

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE WORKING GROUP

2024

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIRS



Yang Mulia Dayang Nor Hamidah binti Haji Hamidon

Deputy Permanent Secretary (Safety and Welfare)
Ministry of Home Affairs



Yang Mulia Sr. Dayang Hajah Norhayati binti Haji Mohd Yaakub

Deputy Permanent Secretary (Construction Industry and Development)
Ministry of Development

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

As we draw 2024 to a close, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the journey we have undertaken this year and reiterate the key messages shared at the start of the year. Climate change remains an existential challenge for our generation and beyond. While **Brunei Darussalam contributes just 0.017%** to global emissions, the impacts we face—whether through extreme rainfall, active weather, or rising temperatures—are a stark reminder that no nation is immune. This is why adaptation remains at the forefront of our efforts to protect our country, our environment, and our people.

At the start of the year, we emphasised three key priorities for us: **quality data and analysis, collaboration, and actionable solutions.** These priorities have guided our work throughout 2024, particularly as we advance the development of our National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Thanks to the collective efforts of the Adaptation and Resilience Working Group (ARWG) and the contributions of all stakeholders, we have made important strides forward. However, let us be clear: we still have much more to do, and we need to do it fast.

The impacts of climate change are accelerating, and so must our response. The **ARWG must push harder to identify, prioritise, and implement measures that strengthen our nation's resilience**. We cannot afford to be complacent. Every delay risks leaving critical gaps that could weaken our ability to protect key sectors and safeguard our people's well-being in the face of future climate uncertainties.

As we reflect on this year's progress, we should be proud of what we have achieved together, but also remain mindful of the urgency and scale of the work ahead. Looking forward to 2025, we urge the ARWG to continue leveraging credible data to assess vulnerabilities, strengthen collaboration across agencies and stakeholders, and ensure that the solutions we design are not only ambitious but also practical and actionable.

The work we do today lays the foundation for Brunei Darussalam's future. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our efforts result in a NAP that is robust, inclusive, and ready to address the challenges of tomorrow. Let us move forward with determination, urgency, and a shared commitment to making Brunei Darussalam a resilient and adaptive nation.

Thank you for your continued dedication and contributions. Let us carry this momentum into 2025 and beyond as we work toward submitting the NAP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by the end of next year.

Wabillahi taufik walhidayah, wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE UNIT



Yang Mulia Mohammad Zulfadhli bin Haji Mahri

Head of Adaptation and Resilience Unit
Brunei Climate Change Office
Prime Minister's Office

As we end 2024 and welcome 2025, I am encouraged to see the dedication and commitment from the Adaptation and Resilience Working Group (ARWG) members. Climate change remains a pressing challenge, demanding urgent action, collaboration, and innovative solutions. It is important to emphasise, while Brunei Darussalam contributes only 0.017% to global emissions, we are not spared from its impacts. Heavy rainfall, active weather patterns, and other climate-related challenges serve as stark reminders that adaptation is not a choice but a necessity.

Aligned with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) goals, we have set ambitious yet vital targets for our nation. Our primary goal is to develop and finalise the next iteration of the **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**, which will be **submitted to UNFCCC by 2025**. Beyond this, we aim to operationalise the NAP by 2030 to enhance Brunei Darussalam's **adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability** to the impacts of climate change.

Alongside this, we will be also working on the **National Climate Vulnerability Assessment (NCVA)** to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities across sectors. This assessment, **targeted for completion by 2027**, will provide the foundation for a data-driven and evidence-based approach to adaptation planning. As highlighted in our earlier ARWG meetings, this dual track of developing the NAP and conducting the NCVA reflects our commitment to act swiftly and decisively.

Key messages from our ARWG Co-chairs earlier this year remain central to our mission as we move forward:

- Quality and Credible Data: To design effective solutions, we must first understand the risks we face—not only in the short term but for future generations. This requires robust data and analysis to identify sectors most vulnerable to climate adversities.
- Collaboration: Adaptation is not a siloed effort. It requires input, expertise, and cooperation across all agencies and stakeholders. By working together, we can analyse risks, prioritise actionable measures, and adopt institutional arrangements that align with global best practices.
- Actionable and Realistic Plans: Our adaptation strategies must be ambitious yet grounded in practicality. They must translate into real-world actions that make a tangible difference in building resilience.

