

Date:  
29 Oct 2024

# Turkey's Tree Cover Faces New Threat with Recent Fire Incident in Afyonkarahisar

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.



# Turkey's Tree Cover Faces New Threat with Recent Fire Incident in Afyonkarahisar

## BODY

A recent fire incident in Afyonkarahisar, Turkey, has raised concerns over the country's tree cover, which has been under pressure from various factors over the years. Turkey, with an area of over 78 million hectares, has a significant tree cover extent of approximately 10.06 million hectares. However, data reveals a troubling trend of tree cover loss, with forestry activities and shifting agriculture being the primary drivers.

Over the past two decades, Turkey has experienced a fluctuating pattern of tree cover loss. The year 2021 marked the highest recorded loss at nearly 79,284 hectares, a stark contrast to the 22,910 hectares lost in 2001. This increase represents a substantial escalation of over 245% in tree cover loss over the period. Forestry activities have consistently been the leading cause, contributing to the majority of the loss each year.

The net change in tree cover shows a complex picture. While there has been a loss of 385,030 hectares, the country has also gained 473,796 hectares of tree cover, leading to a net positive change. However, disturbances have affected over 510,036 hectares, indicating that the gains are not without challenges.

The latest fire incident, although seemingly small with only one alert reported, adds to the cumulative impact on Turkey's tree cover. The incident underscores the vulnerability of the region's forests and the importance of monitoring and protecting these vital ecosystems.