

Location



Introduction

Brunei (officially Brunei Darussalam) is located in Southeast Asia, on the northern coast of the island of Borneo. The country is divided into two non-contiguous territories that are separated by the Malaysian State of Sarawak. The majority of the population lives in the larger western part (districts of Belait, Tutong and Brunei-Muara), while the mountainous eastern part (Temburong) is much less inhabited. Thus Brunei is bordered to the north by the South China Sea, to the south, west and east by Malaysian territory of the island of Borneo and to the north east by Brunei Bay. Brunei has 161km of coastline along the South China Sea/Brunei Bay. It has a tropical rainforest climate. In the northeast, monsoon occurs December to March and from June to October in the southeast.

Regional Seas and Biogeography

South China Sea LME
Brunei Bay

Habitats

Most of the country is flat coastal plain, intersected by a series of rivers and canals. The coastline includes sandy beaches and some rocky areas with intertidal mudflats in Brunei Bay at the outflow of the main estuaries. Two major rivers drain into the South China sea in the western part (the Belait and the Tutong) and two (the Temburong and Brunei rivers) into the Bay of Brunei. Brunei also has a number of islands, the largest of which is Berembang in Brunei Bay.

- Coral reefs are found extensively offshore mostly submerged, as well as on several near shore islands.
- Mangroves are found along the Sungai Tutong river, in the central part of the western region of Brunei.
- Seagrasses are found in Brunei bay, including on the islands north east of the capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

Biodiversity Hotspots

→ IBAs

Seria coast IBA, in the western part of Brunei close to its western border with Malaysian Borneo, has mangrove forests and areas of mud and sand flats. Chinese egrets and kingfishers can be found there.

Brunei Bay IBA, shared with Malaysian Borneo, includes the coastal/marine area northeast of Brunei's eastern region. There are 3 estuaries which are very significant for birds: Limbang estuary, Trusan-Sundar and Menumbok estuary. The site also includes several islands which are part of Brunei's territory: Pulau Muara Besar, Pulau Baru-Baru and Pulau Berbunot (latter two are rocky with a narrow mangrove strip). The site is characterised by mangroves and intertidal mudflats which can extend more than 1km offshore. Birds found here include the lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), the Storm's Stork (EN) and in winter Chinese Egret (VU) and Greater sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultia*. Brunei Bay is also an important foraging ground for green turtles.

→ IMMAs

No IMMAs are yet identified in Brunei, although Brunei Bay is recorded as an area of interest for potential future identification as an IMMA.

At risk Wildlife

In this section, some individual wildlife species are mentioned followed by a letter in parentheses. These are species included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species within the top three categories of risk - Vulnerable to extinction (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR). A more complete list of IUCN listed species is found in Appendix 1.

→ **At risk birds**
→ **At risk birds**

Several species of seabird are found in Brunei, including terns, shearwaters, frigatebirds, boobies and cormorants. Waterbird species include stilts, plovers, curlews, sandpipers, stints, redshanks and snipe, as well as several species of heron and egret. The white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), an emblematic species in Brunei, can also be found in some coastal areas.

→ **At risk reptiles**
→ **At risk reptiles**

Four species of sea turtle are found in Brunei's waters. The most common are olive ridleys (VU), with a small number of nesting green (EN) and hawksbill turtles (CR). Brunei holds the only substantial nesting site for olive ridley turtles on the island of Borneo. Leatherback turtles (VU) have also been observed off Brunei's coasts. Turtle nesting has been observed on beaches at Muara, Jerudong, Telisay, Sg. Liang, Anduki, Seria and Kuala Belait.

Saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) can be found in rivers, including the Brunei river. False gharial (EN) are also found in Brunei.

Nine species of sea snake have been observed in Brunei's waters, but most only anecdotally. Yellow-lipped sea krait are more common and associated with coral islands.

→ **At risk mammals**
→ **At risk mammals**

Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) are commonly sighted in Brunei's waters as well as Irrawaddy dolphin (EN), Spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) and finless porpoise (VU). Dugong, smooth-coated otter and Asian small-clawed otter (all VU), are also found in Brunei's marine and coastal waters.

Past experience with oil spill and potential risks

There have been no major spills in Brunei's waters.

Brunei is an oil-rich country is close to vital sea lanes through the South China Sea linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

International and Regional Treaties and Agreements

→ **Oil spill and HNS Response**

- d CLC Convention 69
- CLC Protocol 76
- CLC Protocol 92
- FUND Protocol 76
- FUND Protocol 92
- FUND Protocol 2003
- LLMC Convention 76
- LLMC Protocol 96
- OPRC Convention 90
- HNS Convention 96
- HNS PROT 2010
- OPRC_HNS 2000
- BUNKERS CONVENTION 01

→ **Marine Biodiversity Protection**

- Association of South East Asian Nations-Oil Spill Response Action Plan (ASEAN-OSRAP) and MoU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism on Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response (ASEAN MoU)
- Global Initiative South East Asia (GISEA)

Oil Spill Response and HNS Spill Response

→ **National Contingency Plan?**

A Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ROSCP) was developed under the Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response (ASEAN MoU), which entered into force in 2014. The MoU provides for mutual assistance in oil spill response between ASEAN Member States. The ROSCP was adopted in 2018.

