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Chad Grapples with Escalating Tree Cover Loss and Fire 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.

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BODY

Chad is facing a significant environmental challenge as recent data reveals an escalating trend in tree cover loss, compounded by the latest fire incident in Moyen-Chari. Over the past two decades, the country has experienced a net loss of tree cover amounting to approximately 843,797 hectares, which translates to a 7.83% decrease in its tree cover. The primary driver of this deforestation has been shifting agriculture, responsible for the vast majority of tree cover loss.

The impact of this deforestation is profound, not only on the biodiversity and ecological balance of the region but also on the carbon emissions contributing to climate change. In the year 2022 alone, Chad saw a tree cover loss of 5,444 hectares, with shifting agriculture continuing to be the predominant cause. This loss resulted in approximately 2.97 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable land management practices.

The single fire incident reported on December 8, 2024, in Moyen-Chari, while seemingly minor with just one count, is indicative of the broader susceptibility of the region to wildfires, which can exacerbate the already critical situation of habitat loss. The ongoing deforestation and incidents such as this fire alert underscore the vulnerability of Chad's natural landscapes and the pressing need for concerted conservation efforts.

