

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.

Solomon Islands: Forest Cover, 2005

Total Land Area (ha)	2,799,000
Total Forest Area (ha)	2,172,000
Percent Forest Cover	77.60%
Primary Forest Cover (ha)	-

Solomon Islands: Change in Forest Cover

Forest 1990 (ha)	2,768,000
Forest 2000 (ha)	2,371,000
Forest 2005 (ha)	2,172,000
Annual Change 1990-2000 (ha %)	(39,700) -1.43%
Annual Change 2000-2005 (ha %)	(39,800) -1.68%
Total Change 1990-2005 (ha %)	(596,000) -21.53%
Change in rate (%)	17.04%

TOTAL DEGRADATION/CONSERVSION Forest area+Wooded Area-Plantations

Other 1990 (ha)	2,768,000
Other 2000 (ha)	2,371,000
Other 2005 (ha)	2,172,000
Annual Change 1990-2000 (ha %)	(39,700) -1.43%
Annual Change 2000-2005 (ha %)	(39,800) -1.68%

Total Change 1990-2005 (ha | %) (596,000) -21.53%
Change in rate (%) 17.04%

Solomon Islands: Protected areas

Protected areas

Biosphere reserves, 2005

Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites), 2005 0

World Heritage sites, 2004 1

Protected Areas: IUCN categories I-V, percent of total land 0.0%

Protected Areas: IUCN categories Ia, Ib, and II, extent, percent of total land 0.00%

Protected Areas: IUCN categories III, IV, and V, percent of total land, 2004 0.00%

Protected Areas: IUCN categories VI and other, percent of total land, 2004 0.00%

Solomon Islands: Biodiversity - Wildlife

Birds

total species 248

endemic species 52

threatened species 21

Mammals

total species 72

endemic species 17

threatened species 20

Reptiles

total species 70

endemic species 14

threatened species 4

Wildlife diversity

total species 402

endemic species 84

threatened species 47

Solomon Islands: Biodiversity - Plants

Vascular Plant Species, 2004

Total	3172
Number endemic	30
Number of Threatened Plant Species, 2004	
Species threatened	16

Solomon Islands: Value of forests

Wood removal 2005

Industrial roundwood (1000 cubic m)	637
Wood fuel (1000 cubic m)	159
Total wood removal 2005 (1000 cubic m)	796

Solomon Islands: Environment

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

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

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
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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)