

# SINGAPORE



- [NATIONAL PROFILE](#)
- [DISASTER RISK PROFILE](#)
- [INSTITUTIONAL SETUP](#)
- [INITIATIVES](#)

## **1. 1. NATIONAL PROFILE**

### **1.1 General <sup>1</sup>**

Singapore, officially the Republic of Singapore, is a sovereign city-state and island country in Southeast Asia. It lies off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula and is 137 kilometers (85 mi) north of the equator. The country's territory consists of the lozenge-shaped main island, commonly referred to as Singapore Island in English and Pulau Ujong in Malay, and more than 60 significantly smaller islets. Singapore is separated from Peninsular Malaysia by the Straits of Johor to the north and from Indonesia's Riau Islands by the Singapore Strait to the south. The country is highly urbanized, and little of the original vegetation remains. The country's territory has consistently expanded through land reclamation.

### **1.2 Physiography<sup>2</sup>**

Singapore is a small, heavily urbanized, island, city-state in Southeast Asia, located at the end of the Malayan Peninsula between Malaysia and Indonesia. Singapore has a total land area of 714.3 square kilometers (275.8 sq mi).

The Singapore area comprises mainland and other islands. The mainland of Singapore measures 50 kilometers (31 mi) from east to west and 26 kilometers (16 mi) from north to south with 193 kilometers (120 mi) of coastline. These figures are based on 2.515 meters (8 ft 3.0 in) High Water Mark cadastral survey boundaries. Singapore is separated from Indonesia by the Singapore Strait and from Malaysia by the Straits of Johor.

#### **I. Physical geography**

Singapore's main territory is a diamond-shaped island, although its territory includes surrounding smaller islands. The farthest outlying island is Pedra Branca. Singapore is slightly more than 3.5 times the size of Washington, D.C. Of Singapore's dozens of smaller islands, Jurong Island, Pulau Tekong, Pulau Ubin and Sentosa are the larger ones. Most of Singapore is no more than 15 meters above sea level.

The highest point of Singapore is Bukit Timah, with a height of 165 m (538 ft) and made up of igneous rock, granite. Hills and valleys of sedimentary rock dominate the northwest, while the eastern region consists of sandy and flatter land. Singapore has no natural lakes, but reservoirs and water catchment areas have been constructed to store fresh water for Singapore's water supply.

Singapore has reclaimed land with earth obtained from its own hills, the seabed, and neighboring countries. As a result, Singapore's land area has grown from 581.5 km<sup>2</sup> in the 1960s to 723.2 km<sup>2</sup> today, and may grow by another 100 km<sup>2</sup> by 2033.

### 1.3 Climate<sup>1</sup>

Singapore has a tropical rainforest climate with no distinct seasons, uniform temperature and pressure, high humidity, and abundant rainfall. Temperatures usually range from 22 to 35 °C (72 to 95 °F). Relative humidity averages around 79% in the morning and 73% in the afternoon. April and May are the hottest months, with the wetter monsoon season from November to January. From July to October, there is often haze caused by bush fires in neighboring Indonesia. Although Singapore does not observe daylight saving time, it follows the GMT+8 time zone, one hour ahead of the typical zone for its geographical location.

### 1.4 Socio-economic Profile<sup>3,4</sup>

<b>Socio-economic Indicators</b>		
GDP: Gross domestic product (million current US\$)	2011	259850
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2011	50087.0
GNI: Gross national income per capita (current US\$)	2011	49009.0
Population (millions)	2014	5.41
Urban (% of population)	2014	100
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	2012	101.6
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	83.7/78.9
Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older)	2014	95.9
Expenditure on education (% of GDP)	2014	3.3

## 1.5 Administrative Setup<sup>5</sup>

While the small physical size of Singapore does not justify the creation of national subdivisions in the form of provinces, states, and other national political divisions found in larger countries, the city-state is nonetheless subdivided in various ways throughout its history for the purpose of local administration and urban planning.

Historically, these subdivisions have been based on postal districts, especially during the colonial era. When local elections necessitated the setting up of electoral districts however, it began to supplement postal districts as an alternative form of local governance, since each electoral district is headed by a member of parliament who represents and speaks for the respective electorates.

