



Atlai

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Angola Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss and Wildfires in Cuando Cubango

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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Angola is facing a significant challenge as tree cover loss and wildfires continue to impact the country's natural landscape, particularly in the Cuando Cubango Province. Over the past two decades, the country has experienced a substantial decline in tree cover due to various factors, with shifting agriculture being the predominant driver.

The data reveals a concerning trend of tree cover loss, which has been consistently high since the early 2000s. Shifting agriculture accounted for the lion's share of this loss, with wildfires also contributing to the degradation of Angola's forests. Notably, the year 2021 marked the highest recorded tree cover loss, with nearly 300,000 hectares affected, of which shifting agriculture was responsible for over 98%.

This loss has not only ecological consequences but also economic and social implications for the country. The net change in tree cover shows a decrease of approximately 4.41% over the years, with a net loss of over 2.10 million hectares. This indicates a pressing need for strategies to mitigate the ongoing deforestation and promote sustainable land management practices.

The latest incident of a wildfire on October 2, 2024, in the Cuando Cubango Province, adds to the series of environmental challenges Angola is grappling with. As the country continues to lose its tree cover, the urgency for effective conservation efforts becomes ever more apparent.



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