Our responses must keep pace to the accelerating climate impacts. Any delay risks leaving critical gaps that could undermine our ability to safeguard Brunei's environment, economy, and the well-being of our people. These efforts are also deeply aligned with our national vision, *Wawasan 2035*, which strives to establish a sustainable and resilient Brunei Darussalam for future generations. **Every investment we make in climate adaptation is an investment in our people, our environment, and our future**.

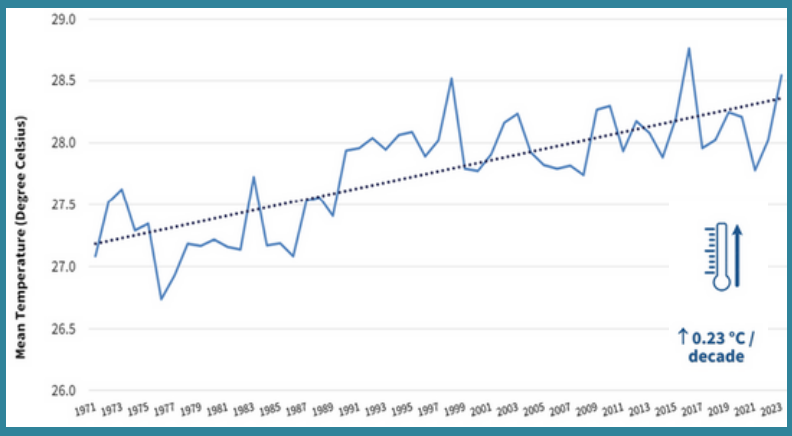
As we move forward, I urge everyone to remain steadfast in your efforts. Your expertise, contributions, and collaboration are the cornerstones of our success. Let us set a high but realistic ambition for Brunei Darussalam and leave no stone unturned in our pursuit of a robust, inclusive, and future-proof NAP.

Together, we can ensure that our nation is resilient and adaptive to the impacts of the changing climate. I look forward to a year of progress and meaningful outcomes as we work toward these shared goals.

Alhamdulillah for 2024, Bismillah for 2025.

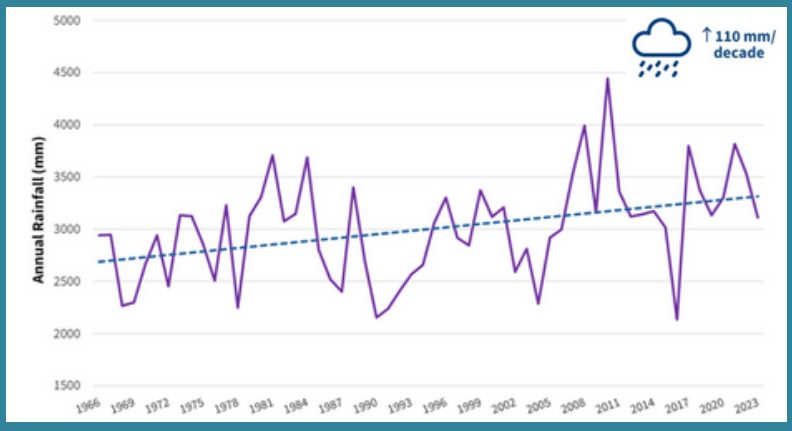
KEY METRICS

Annual mean temperature trend (1971 - 2023)



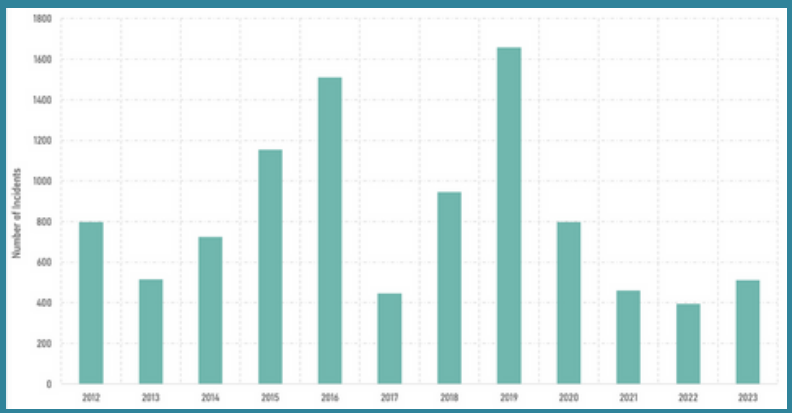


Annual mean rainfall trend (1966 - 2023)





Number of forest fires incidents (2012 - 2023)





Brunei Darussalam, though responsible for only a minuscule amount of **0.017% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 (equivalent to 14.03 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide)**, is still vulnerable to climate change.

