**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: Forest Cover, 2005**

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| --- | --- |
| **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/CONSERVSIONForest 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**

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| **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**

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| **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**

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

**Solomon Islands: Value of forests**

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

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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, Whalingsigned, 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**

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| **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) |