



Integration for Biodiversity in Brunei Darussalam

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Integration of Conservation of Biodiversity in National Development Plan, Policies and Action Plans... 2	
Ninth National Development Plan (9th NDP) (2007-2012).....	2
Mid-Term Review of the Ninth National Development Plan	3
National Forestry Policy (1989).....	3
National Physical Plan	5
3. Legal and Regulatory Framework	5
4. Implementing Agencies.....	5
5. Institutional Framework for Implementation	6
Voluntary Carbon Offset for the Conservation of Biological Diversity	6

1. Introduction

Brunei Darussalam reported¹ that Efforts to protect biodiversity in Brunei Darussalam are vital. Conservation of biodiversity is crosssectoral in nature and its implementation involves many government agencies and other stakeholders.

Some agencies play leading roles compared to others. Brunei Darussalam began its efforts to address conservation of natural resources as well as biodiversity before signing CBD in 2008. The Government has taken several major steps to strengthen its capabilities in policy-making and institutions involved in biodiversity conservation.

Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is consistently reflected in Brunei's five-year plans - currently into its Ninth National development Plan, as well as other policies and plans.

2. Integration of Conservation of Biodiversity in National Development Plan, Policies and Action Plans

Recognising the important role of biological diversity in nation building and long-term development, Brunei Darussalam has continued to improve and strengthen existing provisions of policy, legal and institutional frameworks to support the integration of biodiversity considerations into policy and decision-making across all sectors.

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity has always been addressed within the context of sustainable development. Conservation of biodiversity has been mainstreamed in various national documents such as Brunei's five-year Development Plan as well as several national policies.

This section presents some examples of the integration of conservation in these instruments.

Ninth National Development Plan (9th NDP) (2007-2012)

The Plan recognizes the value of biodiversity. Projects and activities under the 9th NDP address the following:

- to protect and conserve land, water, biodiversity and forest resources · to promote sustainable natural resource management practices in relation to land, water, forest, energy and marine resources, will be intensified.
- to encourage closer cooperation with stakeholders and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in addressing environment and natural resource concerns.

¹ Brunei Darussalam (2010). 4TH National Report, Forestry Department, Ministry of Industry & Primary Resources, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 33 pp.

- to intensify efforts will enhance protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources and contribute towards improving the quality of life.

The overall approaches and methods mentioned are summarised in the following table (Table 1).

Table 1. 9th NDP – Summary of Approaches and Methods

Focus Area	Approaches/Methods
Biodiversity conservation	– Efforts will be intensified to protect critical habitats. Protecting threatened flora and fauna will be intensified. The EIA processes are required to include the assessment of impacts to ecosystems.
Forest	- The conservation and sustainable use of forest products, watersheds resources and water catchments will be emphasised to promote sustainable forest management. – The development of sustainable sources of wealth from forest products such as herbal and medicinal products, eco-tourism and bio prospecting activities will be promoted. – The Brunei Criteria and Indicators (MC&I) system will be introduced so as to strengthen to consolidate efforts for sustainable forest management.
Marine and Coastal resources	- Marine and coastal resources conservation and protection measures; – The rehabilitation and improvement of the coastline will be intensified through regeneration and re-vegetation programmes; – A comprehensive management plan for mangroves and coastal forests will be developed to arrest the mangrove depletion rate to ensure a continuous supply of resources as well as to mitigate the impact of coastal erosion and tsunamis.
Managing water resource	- Emphasis will be placed on maintaining and enhancing the ecosystem functions of river systems through the restoration and maintenance of wetlands, river buffers and riparian zones.
Landuse planning	– The application of the spatial development approach, which integrates environmentally sustainable development concepts and methodologies, will be promoted. – Appropriate methods and parameters will be developed to identify and manage environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) to enable them to serve as buffer zones in the control of development sprawl.

Mid-Term Review of the Ninth National Development Plan

The implementation of 9th NDP has witnessed many concerted efforts to fulfil the goals of creating a healthy and safe environment as well as promoting sustainable management of resources Programmes on in-situ and ex-situ conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas will be expanded to reduce pressure on flora and fauna in its natural habitat. Two conservation initiatives, namely the Tropical Biodiversity Centre and the Heart of Borneo will be carried out to improve connectivity of forests for wildlife mobility, biodiversity reservoir, protection of watershed areas and create a destination for eco-tourism. Land use planning for development will be improved in line with the National Physical Plan.

National Forestry Policy (1989)

The tropical rainforests of Brunei constitute the largest core of biodiversity in Brunei Darussalam. The National Forestry Policy take cognisance of the concerns expressed by the world community on the importance of biological diversity conservation and sustainable utilisation of genetic resources, as well as the role of local communities in forest management.