The country's annual mean temperature has risen by 0.23 °C per decade, and annual mean rainfall amount has increased by 110 mm per decade, exacerbating existing climate hazards. These include devastating forest fires, frequent flooding, strong winds, and landslides. Majority of the accompanying photographs pertains to recent occurrences that happened in 2024.

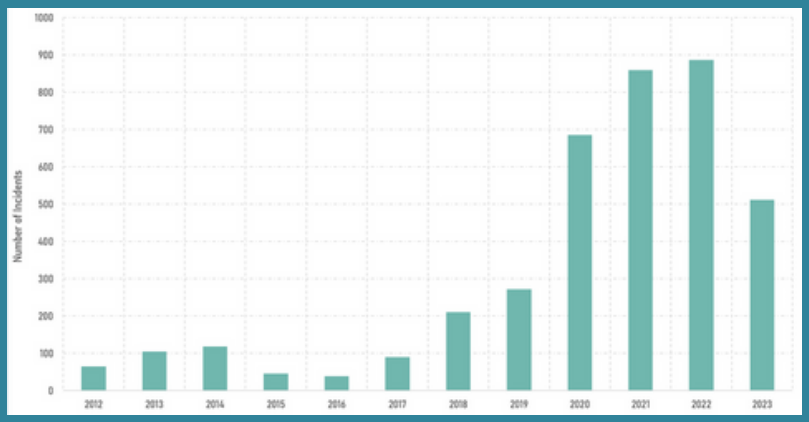
Sources:

Left: Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (Top),
Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (Middle),
Brunei Fire and Rescue Department (Bottom)

Right: Canva Stock Photo (Top),
Borneo Bulletin (Middle),
Brunei Fire and Rescue Department (Bottom)

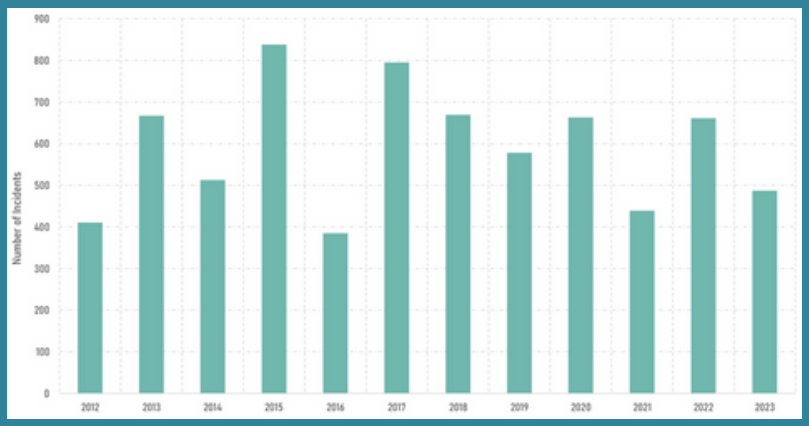
KEY METRICS

Number of flooding incidents (2012 - 2023)



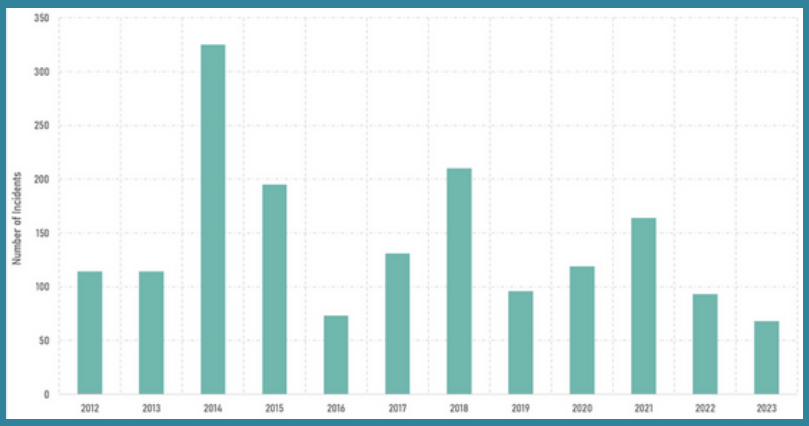


Number of strong winds incidents (2012 - 2023)





Number of landslide incidents (2012 - 2023)





Brunei Darussalam, though responsible for only a minuscule amount of **0.017% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 (equivalent to 14.03 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide)**, is still vulnerable to climate change.

