**Region: South East Asia (Islands)**

Countries Include: Indonesia, Island Malaysia (Islands), Philippines, Timor-Leste

**Threats to Biodiversity, Environment, and IPLC Regional Context:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Threats to biodiversity and environment | Threats to IPLCs, and Root Causes |
| Indonesia | * Lowland forest, which is the most diverse area for biodiversity, is the most threatened forest due to the conversion of land use, moving farms, irreversible forest management, development of infrastructure, mining, fires and various illegal activities. Moreover, land clearance through the conversion of natural forest to oil palm plantation is a contributing factor to the damage in the forest area. In 2003, oil palm plantation constituted 5.25 million hectares and increased to 5.59 million hectares by 2005. It is predicted that the expansion of oil palm plantations will increase to 13.8 million hectares by 2020. Major disruption to the mangrove forest is caused by conversion into settlements, roads, ports and other infrastructure development. Illegal logging is also a factor that threatens preservation of the mangrove forest. The main cause of damage and decreased quality of coral reefs is suspected to come primarily from inappropriate fishing methods, coral reef mining and sedimentation.[[1]](#footnote-0) * From 2001 to 2018, Indonesia lost 25.6Mha of tree cover in primary forests (2001, tropics only), equivalent to a 16 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 10.5Gt of CO₂ emissions. * In Indonesia, the top 7 regions were responsible for 61 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Riau had the most relative tree cover loss at 47 percent compared to an average of 14 percent. | * Indonesia is ranked 96th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). While it has been slowly improving across economic, political and social indicators over the past decade. It has been improving on security apparatus but worsened on human rights - with recent plateaus for both in the past few years. * According to Global Witness, at least 1 land defender has been killed in Indonesia between 2016-2018. |
| Malaysia (Islands) | * Threats to biodiversity in Malaysia include threats to ecosystems and species, such as land development, pollution, poaching and collection, encroachment, climate change and invasive alien species.[[2]](#footnote-1) * From 2001 to 2018, Malaysia lost 7.73Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 26 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 3.38Gt of CO₂ emissions. * In Malaysia, the top 9 regions were responsible for 72 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Melaka had the most relative tree cover loss at 47 percent compared to an average of 28 percent. | * Malaysia is ranked 120th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). While it has been slowly improving across economic, political, social, and cohesion indicators over the past decade. * According to Global Witness, at least 1 land defender has been killed in Malaysia between 2016-2018. |
| The Philippines | * Threats to biodiversity differ from one ecosystem to another. In the forest ecosystem, the primary causes of forest loss are commercial exploitation and population growth (including lifestyle and consumption patterns) and the introduction of invasive alien species.[[3]](#footnote-2) * From 2001 to 2018, the Philippines lost 1.16Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 6.2 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 473Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In the Philippines, the top 11 regions were responsible for 46 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Agusan del Sur had the most relative tree cover loss at 13 percent compared to an average of 4.9 percent. | * The Philippines is ranked 54th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). While it has been improving on most economic indicators for the better part of the past decade, it has been stagnant or worsening on social and cohesion indicators. It has sharply worsened on human rights since 2016. * According to Global Witness, at least 106 land defenders were killed in the Philippines between 2016-2018. |
| Timor- Leste | * Over-exploitation and unsustainable use of natural resources, as well as habitat degradation and fragmentation are the main drivers of biodiversity loss in Timor-Leste. These are mainly caused by deforestation, unabated collection of sand and stones in rivers, unsustainable agricultural practices, and land conversion to other uses. Pollution, invasive alien species, and climate change are also contributing factors to biodiversity loss.[[4]](#footnote-3) * From 2001 to 2018, Timor-Leste lost 25.8kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 3.5 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 10.2Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Timor-Leste, the top 5 regions were responsible for 60 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Covalima had the most relative tree cover loss at 6.2 percent compared to an average of 3.5 percent. | * Timor-Leste is ranked 47th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been generally improving across cohesion, and political indicators since 2011, and along social and economic indicators since 2018. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |

1. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=id> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=my#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=PH> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=tl#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)