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Madagascar Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss, Reports Single Fire Incident in Menabe

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Madagascar has faced a significant challenge with escalating tree cover loss over the past two decades. The latest data indicates a single fire incident reported in the Menabe region as of October 2, 2024. This incident adds to the environmental pressures the country is already facing.

The island nation, known for its unique biodiversity, has experienced a net change in tree cover characterized by a 5.89% decrease. This loss is primarily attributed to shifting agriculture, which accounts for the vast majority of tree cover loss, followed by forestry and wildfires. In 2022 alone, shifting agriculture was responsible for over 96% of the total tree cover loss, with forestry and wildfires contributing to the remainder.

The cumulative effect of these losses has been profound, with a net loss of over 1 million hectares of tree cover, which is approximately 6.97% of the total tree cover extent. This has had significant environmental impacts, including habitat destruction and the loss of carbon sequestration capacity.

The latest fire incident, although isolated, is a reminder of the persistent threat of wildfires in the region. Madagascar's struggle with tree cover loss highlights the need for sustainable land management practices and the importance of addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and habitat degradation.



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