The country's annual mean temperature has risen by 0.23 °C per decade, and annual mean rainfall amount has increased by 110 mm per decade, exacerbating existing climate hazards. These include devastating forest fires, frequent flooding, strong winds, and landslides. Majority of the accompanying photographs pertains to recent occurrences that happened in 2024.

Sources:

Left: Department of Drainage and Sewerage, Public Works Department (Top),
Brunei Fire and Rescue Department (Middle)
Department of Technical Services, Public Works Department (Bottom)

Right: Video screenshot viraled from WhatsApp (Top),
Video screenshot viraled from WhatsApp (Middle),
Borneo Bulletin (Bottom)

قجابت قراوبهن اقليم نكارا بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE

What is Adaptation & Resilience?

The Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy (BNCCP) aims to build a low-carbon, climate-resilient future for the nation.

A key strategy within this policy is ***Strategy 8: Climate Resilience & Adaptation*** to enhance Brunei's adaptive capacity and foster collaboration to promote climate resilience.

This includes integrating climate science research to inform effective policies and nature-based solutions for present and future generations.

What is National Adaptation Plan?

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is a dynamic framework that seeks to enhance the nation's resilience by building adaptive capacity and implementing comprehensive adaptation strategies and projects.

It focuses on 6 key sectors vulnerable to climate change, namely marine protection, biodiversity and environment, water resources, agriculture and food security, infrastructure and urban resilience, and health and livelihoods.

Who is Adaptation and Resilience Working Group?

The Adaptation and Resilience Working Group (ARWG) comprises of government agencies, academia, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector to raise awareness about climate adaptation, enhance climate resilience, and engage with climate experts to strengthen Brunei Darussalam's adaptive capacity.

Here are some notable key achievements from the ARWG members this year.

Training Programme on Environmental Drivers of Health Security

Collaboration Across Borders for Climate Adaptation and Resilience







— 29 January 2024, Singapore, Republic of Singapore

Former ARWG Chair, Yang Mulia Ir. Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing, and Professional) at the Ministry of Development with several other ARWG members attended the Singapore Cooperation Programme Training Award: Singapore-United States Third Country Training Programme.

The programme focused on strengthening Brunei Darussalam's bilateral relations and cooperation with Singapore, primarily in facilitating the sharing of expertise and knowledge in developing and improving climate adaptation strategies.

A bilateral meeting with the Republic of Singapore's Permanent Secretary (National Development), Mrs. Ow Foong Pheng, was held that centred on the urgent need to integrate climate change measures into national development agendas, specifically on buildings and land use.

Other highlights also included visits to the Meteorological Service Singapore, Marina Barrage and National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS), Prime Minister's Office.

S8: ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

Community Leaders Program

Preparing Today for a Disaster- and Climate-Resilient Community Tomorrow



— 23 April 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The National Disaster Management Center, Ministry of Home Affairs organised a 2-days Community Leaders Program (*Program Pemimpin Masyarakat*).

This initiative aimed to empower community leaders with essential knowledge for disaster management and to incorporate their insights into policy and planning processes.

Officers from Brunei Climate Change Office, Prime Minister's Office were invited to participate in a dialogue on the climate change impacts, particularly those affecting livelihoods.

30 *penghulu* and village heads participated in the program.

Adaptation and Resilience Working Group (ARWG) Meetings









— 29 May and 19 August 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The ARWG is presently co-chaired by Yang Mulia Sr. Dayang Hajah Norhayati binti Haji Mohd Yaakub, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Construction Industry and Development) of Ministry of Development and Yang Mulia Dayang Nor Hamidah binti Haji Hamidon, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Safety and Welfare) of Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ARWG meetings focused on informing members on the latest initiatives and projects related to climate resilience, the latest progress on Brunei Darussalam's NAP and National Climate Vulnerability Assessment (NCVA).

The meetings aimed to foster effective adaptation planning, coordination, and address emerging challenges, ensuring collaboration among government agencies, academia, NGOs, and the private sector.

