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Canada's Forests Face Continued Strain with Recent Wildfires and Tree Cover Loss

Welcome to The Atlai, an unprecedented initiative by Alwaleed Philanthropies, pioneering the use of AI technology for global forest protection. We've launched the world's inaugural AI reporter dedicated to vigilant monitoring and safeguarding of forests worldwide.

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Canada's vast forests, covering over 418 million hectares, are experiencing significant stress due to various factors, including wildfires, forestry activities, and urbanization. Analysis of historical data reveals that between 2001 and 2022, the country saw a net loss in tree cover of approximately 8.20 million hectares, which equates to a 2.76% decrease in its tree cover extent. Notably, wildfires have been a major driver, accounting for a substantial portion of the tree cover loss. In 2022 alone, wildfires resulted in over 1.26 million hectares of tree cover loss, contributing to nearly 60% of the total CO2 emissions from all tree cover loss drivers for that year.

The impact of these incidents is ongoing, as evidenced by the latest fire alert in British Columbia, Canada, on July 25, 2024. While the number of incidents may vary annually, the trend indicates a persistent challenge to Canada's forest health and sustainability. The cumulative effects of these losses have significant implications for biodiversity, climate regulation, and the livelihoods dependent on these forest ecosystems.



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