

AFoCO REDD+ Fact Sheet Series

Brunei Darussalam

Compiled in 2023

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

ABBREVIATIONS

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
WRF	Warsaw REDD+ Framework

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

SUMMARY

Brunei Darussalam is home to one of the most diverse and rich ecosystems in the world. Forest cover in the country amounts to about 72.1% of land area. Brunei Darussalam aims to increase Brunei Darussalam's carbon sink through reforestation efforts. Currently, 104,920 trees have been identified, and an additional 400,000 trees have been proposed by 2035. Also, Brunei considers the Cooperative Approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

However, the country does not consider REDD+ as one of its mitigation options in NDCs (2020). For this reason, it seems that the Warsaw REDD+ framework (WRF) has not been initiated. In addition, REDD+ projects and initiatives have not been identified.

1. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Brunei Darussalam is a small country with a total area of 5,765 km² situated on the northwest coast of Borneo, an island in southeast Asia hosting three countries: Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei (Figure 1). The natural vegetation throughout Brunei Darussalam is the tropical evergreen rainforest. Forest covers 72.1% of the total land area, and the proportion of terrestrial key biodiversity areas covered by designated protected areas is 41.7% in 2020. The mangroves on the coast represent the largest remaining intact mangroves in northern Borneo. Together with those in neighboring countries in Brunei Bay, they comprise one of the largest tracts of relatively undisturbed mangroves in eastern Asia¹. The total population was 441,532 in 2021. The country has a GDP per capita of \$31,722.7, growing at -1.6% (2021).

Table 1. General status of Brunei Darussalam

Official name (ISO code)	Negara Brunei Darussalam (BN)
Capital	Bandar seri Begawan
Population	441,532 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP per capita	USD 31,722.7 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP growth (annual)	-1.6% (World Bank, 2021)
Climate	Equatorial tropical; high temperatures, humidity, and rainfall
Land Area	5,765 km ²
Forest Area	3,800km ² (72.1% of land area) (World Bank, 2020)
Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity protected	41.7% (UN, 2020)

¹Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Country profiles, URL: [Main Details \(cbd.int\)](http://Main%20Details%20(cbd.int))



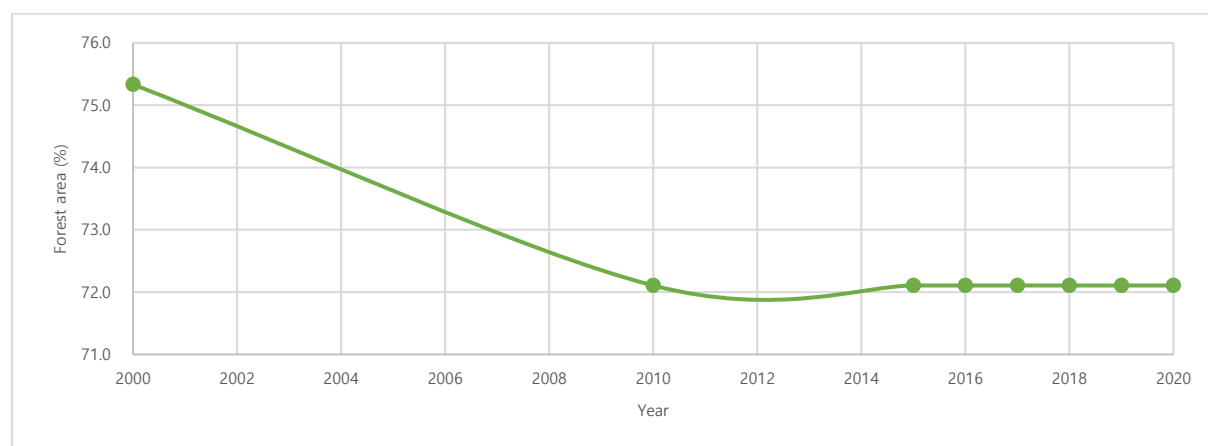
Figure 1. Country Map of Brunei Darussalam

Source: <https://www.mapsland.com/asia/brunei/large-detailed-political-map-of-brunei>

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

According to SDG 15 Life on land, Forest area as a proportion of total land area was 75.3% in 2000, slightly decreasing to 72.1% in 2010 (Figure 2). Since 2010, changes in forest area could not be discovered.

Figure 2. 15.1.1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)

