**Solomon Islands**

77.6% —or about 2,172,000 hectares—of Solomon Islands is forested.   
  
Change in Forest Cover: Between 1990 and 2000, Solomon Islands lost an average of 39,700 hectares of forest per year. The amounts to an average annual deforestation rate of 1.43%. Between 2000 and 2005, the rate of forest change increased by 17.0% to 1.68% per annum. In total, between 1990 and 2005, Solomon Islands lost 21.5% of its forest cover, or around 596,000 hectares. Measuring the total rate of habitat conversion (defined as change in forest area plus change in woodland area minus net plantation expansion) for the 1990-2005 interval, Solomon Islands lost 21.5% of its forest and woodland habitat.  
  
Biodiversity and Protected Areas: Solomon Islands has some 402 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles according to figures from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Of these, 20.9% are endemic, meaning they exist in no other country, and 11.7% are threatened. Solomon Islands is home to at least 3172 species of vascular plants, of which 0.9% are endemic. 0.0% of Solomon Islands is protected under IUCN categories I-V.

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**Solomon Islands: Environment**

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| **Environment - current issues** | deforestation; soil erosion; many of the surrounding coral reefs are dead or dying |
| **Environment - international agreements** | party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Environmental Modification, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Whaling signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements |
| **Natural hazards** | typhoons, but rarely destructive; geologically active region with frequent earth tremors; volcanic activity |

**Solomon Islands: Land use / Resources**

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| --- | --- |
| **Land use (%)** | arable land: 0.64% permanent crops: 2% other: 97.36% (2001) |
| **Natural resources** | fish, forests, gold, bauxite, phosphates, lead, zinc, nickel |

**Solomon Islands: Economy**

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| --- | --- |
| **Economy - overview:** | The bulk of the population depends on agriculture, fishing, and forestry for at least part of their livelihood. Most manufactured goods and petroleum products must be imported. The islands are rich in undeveloped mineral resources such as lead, zinc, nickel, and gold. Prior to the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), severe ethnic violence, the closing of key businesses, and an empty government treasury culminated in economic collapse. RAMSI has enabled a return to law and order, a new period of economic stability, and modest growth as the economy rebuilds. |
| **GDP - per capita** | $1,700 (2002 est.) |
| **GDP - real growth rate (%)** | 5.8% (2003 est.) |
| **Agriculture - products** | cocoa beans, coconuts, palm kernels, rice, potatoes, vegetables, fruit; cattle, pigs; timber; fish |
| **GDP - composition by sector (%)** | agriculture: 42%, industry: 11%, services: 47% (2000 est.) |
| **Industries** | fish (tuna), mining, timber |
| **Economic aid - recipient** | $28 million annually, mainly from Australia (2003 est.) |
| **Debt - external** | $180.4 million (2002) |
| **Population below poverty line (%)** | NA |
| **Labor force - by occupation (%)** | agriculture 75%, industry 5%, services 20% (2000 est.) |

**Solomon Islands: Population / Demographics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Population (July 2005)** | 538,032 |
| **Population growth rate (%) (2005)** | 2.68% |
| **Population density (people/sq km) (2005)** | 19.5 |
| **Percent rural (2003)** | 83.5% |
| **Median age (years)** | total: 18.63 years |
| **Total fertility rate (children born/woman)** | 4.04 (2005 est.) |
| **Ethnic groups (%)** | Melanesian 94.5%, Polynesian 3%, Micronesian 1.2%, other 1.1%, unspecified 0.2% (1999 census) |