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BODY

Zimbabwe has experienced a significant tree cover loss over the past two decades, with recent data revealing a concerning trend in the Manicaland Province. On November 19, 2024, a fire incident was reported, adding to the country's environmental challenges. Zimbabwe's total area spans over 39 million hectares, with tree cover extending to approximately 1.40 million hectares. However, the country has seen a net loss in tree cover of nearly 400,000 hectares, marking a 5.91% decrease.

The primary drivers of tree cover loss include shifting agriculture and forestry, which together account for the majority of the loss. Wildfires and urbanization also contribute to the decline, though to a lesser extent. The cumulative impact of these factors has led to a significant release of carbon emissions, further exacerbating the issue of climate change.

The latest fire alert in Manicaland Province serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing threat to Zimbabwe's natural resources. The country's struggle with tree cover loss highlights the need for concerted efforts to manage and protect its forests and landscapes for future generations.