This Policy strengthens the institutional base and enhancing the co-operation and understanding in the field of forestry sector development and management. The selected points of the National Forestry Policy relevant to biodiversity are as follows:

(i) To dedicate as at least 55% of the total land area into Permanent Forest Estate which are strategically located throughout the country. The Permanent Forest Estate will be managed and classified under four major functions:

(a) Protection Forest for ensuring favourable climatic and physical conditions of the country, the safeguarding of water resources, soil fertility, environmental quality, conservation of biological diversity and the minimization of damage by floods and erosion to rivers and agricultural lands;

(b) Production Forest for the supply of all forms of forest produce which can be economically produced within the country;

(c) Recreational Forest for the conservation of adequate forest areas for recreation, ecotourism and in promoting public awareness in forestry;

(d) Conservation forest for the conduct of research, education and conservation of biological diversity; and

(e) National Park for the conduct of ecotourism, education and conservation of biological diversity.

(ii) To provide for the conservation of biological diversity and areas with unique species of flora and fauna, including specific areas for the purpose of forestry education and other scientific studies an example Kuala Belalong Field Study Center, Tropical Biodiversity Center, Ulu Temburong National Park, Andulau Forest Reserve;

(iii) To develop a comprehensive programme in community forestry to cater for the needs of the communities and to promote active local community involvement in forestry management projects an example Badas Forest Reserve, Berakas Forest Reserve;

(iv) To undertake and support intensive research programmes in forestry and forest products aimed at enhancing maximum benefits from the forest an example Sungai Ingei Protection Forest, Batu Forest Reserve, Belait Peat Swamp Forest.

Apart from the National Forestry Policy other strategy to protect biodiversity in the country that are carried out and in the pipeline includes:

i. Natural resources areas, particularly those containing biologically rich habitats and ecosystems will be established and maintained as zones for the conservation and protection of indigenous flora and fauna and genetic resources.

ii. The nation's forests and their resources will be managed sustainably to ensure continued and sustainable economic benefits and compatibility with environmental stability and ecological.

iii. Seas, coastal zones, lakes, rivers, mangroves and other wetlands, islands and coral reefs shall be managed in an environmentally sound manner.

iv. National inventory will be updated with particular emphasis on depletion and renewability, to serve as a guide to policy formulation and decision making.

National Physical Plan

The NPP contributes towards the conservation of the Country's biodiversity among others it aims to

- Protect national heritage areas and locations, under which greater resolve are dedicated from all - quarters to conserve, among others, the natural resources and manage it in a sustainable manner in particular for areas of natural beauty and ecological richness such as pristine forests, hills and wetlands, and habitats for Brunei Darussalam fauna and flora.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) shall be integrated in the planning and management of land use and natural resources to ensure sustainable development.
- The New Bandar Ser Begawan Development Master Plan will provide clear development strategies to guide future development.

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

There are various legislations that contribute towards the implementation of CBD in the country. In other words, each sector has its own sets of laws and regulations, and guidelines to regulate biodiversity related issues. Indirectly, this also provides a platform for the mainstreaming process.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of laws and regulations:

- Water Supply Act
- Land Acquisition Act
- Land Code
- Town and Country Planning Act
- Forestry Act
- Fisheries Order 2009
- Wild Fauna & Flora Order 2007
- Wildlife Protection Act

4. Implementing Agencies

The implementation of CBD is carried out by various agencies. The programmes of work for thematic areas and cross-cutting issues under CBD are coordinated by ministries which are supported by several other implementing agencies.

The table below presents ministries and relevant implementing agencies involved in terms of programmes of work by thematic areas and cross cutting issues (Table 2). Such involvement ensures effective coordination among them which is necessary for the successful implementation of CBD. It also demonstrates that concerns on biodiversity are integrated in the roles and functions of these agencies.

Table 2. CBD: Main Implementing Agencies

Ministries/State Agencies	Agencies
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR)	Forestry Department, Agriculture Department, Fishery Department
Ministry of Development	Water Department, Land Department, Town and Country Planning Department, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Department of Environment and Parks

5. Institutional Framework for Implementation

The existing institutional framework for implementing conservation of biological diversity reflects the cross-sectoral integration of the many agencies involved in implementation. Through this, the process of mainstreaming is also achieved.

National Focal Point

The focal point for the implementation of CBD in Brunei Darussalam is the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through the Forestry Department. Forestry Department works closely with other institutions and agencies in various areas such as in scientific assessments, indicators and cooperation, access and benefits-sharing, traditional knowledge for CBD, national reports, education and public awareness.

Voluntary Carbon Offset for the Conservation of Biological Diversity

One of the travel agencies has introduced a mechanism to off-set green house gas emission in April 2010. Passengers are making voluntary contributions to reduce their carbon footprints of their flights by contributing towards the planting of trees as part of the 60,000 trees planting campaign this year and for the HoB trust fund.