Important Deadlines to Remember:

2025 **Submission of the National Adaptation Plan** to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

2027 **Submission of the National Climate Vulnerability Assessment** to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

2030 **Operationalisation of the National Adaptation Plan**

S8: ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre-World Meteorological Organisation (ASMC-WMO) Regional Forum



— 4 to 6 September 2024, Singapore, Republic of Singapore

Officers from Brunei Climate Change Office, Prime Minister's Office and Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications attended the Singapore-based forum.

This forum acted as a valuable platform for participants to exchange knowledge, make informed decisions, and improve preparedness for climate change and extreme weather events.





National Disaster Management Centre's Community Programmes

Taking Actions Together for a Climate-Resilient Nation







The Brunei Climate Change Office, Prime Minister's Office was involved in some community programmes hosted by the National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs in Kg Rimba, Gadong and Kg Pandan, Belait.

The programme aimed to increase public understanding on the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved for disaster management and the importance of being prepared for disasters, including climate-induced disasters such as flooding and forest fires.

It seeks to empower the public with the knowledge and skills to take actions during disasters, fostering a resilient community.

Ministry of Health's Sustainability Initiative launched

— 10 October 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The Ministry of Health, an ARWG member, launched a Sustainability Initiative event. The event is focused on building a climate-resilient healthcare system while safeguarding public health and the environment.

The Brunei Climate Change Office, Prime Minister's Office was invited to showcase the BNCCP and NAP, as well highlighted the Ministry of Health's role in the development of NAP and future adaptation plans within the health sector.

S8: ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Environmental Regulatory Roadshow





— 12 November 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) extended an invitation to the Brunei Climate Change Office, Prime Minister's Office to participate in their roadshow to showcase the country's climate change policies and progress.

The roadshow aimed to foster awareness and understanding of relevant environmental regulations for Brunei-Shell Joint Ventures (BSJV) operations.

Other government agencies such as Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation under the Ministry of Development, Forestry Department and Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Petroleum Authority and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Secretariat Brunei Darussalam under the Prime Minister's Office were also present.

29th Conference of the Parties (COP29)

The World Cannot Wait for Tomorrow: Raise Climate Ambition Now





— 11 to 22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

Officers from the Brunei Climate Change Office, Prime Minister's Office participated in the Conference of the Parties (COP) which took place in its 29th session in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Several key negotiation tracks were followed including Loss and Damage (L&D), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

All Parties called for transforming climate ambitions into actions, with developing countries urging for financial, technical and capacity building assistance. One key outcome from COP29 is the provision for the establishment of a support programme for the implementation of NAPs for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

This is crucial in aiding them, as well as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) against the worsening impacts of climate change, and ensure keeping that 1.5°C ambition alive.

All Parties, including Brunei Darussalam, will continue its work on climate adaptation to ensure our future is resilient and equitable.

كمنترين كصيحتن
KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Introduction

Ministry of Health, through the Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) is a member of the Adaptation and Resilience Working Group (ARWG).

The Department is also a key member within the Ministry's Climate, Health and Sustainability Taskforce.

What do they do?

The taskforce is responsible in creating a resilient and sustainable health systems that protects and promote the health of the community, while safeguarding the environment for future generation.

Its first pilot workshop on GreenPossible Hospital and Sustainability Initiative was recently conducted.

What is next?

The next workshop is planned to be held in Suri Seri Begawan Hospital, Belait District as the Ministry will continue its effort to transform the health system into a Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities (CRESHCF).



GreenPossible Hospital Workshop Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam Hospital, Temburong



Ministry of Health's Sustainability Initiative Launching Event

GreenPossible Hospital Workshop

From Care to Climate: Empowering Healthcare Workers to Lead the Way



— 26 September 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The pilot GreenPossible Hospital Workshop Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam Hospital, Temburong was conducted by the Ministry of Health.

The workshop's objective is to understand the significance of climate health work within the health system, as well as identifying the role of healthcare workers as agents of change for a sustainable health system.

Participants were expected to analyse existing problems and find a climate resilient sustainable solution and to develop and present an actionable project aligned with international standards.

They were also introduced to 3 key frameworks:

1. World Health Organization (WHO)'s operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health system;
2. Global Green Healthy Hospital Sustainability Goals; and
3. Brunei's *Protokol Hijau*.

