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# Brazil Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss and Wildfire Incidents

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.



# Brazil Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss and Wildfire Incidents

## BODY

Brazil has been grappling with a significant decline in its tree cover over the past two decades. Analysis of historical data reveals a disturbing trend of tree cover loss, which has had a profound impact on the country's rich biodiversity and environmental stability. The total area of tree cover loss has reached over 36 million hectares, which is a stark decline of approximately 6.94% from the original tree cover extent.

The main drivers behind this deforestation have been identified as shifting agriculture, responsible for a substantial portion of the loss, followed by forestry practices, urbanization, and wildfires. Shifting agriculture alone has led to the loss of millions of hectares of tree cover, contributing to a significant increase in carbon emissions.

Recent incidents have also highlighted the ongoing challenge Brazil faces with wildfires. A fire alert was issued for the State of Maranhão on November 19, 2024, adding to the country's environmental woes. These incidents not only threaten the remaining tree cover but also pose a risk to wildlife and contribute to the global climate crisis.

The net change in tree cover shows a concerning trend, with a net loss of over 28 million hectares when accounting for tree cover gains. This net loss represents a negative change in tree cover, further emphasizing the need for urgent attention to Brazil's deforestation issues.



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