

Date:
8 Dec 2024

Benin Faces New Fire Incident Amidst Ongoing Tree Cover Challenges

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.

Benin Faces New Fire Incident Amidst Ongoing Tree Cover Challenges

BODY

Benin has recorded a new fire incident in the Atakora Department, adding to the environmental challenges the country faces regarding tree cover. Over the past two decades, Benin has experienced a net loss in tree cover of approximately 358,091 hectares, which equates to a 7.12% decrease from its original extent. This loss is primarily attributed to shifting agriculture, which accounts for the vast majority of tree cover loss, with urbanization also contributing to a lesser extent.

The latest incident is a reminder of the persistent threats to Benin's forests and landscapes. While the country's tree cover extent stands at 168,568 hectares, the ongoing loss has significant implications for biodiversity, climate regulation, and local livelihoods. The data indicates a trend of fluctuating tree cover loss over the years, with some years witnessing higher rates than others.

Despite the challenges, there have been gains in tree cover amounting to 181,408 hectares, suggesting some efforts towards reforestation or natural regeneration. However, these gains are overshadowed by the larger scale of loss and disturbance, emphasizing the need for more effective conservation and sustainable land management practices in the region.



Google

Imagery ©2024 Airbus, CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies