

# BRUNEI

LAND AREA 5,765 km<sup>2</sup> HUMAN POPULATION 326,000 (57 per km<sup>2</sup>)

NUMBER OF IBAs 7 TOTAL AREA OF IBAs 1,338 km<sup>2</sup> STATUS OF IBAs 1 protected; 2 partially protected; 4 unprotected



Tasek Merimbun (IBA 3) and other Sundaic lowland forests in Brunei are becoming increasingly important as this habitat is cleared rapidly elsewhere. (PHOTO: JON DAVIES)

## KEY HABITATS AND BIRDS

- Tropical forest is estimated to cover more than 80% of the land area of Brunei, including extensive areas of relatively well protected tropical lowland rain forest (*Biome AS14: Sundaic lowland forest*). This forest type is being cleared rapidly elsewhere in the Sundaland (or Sundaic) region, meaning that Brunei is becoming an increasingly important stronghold for threatened lowland forest specialists such as Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*.
- Tropical montane rain forests in Brunei (*Biome AS15: Sundaic montane forest* and *EBA 157: Bornean mountains*) support several bird species endemic to Borneo, including the threatened Mountain Serpent-eagle *Spilornis kinabaluensis*.
- Coastal wetlands in Brunei support significant numbers of waterbirds, including non-breeding concentrations of the threatened Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*.

## CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

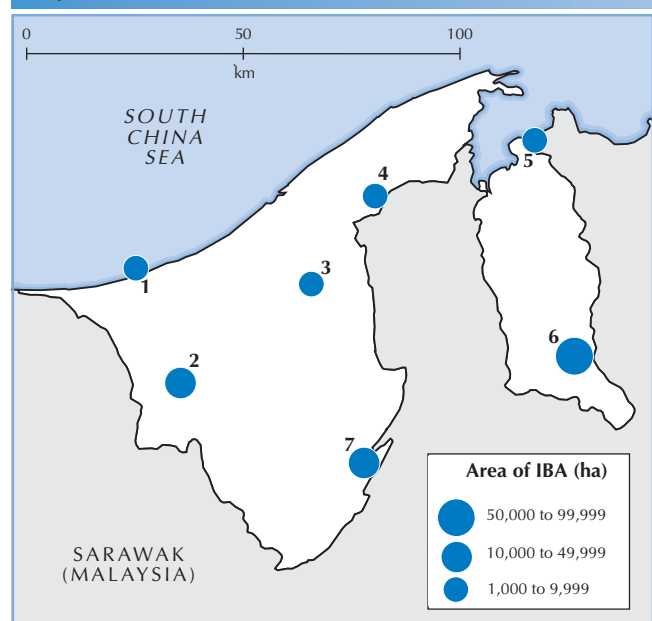
The Forestry Department, part of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, is responsible for the implementation of the national Forestry Strategic Plan. It is mandated to manage and develop all protected areas in Brunei. Legal authority for the protection of wildlife is vested in the Brunei Museums Departments under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Brunei has one large national park (Ulu Temborong), three small marine wildlife sanctuaries and a large number of forest reserves, some of which are managed specifically for protection, conservation or recreation. These areas cover c.20% of the land area of the country, and include more than 10% of all major habitat types found in Brunei, other than freshwater swamp forests.

## OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY

- All seven IBAs in Brunei support globally threatened species, one has restricted-range species, four have biome-restricted species and two qualify as IBAs because they hold large congregations of waterbirds.
- The seven IBAs in Brunei cover 1,338 km<sup>2</sup> or about 23% of the total land area of the country. They include two large forest

Map 1. Location and size of Important Bird Areas in Brunei.



areas, the lowland and montane forests of Ulu Temburong, and the lowland rain forests of the Southern Ladan Hills. These support several threatened bird species, and are of outstanding importance given the rapid rate of deforestation elsewhere in the Sundaic region.

- The five wetland IBAs in Brunei contain areas of intertidal flat, mangrove forest and peat swamp forest.

## CONSERVATION ISSUES

- The pressures on the IBAs in Brunei are relatively low, other than around Brunei Bay where habitat is being lost through

commercial logging of mangroves and conversion to aquaculture.

- One of Brunei’s IBAs is fully protected, two are partially protected and four are unprotected.

## SOURCES OF IBA DATA

This initial list of IBAs in Brunei was compiled by Anthony Sebastian. The information on the conservation infrastructure and protected areas was downloaded from the Government of Brunei Darussalam’s official website: <http://www.forestry.gov.bn/> (accessed on 9 February 2004).

**Table 1.** Important Bird Areas in Brunei.

<b>1</b>	<b>Seria Coast</b>	<b>Unprotected</b>	■ A1
<b>Admin region</b> Belait <b>Coordinates</b> 4°37'N 114°19'E <b>Altitude</b> 0–10 m <b>Area</b> 5,000 ha <b>Habitats</b> Forest; Sea; Wetlands (inland)			
■ <b>Threatened species</b> <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Spizaetus nanus</i> , <i>Lophura erythrophthalma</i> , <i>Ducula pickeringii</i> , <i>Centropus rectunguis</i> , <i>Alcedo euryzona</i> , <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>			
<b>2</b>	<b>Beliat Swamp Forest</b>	<b>Partially protected</b>	■ A1 ■ A3
<b>Admin region</b> Belait <b>Coordinates</b> 4°24'N 114°25'E <b>Altitude</b> 0–420 m <b>Area</b> 25,000 ha <b>Habitats</b> Forest			
■ <b>Threatened species</b> <i>Ciconia stormi</i> , <i>Spizaetus nanus</i> , <i>Melanoperdix nigra</i> , <i>Lophura erythrophthalma</i> , <i>Treron capellei</i> , <i>Alcedo euryzona</i> , <i>Pitta baudii</i> , <i>Pitta nympha</i> , <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i> , <i>Setornis criniger</i> , <i>Cyornis caerulatus</i> ■ <b>Biomes</b> AS14: Sundaic lowland forest			
<b>3</b>	<b>Tasek Merimbun</b>	<b>Protected</b>	■ A1 ■ A3
<b>Admin region</b> Tutong <b>Coordinates</b> 4°36'N 114°41'E <b>Altitude</b> Unknown <b>Area</b> 7,800 ha <b>Habitats</b> Forest; Wetlands (inland)			
■ <b>Threatened species</b> <i>Ciconia stormi</i> ■ <b>Biomes</b> AS14: Sundaic lowland forest			
<b>4</b>	<b>Wasan</b>	<b>Unprotected</b>	■ A1 ■ A4i
<b>Admin region</b> Brunei; Muara <b>Coordinates</b> 4°47'N 114°49'E <b>Altitude</b> 5–50 m <b>Area</b> 1,000 ha <b>Habitats</b> Artificial landscapes (terrestrial)			
■ <b>Threatened species</b> <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> , <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i> ■ <b>Congregatory waterbirds</b> <i>Tringa ochropus</i>			
<b>5</b>	<b>Brunei Bay</b>	<b>Unprotected</b>	■ A1 ■ A4i,iii
<b>Admin region</b> Brunei; Muara; Temburong <b>Coordinates</b> 4°54'N 115°09'E <b>Altitude</b> 0–50 m <b>Area</b> 8,000 ha <b>Habitats</b> Forest; Sea; Wetlands (inland)			
■ <b>Threatened species</b> <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Ciconia stormi</i> , <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> , <i>Caprimulgus concretus</i> ■ <b>Congregatory waterbirds</b> <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> , <i>Sterna dougallii</i>			
<b>6</b>	<b>Ulu Temburong</b>	<b>Partially protected</b>	■ A1 ■ A2 ■ A3
<b>Admin region</b> Temburong <b>Coordinates</b> 4°27'N 115°14'E <b>Altitude</b> 100–1,868 m <b>Area</b> 70,000 ha <b>Habitats</b> Forest			
■ <b>Threatened species</b> <i>Ciconia stormi</i> , <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> , <i>Spilornis kinabaluensis</i> , <i>Spizaetus nanus</i> , <i>Lophura erythrophthalma</i> , <i>Treron capellei</i> , <i>Alcedo euryzona</i> , <i>Pitta baudii</i> , <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i> , <i>Ptilocichla leucogrammica</i> , <i>Cyornis caerulatus</i> ■ <b>Endemic Bird Areas</b> 157: Bornean mountains ■ <b>Biomes</b> AS14: Sundaic lowland forest; AS15: Sundaic montane forest			
<b>7</b>	<b>Southern Ladan Hills</b>	<b>Unprotected</b>	■ A1 ■ A3
<b>Admin region</b> Belait; Tutong <b>Coordinates</b> 4°14'N 114°48'E <b>Altitude</b> 100–300 m <b>Area</b> 25,000 ha <b>Habitats</b> Forest			
■ <b>Threatened species</b> <i>Ciconia stormi</i> , <i>Spizaetus nanus</i> , <i>Melanoperdix nigra</i> , <i>Lophura erythrophthalma</i> , <i>Treron capellei</i> , <i>Centropus rectunguis</i> , <i>Alcedo euryzona</i> , <i>Pitta baudii</i> , <i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i> , <i>Setornis criniger</i> , <i>Ptilocichla leucogrammica</i> , <i>Cyornis caerulatus</i> ■ <b>Biomes</b> AS14: Sundaic lowland forest			