zero target or fossil fuel phaseout," said Algo.

At COP30, there is mounting pressure from many countries to support a roadmap to move away from fossil fuels. The Philippines has not yet signified its support for this roadmap.

The report noted that while there are signs of moving away from coal, the Philippines still considers liquefied natural gas as a transition fuel and lacks a gas consumption phase-out plan.

In the rankings, the top three spots remain vacant as "no country is strong enough" in all categories assessed. The CCPI assessed countries' renewable energy performance, energy use, climate policies, and their carbon emissions.

Filipino labor leader Luke Espiritu pointed out that the Philippines may have a harder time implementing ambitious targets due to corruption and calamities.

“How can the Philippine government implement an ambitious NDC when our public coffers are being emptied by back-to-back typhoons?” he said on Tuesday, November 18. Espiritu is also present at COP30, joining civil society groups in the summit.

The report is a collaboration among non-profit groups Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International. The index has been published since 2005 as a means to enhance transparency in international climate politics.

THE MANILA TIMES

Climate resilience seen reshaping Asia-Pacific agriculture

By: Ludwig Federigan

THE Asia-Pacific region, a dynamic engine of global growth, stands at a critical juncture. Faced with escalating climate change impacts and rapid environmental degradation, the conventional path of development is proving increasingly unsustainable.

Yet, as the Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2025: Unlocking Nature for Development from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) compellingly argues, the solution lies not in abandoning growth, but in embracing nature as its most powerful and foundational economic asset.

As Fatima Yasmin, vice president for Sectors and Themes at the Asian Development Bank, emphasized in the report's foreword: "Nature is emerging as one of the most powerful levers for economic progress in Asia and the Pacific. Its role is not an abstract ideal or peripheral concern — it is foundational to well-being, productivity, and long-term fiscal and environmental health."

This landmark report illuminates a strategic pathway towards resilient growth, highlighting nature-based solutions (NBS) as superior, economically astute alternatives to traditional "grey infrastructure," especially for vulnerable nations like the Philippines, where the agricultural sector forms the backbone of many livelihoods.

For too long, nature has been treated as a peripheral concern, an "externality" whose services are undervalued or ignored in economic calculations. The report starkly reveals this "economic blind spot": a staggering 75 percent of the Asia-Pacific's gross domestic product, equivalent to some $21 trillion, is generated by sectors heavily reliant on nature, with agriculture and fisheries being primary examples. Yet, it is precisely these nature-dependent sectors, crucial for food security and rural economies, that are most vulnerable to the intensifying climate crisis.

The report underscores how ecosystem degradation directly threatens crop yields by undermining soil health, reducing pollination, and limiting water availability, impacting millions across Asia and the Pacific. This acute vulnerability is particularly evident in the Philippines, a nation frequently hit by typhoons, sea-level rise, and other climate-induced extremes that devastate agricultural lands and disrupt food supply chains.

The direct link between healthy ecosystems and foundational production inputs like pollination, natural pest control, and genetic diversity for crops, as highlighted in the report, reveals the profound economic consequence of nature loss on agribusiness.

However, the path forward is not one of resignation, but of strategic action through nature-based solutions. The report champions NBS as a paradigm shift, demonstrating their multifaceted benefits far beyond what conventional grey infrastructure can offer. Unlike concrete seawalls or

extensive drainage systems, NBS leverages the inherent power of ecosystems to address societal challenges.

For instance, in the Philippines, a government-led mangrove restoration program in Siargao rehabilitated nearly 1,000 hectares of degraded ecosystems. This initiative not only strengthened coastal protection against storms, vital for coastal agriculture and fisheries, but also created alternative livelihoods for local communities through sustainable fisheries and ecotourism. This single intervention exemplifies the “multiple dividends” of NBS, yielding economic, social, and environmental benefits simultaneously.

Addressing these climate impacts on agriculture and agribusiness also necessitates an “upgrading of the operating system” for nature finance, built on strong governance, coherent policies, and robust data systems. Policies must correct market distortions by phasing out environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies that contribute to soil degradation and groundwater depletion. Instead, policies should foster sustainable farming practices, incentivize precision nutrient management, and support bioeconomy innovations that offer alternatives to land-intensive systems. By redirecting these incentives towards nature-positive agriculture, governments can simultaneously bolster food security and ecological health. High-quality, decision-grade data systems are essential to track the effectiveness of these interventions, integrating environmental data into economic planning and making nature’s value visible in national accounts and corporate reporting.

Innovative financial instruments are crucial to mobilize private capital for these agricultural and agribusiness transformations. Debt-for-nature swaps, performance-linked bonds, and sustainability-linked loans can tie financial incentives to measurable environmental outcomes in agricultural landscapes, such as improved soil health or sustainable water use.

Technology, from satellite monitoring to precision agricultural tools, plays a pivotal role in verifying these outcomes, making nature investments more transparent and investable. Scaling these efforts requires system-level approaches, moving beyond isolated pilot projects to integrated “landscape” approaches that bundle sustainable agriculture with broader conservation efforts.

The Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2025 is more than just a diagnostic; it’s a call to action. It presents a phased, 10-year road map for policymakers, investors, and stakeholders to embed nature at the heart of economic and financial systems. By recognizing nature not as a cost, but as a productive asset and a driver of prosperity, the Asia-Pacific, including the Philippines, can chart a course toward a future where it’s vital agricultural and agribusiness sectors are not only economically vibrant but also socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

As Yasmin stated in the foreword, “A nature-positive future is not only possible — it is economically imperative and within our collective reach.”

CCC IN THE NEWS:

NEWS5

Marcos renews climate action pledge after typhoons' onslaught
By: Mary Dei Torres

President Bongbong Marcos on Wednesday reaffirmed his vow to address the impacts of climate change, as experts raised concerns that powerful typhoons such as Tino and Uwan are becoming more frequent due to global warming.

In a video message marking the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week this year, Marcos stressed the need for "a climate-resilient and environmentally sound nation."

"As Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission, I reaffirm our determination to confront the challenges of climate change with decisive action, especially now as we continue to recover from the impact of recent calamities," Marcos said.

The president said there have been ongoing initiatives such as the National Adaptation Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan, and expanded programs in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate finance so that Filipinos enjoy a "more secure and inclusive future."

Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson Robert Borje, for his part, pledged to "continue to advance policies and actions that safeguard our people and secure our future."

The statements from Marcos and the climate policy-making body came after Typhoon Tino, with the international name Kalmaegi, devastated Visayas earlier this month, killing hundreds and devastating several infrastructure and farmlands. Days later, Super Typhoon Uwan also slammed the northern parts of the country.

Experts have said that extreme weather events like Tino have been increasingly influenced by human-driven global warming. They noted that warmer ocean surfaces have packed more "fuel" into tropical cyclones, resulting in heavier rainfall and stronger winds.

ALSO READ: As Typhoon Kalmaegi wreaks havoc, scientists say rising temperatures are to blame

Gianmarco Mengaldo of the National University of Singapore said that while the overall number of typhoons per year have not seen an increase, the intensity of the strongest storms has risen.

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