In the 1990s, the Urban Redevelopment Authority carved up the country into 55 planning areas. These boundaries became increasingly accepted as an alternative method of subdividing the country, made all the more popular as the boundaries do not change compared to the more fluid nature of electoral boundaries. The Singapore Department of Statistics adopted these boundaries for the latest 2000 nationwide population census, and the Singapore Police Force uses them as an approximate guide when demarcating boundaries for its Neighborhood Police Centers, as opposed to the former Neighborhood Police Post system which was also based on electoral divisions.

### I. Administrative and Electoral Divisions

The administrative division of Singapore into five Community Development Council Districts and the further breakdown into Constituencies (which mostly relate to local Town Councils, the second-level administrative division of Singapore) and further into Electoral Districts are treated together because of its hierarchical nature. Since November 2001, Singapore has had an administrative subdivision into 5 districts, headed by mayors and with Community Development Councils (CDCs) as local administrations.

The CDCs initiate, plan and manage community programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The electoral boundaries of Singapore are relatively fluid, and are reviewed prior to each general election. The districts are composed of the constituencies and electoral districts (the latter as of the 2006 General Elections).



## SINGAPORE PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTIONS 2011 ELECTORAL DIVISION MAP



## II. Community Development Council Districts

Main article: [Community Development Council](#)

There are currently five CDCs, namely the

- [Central Singapore Community Development Council](#)
- [North East Community Development Council](#)
- [North West Community Development Council](#)
- [South East Community Development Council](#)
- [South West Community Development Council](#)

The council boundaries follow that of the existing political divisions, with each handling between four to six GRCs and SMCs and roughly dividing the country's population into equal parts. Each CDC is managed by a Council, which in turn is headed by a mayor and has between 12 to 80 members. The members are appointed by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the People's Association.

## 2. DISASTER RISK PROFILE

Top Natural Disasters in Singapore for the period 1900 to 2014 sorted by numbers of killed<sup>6</sup>

Disaster	Date	No Killed
Epidemic	25-Feb-2003	33
Epidemic	Sep-2000	2
Epidemic	Mar-1999	1

Top Natural Disasters in Singapore for the period 1900 to 2014 sorted by numbers of total affected people<sup>6</sup>

Disaster	Date	No Total Affected
Epidemic	Sep-2000	2,022
Epidemic	25-Feb-2003	205
Epidemic	Mar-1999	11

For some natural disasters (particularly floods and droughts) there is no exact day or month for the event, and for other disasters the available record of the disaster does not provide an exact day or month.

## **3. INSTITUTIONAL SETUP <sup>7</sup>**

### **3.1 Legal System**

The Civil Defence Act (1986) provides the legal framework for, amongst other things, the declaration of a state of emergency and the mobilisation and deployment of operationally ready national service rescuers. The Fire Safety Act, and the Civil Defence Shelter Act are among the relevant acts on emergency management.

### **3.2 Organization**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the principal policy-making government body for safety and security in Singapore. In the event of a national disaster, MHA leads at the strategic level of incident management. At the tactical level, Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) will coordinate the planning and execution of the multi agency response to mitigate the impact of the disaster. SCDF provides effective 24-hour fire fighting, rescue and emergency ambulance services. Other functions include educating the community as well as mobilizing the community to be more involved in safety and security. SCDF also enforces fire safety requirements and oversees the civil defence shelter construction programme and the public warning system.

## **4. INITIATIVES**

### **Singapore: end of IDNDR assessment report (1998)<sup>8</sup>**

This report provides an assessment of the achievements and progress made in disaster risk reduction (DRR) by Singapore during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). It describes country's recent experience with natural hazards and disasters, also presents national institutional and legal framework for DRR and provides strategic guidelines and recommendations for future activities.

- **View full document** [\[PDF 538.29 KB\]](#)

## **Singapore: National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2007-2009)<sup>9</sup>**

The preparation of this National Progress Report has been undertaken within the framework of the biennial 2007-09 HFA Monitoring and Progress Review process, facilitated by UNISDR and ISDR System partners.

The progress report assesses current national strategic priorities with regard to the implementation of disaster risk reduction actions, and establishes baselines on levels of progress achieved with respect to the implementation of the HFA's five priorities for action.

- **View full report** [\[PDF 18.83 KB\]](#)

## **References**

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore#Geography>

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Singapore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Singapore)

<sup>3</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/SGP>

<sup>4</sup> <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Singapore>

<sup>5</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative\\_divisions\\_of\\_Singapore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_Singapore)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.emdat.be/result-country-profile>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=702&Lang=en&NationNum=07>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/v.php?id=32527&pid:223>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/v.php?id=9806&pid:223>