

Date:
5 Nov 2024

Tanzania's Tree Cover Faces Continuous Decline, Latest Fire Incident in Lindi Region

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In a concerning environmental trend, Tanzania has experienced a significant reduction in tree cover over the years. The latest incident, a fire alert from the Lindi Region, adds to the ongoing challenges faced by the country's forests. Tanzania, with an area of over 94 million hectares, has a tree cover extent of approximately 26.40 million hectares. However, the nation has seen a net loss of over 3.80 million hectares of tree cover, marking an 11.30% decrease.

Shifting agriculture has been identified as the primary driver of tree cover loss, responsible for the vast majority of the decline. Other contributing factors include forestry activities, wildfires, and urbanization. While wildfires have accounted for a relatively small portion of the tree cover loss in terms of hectares, their impact on emissions is notable.

The cumulative effect of these losses is substantial, with millions of metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions released into the atmosphere. This environmental degradation not only affects biodiversity and climate change but also has socio-economic implications for local communities dependent on forest resources.

The latest fire incident in the Lindi Region, although isolated, is a reminder of the persistent threats to Tanzania's forests. It underscores the need for continued vigilance and proactive measures to protect and restore these vital ecosystems.



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