The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOS COP) is under the responsibility of the Maritime and Port Authority (MPABD).

The NOS COP interfaces with other plans including the Maritime Disaster Plan for responding to maritime casualties, emergency response procedures from other government agencies and oil industry emergency plans.

→ **Role of Competent National Authorities**

The NOS COP establishes the National Response Team (NRT) who would coordinate an oil spill response, provide guidance to Regional Response Teams and coordinate national preparedness activities. The NRT distributes technical, financial, and operational information on oil spills to all members of the team. NOS COP Committees of the NRT include a Response Committee, which addresses issues such as response operations, use of technology, operational safety, and interagency activities and Preparedness Committee, which addresses issues such as training, monitoring exercises/drills and planning issues. Both committees are headed by the Director of Marine, Ministry of Communications.

Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response

→ **Formal guidelines?**

There are no formal guidelines for wildlife response. The Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MPRT)'s unit for Wildlife Rescue and Treatment would likely be responsible for decision-making around oiled wildlife response.

→ **Response objectives and strategy**

No reference.

→ **Euthanasia or rehabilitation?**

Rehabilitation will require official approval but will likely be accepted as part of any oiled wildlife response. Euthanasia for humane reasons will also require approval but likely to be accepted as well.

→ **Impact assessment**

The Marine Biodiversity Centre of the MPRT oversees environmental impact assessment as part of Brunei's membership in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), thus may play a key role in this area during an oil spill incident, as well as The Forestry Department of the same Ministry. The Marine Fisheries Section of the Department of Fisheries may also be involved in marine impact assessment for turtles (they have raised turtles in hatcheries and released them in the past) and the University of Brunei's Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Research for marine species.

→ **Notification and early response**

There are no processes in place regarding notification of oil-affected wildlife.

→ **Wildlife responders**

There are no wildlife rehabilitation organisations working with marine wildlife in Brunei, however the BruWild (Biodiversity and Natural History Society), who provide carry out rescue and rehabilitation of rainforest dwelling species, and provide training on this, may be able to assist.

→ **Cooperation between stakeholders**

A Standard Operating Procedure exists with Malaysia for joint spill combat in the South China Sea, including Brunei Bay. Oil operators in Brunei can also request assistance from Malaysian operators via PIMMAG in case of an oil spill.

→ **Permanent facilities**

The Marine Biodiversity Centre of the MPRT may also have facilities which can house turtles..

→ **Current processes**

No reference

Documentation and references

General references

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Appendix 1

→ At risk birds

Common name / Latin name / IUCN Red List Category (CR,EN,VU) / Resident-Migratory (season) / Breeding-Nesting-Pupping (season)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper / *Calidris acuminata* / VU / Migratory /
Great Knot / *Calidris tenuirostris* / EN / Migratory (non-breeding) /
Far Eastern Curlew / *Numenius madagascariensis* / EN / Migratory (non-breeding) /
Spotted Greenshank / *Tringa guttifer* / EN / Migratory (non-breeding) /
Storm's Stork / *Ciconia stormi* / EN / Resident /
Chinese Egret / *Egretta eulophotes* / VU / Migratory - winter (non-breeding) /
Christmas Island Frigatebird / *Fregata andrewsi* / VU / Resident /

→ At risk reptiles

Common name / Latin name / IUCN Red List Category (CR,EN,VU) / Resident-Migratory (season) / Breeding-Nesting-Pupping (season)

Hawksbill Turtle / *Eretmochelys imbricata* / CR / Migratory /
Green Turtle / *Chelonia mydas* / EN / Migratory /
Olive Ridley / *Lepidochelys olivacea* / VU / Migratory / Nesting Nov-June
Leatherback / *Dermochelys coriacea* / VU / Migratory /
False Gharial / *Tomistoma schlegelii* / EN / Resident /

→ At risk mammals

Common name / Latin name / IUCN Red List Category (CR,EN,VU) / Resident-Migratory (season) / Breeding-Nesting-Pupping (season)

Dugong / *Dugong dugon* / VU / Resident /
Indo-Pacific Hump-Backed Dolphin / *Sousa chinensis* / VU / Not well studied /
Spinner Dolphin / *Stenella longirostris* / LC / Not well studied /
Irrawaddy Dolphin / *Orcaella brevirostris* / EN / Not well studied /
Indo-Pacific Finless Porpoise / *Neophocaena phocaenoides* / VU / /
Bottlenose dolphin / *Tursiops truncatus* / LC / /
Smooth-coated otter / *Lutrogale perspicillata* / VU / /
Asian small-clawed otter / *Aonyx cinereus* / VU / /