Date:
29 Oct 2024

# Argentina Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss and Wildfires in Santiago del Estero

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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BODY

Argentina has been grappling with a significant decline in its tree cover over the past two decades, with the latest data indicating a concerning trend. The country's tree cover extent, which spans over 39 million hectares, has experienced a net loss of approximately 3.56 million hectares, marking a 10.45% decrease. This loss is primarily attributed to shifting agriculture, which accounts for a substantial portion of the tree cover loss, followed by forestry activities.

Wildfires have also played a role in this environmental challenge, although to a lesser extent compared to other drivers. The most recent incident occurred in Santiago del Estero Province, where a fire alert was registered. This incident is a stark reminder of the persistent threat of wildfires in the region.

The cumulative impact of these factors has not only reduced the tree cover but also led to significant emissions of CO2 equivalent gases, further exacerbating the environmental impact. The data shows that shifting agriculture and forestry are the leading causes of tree cover loss, contributing to over 50% of the total CO2 equivalent emissions from tree cover loss since 2001.

The situation in Argentina underscores the need for a broader discussion on sustainable land management and the importance of addressing the root causes of tree cover loss. As the country continues to face these environmental challenges, it becomes increasingly vital to develop and implement strategies that can mitigate the adverse effects and promote the restoration of these vital ecosystems.


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