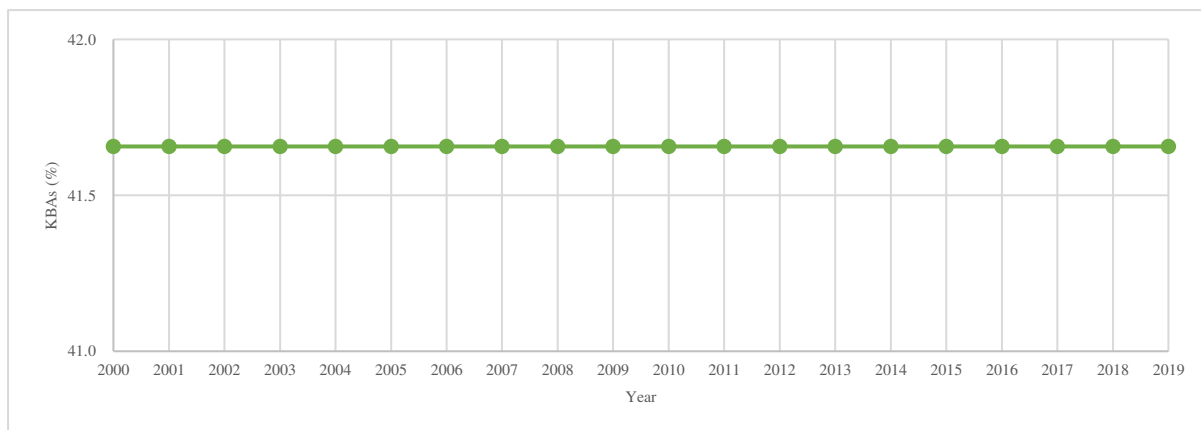


Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area (%)	75.3	72.1	72.1	72.1	72.1	72.1	72.1	72.1

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

The average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas was recorded as 41.7%, with no change during the investigation period (Figure 3).

Figure 3. 15.1.2. Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)



Year	2000	2010	2019
Proportion (%)	41.7	41.7	41.7

Raw data: UNSTAT SDG

3. NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (2020)²

Forestry plays an important role in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of country's commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Brunei submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2020. Brunei will be implementing measures that will mitigate the impact of climate change by increasing carbon sink through afforestation and reforestation. Brunei aims to increase its forest reserves from 41% to 55%. However, Adaptation Plan related to the forestry has not reported at this stage. The limitations resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, have posed challenges in the preparation of NDC, which may be updated in due course should there be new findings from further assessments³.

Table 2. Role of forests reported in NDCs

Mitigation		Adaptation
Unconditional	Conditional	
Y	N	N

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

²Brunei's first Nationally Determined Contribution report, (2020). pp.1-14.

³Brunei's first Nationally Determined Contribution report, (2020). pp.1-14..

3.1. Mitigation Targets

Brunei Darussalam’s target to reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2030 from Business- as- Usual levels is in line with the objectives set out in Article 2 of the Convention. Brunei Darussalam have Mitigation Targets for forestry: increasing carbon sink through afforestation and reforestation with a target of planting 500,000 new trees. Increasing Brunei Darussalam’s forest cover would increase the national carbon sequestration potential, thus having positive effects on habitats, biodiversity and ecosystems.

Table 3. Forest-based mitigation targets

Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM
Y	Y	N	N	N

*SFM: Sustainable Forest Management

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

Table 4. Mitigation Targets for Forest Cover⁴

Sectors	Targets
Forestry	Afforestation and reforestation with a target of planting 500,000 new trees.

Table 5. Forest-based mitigation Policies/ Plans/ Actions in NDCs

	Afforestation	Reforestation
Policies	Y	Y
Plans	N	Y

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

3.2. Adaptation Plan

The country seeks to strengthen its resilience against climate change risks and increase its capacity to adapt to the impacts of the changing climate. This includes, among others, enhancing and integrating climate science findings into policies, conducting climate impact assessments and consideration of nature-based solutions as an option to increase resilience. However, there are no forest-based adaptation commitments in NDCs.

⁴Brunei’s first Nationally Determined Contribution report, (2020). pp.1-14.

Table 6. Brunei Darussalam’s Climate Adaptation and Resilience Action⁵

Sectors	Strategies
Current Climate Impacts Mitigation Projects	As part of Brunei Darussalam’s National Development Plan (NDP) projects, the Public Works Department through the Department of Drainage and Sewerage of the Ministry of Development has implemented a series of flood mitigation works along the coastal area of Brunei Darussalam. About a total of 56km coastal protection structures have been constructed to protect the country’s coastline against strong waves and erosion with the intention to maintain environmental sustainability while achieving socio-economic resilience through adequate and well-planned infrastructure and public facilities.
Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	The National Disaster Management Centre organises community-based activities that aim to (i) strengthen institutional capacity and policy frameworks for effective implementation for CCA and DRR; (ii) Establish an ASEAN youth leadership in CCA and DRR; (iii) Increase replicable programmes and models of building community resilience; and (iv) Strengthen awareness-building programmes on a disaster resilient and climate change adaptive ASEAN Community.

3.3. International market-based cooperation

The Government of Brunei Darussalam views cooperative approaches in market mechanisms and will explore possible bilateral, regional, and international mechanisms in meeting the NDC target.

3.4. Relevance to the Forestry Sector

Brunei Darussalam is home to one of the most diverse and complex ecosystems in the world. Forest cover in the country constitutes to about 72.1% of land area or 380,000 hectares of land accounting for a carbon sequestration value of 11.4 MtCO_{2e}. Brunei Darussalam aims to increase its forest reserves from 41% to 55%. Current efforts seek to increase Brunei Darussalam’s carbon sink through reforestation efforts. At present, 104,920 trees are identified for current reforestation efforts, and a further 400,000 trees are proposed leading up to 2035.

(UNFCCC Warsaw Framework For Redd+ Progress & Information on REDD+ PROJECTS/INITIATIVES are not available at the time of compilation)

⁵Brunei’s first Nationally Determined Contribution report, (2020). pp.1-14.

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