Launching of the Sustainability Initiative

Health and Sustainability United: A New Era is Here

— 10 October 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The Climate, Health and Sustainability Taskforce under the Ministry of Health launched its Sustainability Initiative.

20 Green Teams were awarded with Green Team badges, whose role is to spearhead sustainability initiatives, monitor and report progress to the Taskforce. Some of these sustainability initiatives include efficient energy use, waste management, water conservation, sustainable procurement, and green building and infrastructure.



Not only does the initiative contributes to Brunei Darussalam's *Protokol Hijau*, it also affirmed the Ministry's commitment and alignment to international standards such as the World Health Organization (WHO)'s operational framework for building climate resilience and low-carbon health system, as well as Global Green and Healthy Hospital Sustainability Goals.

The launch also featured exhibition booths from Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) from the Ministry, Brunei Climate Change Office (BCCO) from Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (BDMD) from Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Green Brunei, InnovoLab and BIGBWN.

ڤوست ڤڠوروسن بنچان کبڠسا‌ن
Pusat Pengurusan Bencana Kebangsaan
Kementerian Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri





The Community Leaders Program (PPM)

— 22 to 23 April, 15 to 16 May, and 19 to 21 September 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

This program took place at CAE-Brunei MPTC Rimba Gadong, Residential of Belait District Officer and the Theatre Hall Brunei-Muara District Office, aimed to enhance the capacity of community leaders in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to build disaster-resilient communities. A total of 92 community leaders from all four districts participated in this program.

School-Based Disaster Risk Management (SBDRM) Program



— 12 to 14 November, and 20 to 21 November 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

Two programs were successfully conducted held at Sufri Bolkiah Secondary School in Tutong District and at Pengiran Anak Puteri Besar Primary School in the Brunei-Muara District.

These programs aimed to raise awareness, build capacity, and enhance the preparedness of school communities to effectively manage risks and disasters by adopting appropriate and precautionary measures. A total of 91 students participated in these initiatives.







Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) 2024

Total of 14 CBDRM briefings are planned to be held in 2024. To date, 13 briefings have been conducted at government and non-government organisations.

The briefing aimed to empower the public by providing information about the CBDRM Program (one of NDMC's annual projects), to encourage active community participation and to foster a safer, disaster-resilient community.

The 44th & 45th ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Meeting, the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), and the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)

— 7 to 10 May, and 21 to 25 October 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam hosted and subsequently chaired the 44th and 45th ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Meetings, the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), and the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) from 7 to 10 May 2024 at the Rizqun International Hotel, and from 21 to 25 October 2024 at The Empire Brunei.

The meetings discussed strategic planning at the regional and international levels based on the AADMER Agreement.

One of the key outcomes was the adoption of the "*ASEAN Ministerial Declaration on Building a Resilient ASEAN through Inclusive and Sustainable Disaster Recovery*", which aligns with Brunei Darussalam's leadership theme.





Interview *Rampai Pagi* segment Radio Television Brunei (RTB) on Climate Change and Preparations for the Upcoming Monsoon Season





— 23 August & 24 December 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), as the coordinating agency in disaster management, had the opportunity to be interviewed on the *Rampai Pagi* RTB on 23 August 2024 during the Climate Action segment titled "*Climate Change*," and in the Preparedness for the Northeast Monsoon Risk segment on 24 December 2024.

These segments provided a platform to share information with the public about disaster management and climate change, emphasising the need for individuals and communities to take appropriate actions.

Mesyuarat Majlis Kebangsaan (MBK) 01/2024







— 3 September 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The National Disaster Council (NDC) Meeting 01/2024 convened on 3 September 2024 at the Ministry of Home Affairs to discuss on flood mitigation and road elevation initiatives, forest and bushfire operations, and other pertinent issues.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was to update the Tremor, Earthquake & Tsunami Response Plan for Version 2.

The National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) Meeting for the Upcoming Northeast Monsoon (MTL)



— 9 December 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) meeting for the upcoming Northeast Monsoon (MTL) was held on 9th December 2024 at the At-Tafkir Conference Room, National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).

The meeting discussed preparedness and mitigation measures by relevant agencies to address potential disasters, especially during the unpredictable weather conditions expected to affect the country from December 2024 to March 2025.

