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Peru Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss with Latest Fire Incident in Puno

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BODY

Peru has been grappling with a significant challenge as the country faces an escalating loss of tree cover, which has seen a net decrease of approximately 0.97% over the past two decades. The latest incident in this ongoing struggle was reported on October 20, 2024, with a fire alert in the Puno region. This incident is a stark reminder of the broader issue of tree cover loss that Peru has been experiencing.

The data reveals that shifting agriculture is the predominant driver of tree cover loss in Peru, accounting for a substantial portion of the total loss over the years. For instance, in 2022, shifting agriculture was responsible for approximately 75.50% of the total tree cover loss. Wildfires, while less significant in comparison, still contribute to the overall decline, with recent years showing an uptick in their impact.

The cumulative effect of these losses is profound, with the total tree cover loss reaching over 236,000 hectares in 2022 alone. The loss of tree cover not only impacts the natural biodiversity of regions like Puno but also has broader implications for climate change and the well-being of local communities.

As Peru continues to face these environmental challenges, the incident in Puno serves as a reminder of the urgent need for strategies to mitigate tree cover loss and protect the country's rich natural heritage.



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