

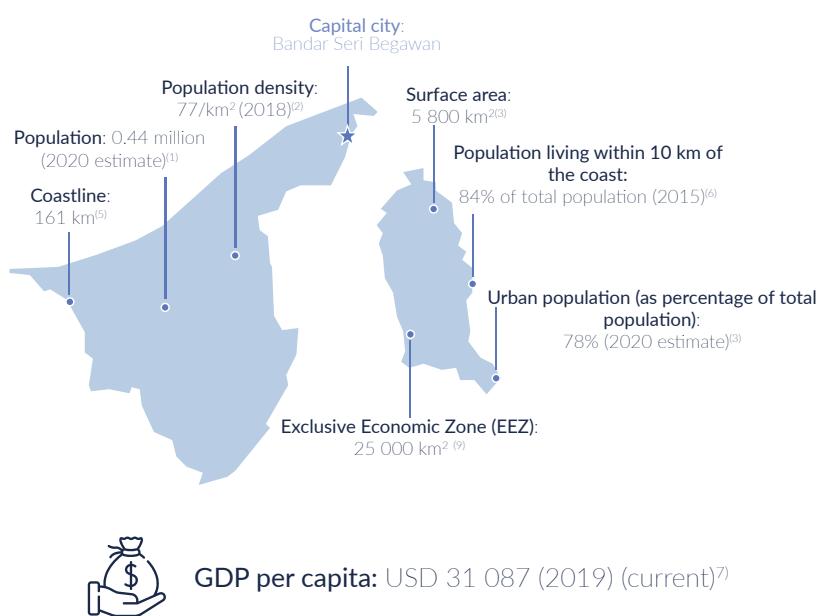
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Brunei Darussalam has various targets in place to support waste reduction, but none concerning reduction of marine plastics pollution.

Millions of tonnes of plastics enter the ocean every year, with tremendous environmental, economic and social costs that are difficult to quantify. However, the marine plastics pollution problem cannot be solved just by cleaning up the ocean. Most marine plastics are not discarded directly into the sea but derive from land-based sources. They end up in the sea due to a multitude of reasons, such as the inadequate filtering of wastewater, improper or illegal disposal, or unexpected natural disasters. Land-based initiatives are therefore essential to addressing marine plastics pollution.

The OECD stands ready to help develop policy advice and financing strategies to address marine plastics pollution in Southeast Asia, a region where this problem is particularly acute.

Figure 1. Brunei: Key demographic, geographic, and economic indicators



In Brunei Darussalam, the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (DEPR),⁽⁸⁾ under the Ministry of Development, is responsible for waste management; environmental conservation and management; management of landscape and recreational areas;

and environmental co-operation at national, bilateral and international levels. The Department is also responsible for developing environmental acts and guidelines, as well as disseminating information to the general public.

1. United Nations Population Division (2019), *World Population Prospects 2019*.

2. United Nations Statistics Division (2019), *Demographic Yearbook 2018*.

3. United Nations Population Division (2018), *World Urbanization Prospects: 2018 Revision*.

4. United Nations Statistics Division (2019), *Demographic Yearbook 2018*.

5. CIA (2020), *The World Factbook*.

6. OECD (2020), *OECD Statistics (OECD calculations based on Florczyk et al, 2019)*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.2760/062975>.

7. World Bank (2020), *World Development Indicators Database*.

8. Ministry of Development Brunei Darussalam; Department of Environment, Parks, and Recreation (2021), <http://env.gov.bn/Theme/Home.aspx>