Brunei Darussalam's Appointment as the 33rd New Member of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) 2024





— 12 to 13 November 2024, Hanoi, Vietnam

In May 2024, Brunei Darussalam was officially recognised as the 33rd member of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), signifying the nation's growing commitment to advancing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and fostering regional resilience.

The 2024 Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR), an annual event organised by the ADRC, was held from 12 to 13 November 2024 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The conference aimed to raise awareness of the climate crisis and flooding challenges in Asia, introduce disaster reduction infrastructure, identify gaps in disaster management policies, and promote knowledge sharing and collaboration opportunities among ADRC member countries through the exchange of experiences.

The ADRC Steering Committee Meeting for Financial Year FY2024 was also held following the first day of the conference.







Transboundary Cooperation Workshop in ASEAN Region - Development of "Peace Forest Initiative"

— 11 to 13 September 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

The Forestry Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism attended the workshop, which centred on forest restoration initiatives of various countries, highlighting lessons learned and their potential impacts on transboundary issues among neighbouring nations.

Some highlights included discussion on potential project ideas aimed at environmental restoration, sustainable land management, and enhanced regional cooperation.

Workshop on Mangrove Restoration and Rehabilitation for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

— 18 to 19 September 2024, Bali, Republic of Indonesia

Effective mangrove forest management plays a key role in preserving mangrove forests in addressing climate change issues, as highlighted to Forestry Department officers during the workshop.

Mangrove forests offer numerous benefits for tackling climate change, such as protecting against strong waves, high winds, and global warming, as they have the highest carbon absorption rates among forests. With the implementation of appropriate policies in each country, this can contribute to effective forest resource management.



2024 Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (Brunei MYCE)

— 11 to 13 June 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The Brunei Darussalam Biodiversity Conference centred around the theme "*Nature's Blueprint for Sustainability*", which was held at the International Convention Centre.

The event feature 46 speakers, both international and national, sharing their expertise on various aspects of biodiversity. A total of 6 thematic topics were discussed which included i) Ecosystem Services: The Lifeline of Biodiversity, ii) Conservation Innovations: Restoring and Safeguarding Biodiversity, iii) Youth Engagement in Biodiversity: Empowering the Next Generation, iv) Blue Biodiversity: Conserving Marine Life for a Resilient Ocean, v) Biodiversity's Role in Building Resilience to Climate Change, and vi) Biodiversity's Contribution to Sustainable Economies.



Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Tutiaty binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism delivered her closing remarks, emphasising the significance of collaboration and the imperative to foster partnerships among diverse stakeholders in our collective commitment to preserving natural ecosystems.

She also stressed that biodiversity conservation requires engagement from individuals, communities and organisations to ensure the success in safeguarding these crucial ecosystems.



ASEAN Forum on Peatland Biodiversity

— 2 to 5 September 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The forum featured expert presentations from ASEAN Member States, as well as representatives from higher education institutions and government agencies from Brunei Darussalam.

The forum included a site visit to Badas Peat Swamp Forest, concerning the conservation strategies and sustainable management of peatlands. Participants also engaged in networking opportunities and developed action plans to enhance collaboration in protecting peatland ecosystems.



National Workshop on Updating the National Biodiversity Policy and Strategic Plan of Action

— 1 to 2 October 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The workshop gathered participants from various government agencies, higher education institutions, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in biodiversity management and conservation.

It also featured constructive discussions among participants, who worked together to address challenges and to align Brunei Darussalam's National Biodiversity Policy and Strategic Plan of Action with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This alignment aims to ensure measurable progress in reducing biodiversity loss and prevent biodiversity extinction by 2030.

جابتن كاجي چواچا بروني دارالسلام

BDMD
Brunei Darussalam
Meteorological
Department

"Towards a Weather-Ready and Climate-Resilient ASEAN" Regional Forum



— 4 to 6 September 2024, Singapore, Republic of Singapore

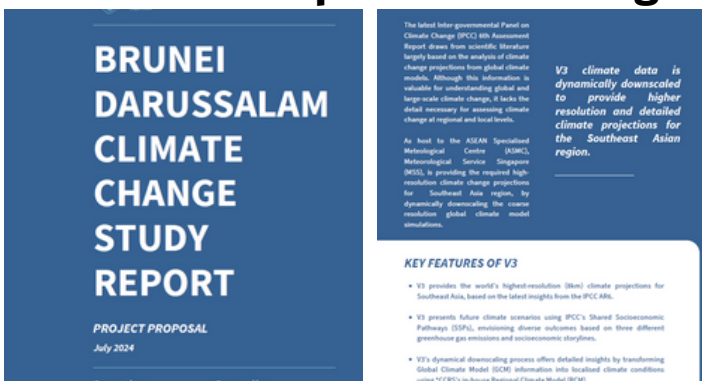
Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications and Brunei Climate Change Office, Prime Minister's Office joined the ASMC-WMO Regional Forum "*Towards A Weather-Ready and Climate-Resilient ASEAN*" in Singapore.