9. Flanders Marine Institute, 2019



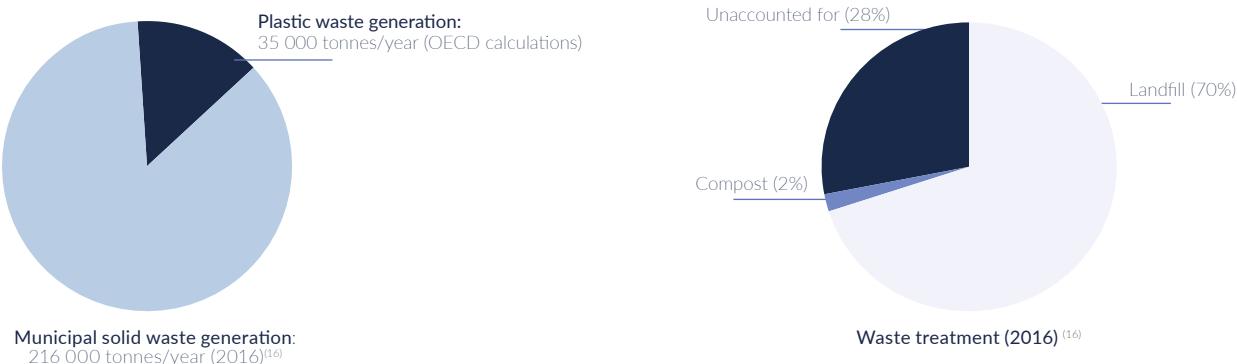
Government Policies

Brunei Darussalam has various **targets** in place to support waste reduction. For example, it targets 15% of waste to be recycled by 2020⁽¹⁰⁾, and aims for this to increase to 30% of waste recycled by 2035.⁽¹¹⁾ The country also aims to reduce municipal solid waste to 1 kg/capita/day by 2035 from its current level of 1.3-1.4 kg/capita/day.⁽¹²⁾

The country has a goal of no plastic bags in

supermarkets by 2019 but this was not achieved, and was replaced with a voluntary initiative⁽¹³⁾. A voluntary "No Plastic Bag Weekend" began in 2011, extending to Fridays in 2012, and extended to the rest of the week over 2018. Over 60 stores and businesses participate in the initiative, with plans to encourage smaller retail shops, restaurants and market vendors in the future, though progress is incomplete.^{(14);(15)}

Figure 2. Brunei: Waste and plastic waste statistics



Waste collection and disposal

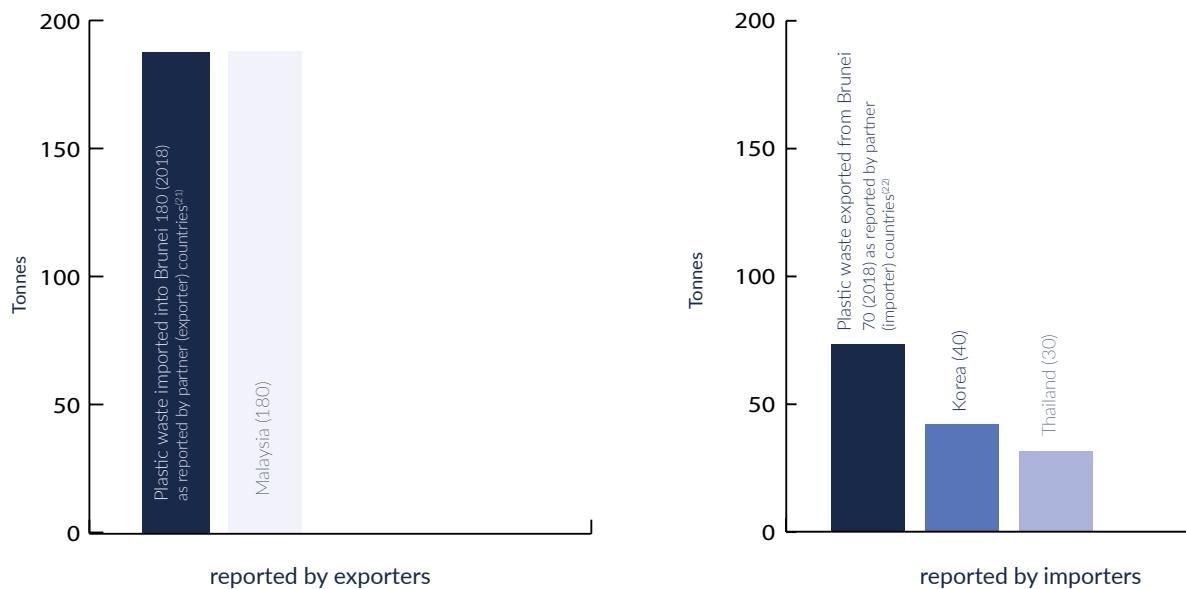
Waste separation at source is encouraged but still very limited.⁽¹⁷⁾ The total amount of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) in 2016 was estimated at 216,000 tonnes, with an estimated 16% plastic.⁽¹⁸⁾ The majority