The forum was attended by the Acting Director of Meteorology, Yang Mulia Rokiah binti Haji Angas as Head of Delegation and accompanied by Yang Mulia Nurulinani binti Haji Jahari, Head of Climate Services and Climate Change Section. Yang Mulia Mohammad Zulfadhli bin Haji Mahri, Head of Adaptation and Resilience Unit from Brunei Climate Change Office was also present.

The forum stressed the importance of the Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative, which aims to enhance early warning systems globally.

Additionally, the forum also discussed on the importance of climate services which is a critical tool for building a climate-resilient nation.

Localised Climate Insights for Effective Adaptation Planning



Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (BDMD) in collaboration with Centre for Climate Research Singapore (CCRS), Meteorological Service Singapore (MSS) obtained the dataset of Singapore's Third National Climate Change Study (V3) which is a high-resolution Climate Projection data.

BDMD has proposed a project working together with Brunei Climate Change Office (BCCO) to fully utilize this dataset and produce a Climate Change Study Report for Brunei Darussalam.

Climate Adaptation & International Disaster Management Programme



— 9 to 11 October 2024, Singapore, Republic of Singapore

Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department attended the Climate Adaptation and International Disaster Management (CADM) Programme at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

This program provided insights into climate adaptation in ASEAN, focusing on transition risks, corporate sustainability, and innovative solutions. Site visits and technology exhibits also enhanced the overall learning experience.

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RESTORING BRUNEI'S FORESTS: LUMUT REFORESTATION AND BADAS TREE PLANTING PROJECTS

Over the past decade, Brunei Darussalam has undertaken significant reforestation efforts to mitigate the impacts of deforestation and support climate resilience. Two key initiatives, led by Associate Professor Dr Rahayu Sukri from the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research at Universiti Brunei Darussalam — *the Lumut Reforestation Project (2015–2024) and the Badas Tree Planting Project (2021–2024)* — demonstrate UBD's commitment to rehabilitating degraded ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity in critical forest areas.

Lumut Reforestation Project (2015 - 2024)

The Lumut Reforestation Project was launched in 2015 as a pilot project for the reforestation of a degraded Kerapah area in Lumut, Belait District. The project planted 240 saplings of native tree species, including the tropical conifer *Agathis borneensis* and dipterocarp species *Anisoptera reticulata*, *Dryobalanops rappa* and *Shorea albida*.

Now in the nineth year, the planted saplings have grown into trees and have shown encouraging survival and significant growth. The peat swamp species, *Dryobalanops rappa*, locally known as *Kapur paya*, showed the highest survival rates and has since been recommended as a suitable species for use in peatland restoration projects in Brunei conducted by the Forestry Department.



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Badas Tree Planting (2021 - 2024)

In Badas, an ambitious tree planting project involving over 180 volunteers was initiated in 2021, focusing on restoration of peat swamp forest, a vital ecosystem for carbon storage and climate regulation.

The project planted over 200 *Shorea albida* saplings in degraded peatland along Jalan Badas, combined with monitoring of hydrology and fire risk in the area.

Shorea albida is a tree species that can only be found in Borneo, and Brunei is the stronghold of this high conservation value species. Now reaching its fourth year, the Badas Tree Planting project continues to monitor the growth of the planted saplings.











Both the Lumut and Badas projects underscore the importance of long-term commitment to forest restoration and adaptive management strategies. These efforts not only contribute to Brunei's climate resilience but also help conserve biodiversity, restore critical ecosystem services, and mitigate the impacts of deforestation.

As Brunei continues to face climate challenges, these projects serve as key examples of how nature-based solutions can support both environmental conservation and climate action.

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ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE WORKING GROUP

Thank you to the ARWG members for their contributions, and let us continue our collaborative efforts in the year 2025 to ensure a climate-resilient Brunei Darussalam.