of plastic waste needs to be exported in order to be recycled, as there exist only three companies engaged in plastic recycling in Brunei.^{(19);(20)} The import of plastic waste is banned.⁽²¹⁾

- 10. Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (2015), *Recycle 123 Handbook*, <http://www.env.gov.bn/Recyclers/Recycle%20123%20Handbook%204%20Nov%202015.pdf>.
- 11. Akenji, L. et al. (2019), *Circular Economy and Plastics: A Gap-Analysis in ASEAN Member States*, https://www.iges.or.jp/en/publication_documents/pub/policyreport/en/10382/FINAL_CE+and+Plastics+-+A+gap+analysis+in+ASEAN+Member+States_1004.pdf.
- 12. ibid. 10
- 13. ASEAN (2018), ASEAN joins movement to beat plastic pollution, <https://g20mpl.org/partners/brunei>.
- 14. Abu Bakar, R. (2018), Brunei aims to phase out plastic bags in supermarkets by 2019, <https://thescoop.co/2018/04/16/brunei-aims-phase-out-plastic-bags-2019/>.
- 15. Ibid. 10
- 16. World Bank (2018), *What a Waste Global Database*.
- 17. Akenji, L. et al. (2019)
- 18. World Bank (2018), *What a Waste Global Database*.
- 19. Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (2015), *Recycle 123 Handbook*, <http://www.env.gov.bn/Recyclers/Recycle%20123%20Handbook%204%20Nov%202015.pdf>.
- 20. Akenji, L. et al. (2019)
- 21. Akenji, L. et al. (2019)

Figure 3. Brunei: Key plastics waste trade indicators

Major exporters and importers of plastic waste



Measures to address marine plastic waste

Some **clean-up efforts** are underway. For example, 20,000 plastic bags were collected from the Brunei River between April and May 2018.⁽²²⁾ Students collected 1.2 tonnes of litter from Panaga Beach on Earth Day 2018.⁽²³⁾ The establishment of eco-clubs at schools (registered with the DEPR) and clubs are active in beach cleaning campaigns and other environmental projects.⁽²⁴⁾

Education and awareness-raising initiatives can be effective as well. For example, Green Brunei,⁽²⁵⁾ a

youth-led platform for environmental sustainability, provides environmental education through camps, field trips, and a “Remarkable Green Race”. The Brunei Environmental Youth Envoy⁽²⁶⁾ was established in 2009 to nurture a network of environmental action and awareness, collaborate on environmental sustainability projects and to enhance knowledge so as to impart them onto other youth.⁽²⁷⁾

22. Progresif (2018), *There's A Big Plastic Problem And We Need To Do Something About It*, <https://progresif.com/the-problem-with-plastic-waste-and-what-can-we-do-about-it/>.

23. Progresif (2018)

24. Brunei Darussalam (2013), *Country Analysis Paper*, https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/Country%20Analysis%20Paper_Brunei.pdf.

25. Green Brunei (2012), <https://green-brunei.com/>

26. Environmental Youth Envoy, <http://www.env.gov.bn/SitePages/Brunei%20Environmental%20Youth%20Envoy.aspx>

27. Brunei Darussalam (2013)