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# Ethiopia Battles Rising Tree Cover Loss; Shifting Agriculture Major Culprit

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

Ethiopia has been facing a significant challenge with an increase in tree cover loss over the years. A comprehensive analysis of the data reveals that shifting agriculture remains the predominant driver of this deforestation, accounting for a substantial percentage of the total loss. The impact of this practice on the country's tree cover is profound, with the latest figures showing a marked increase in the hectares lost due to shifting cultivation.

The trend of tree cover loss has been on an upward trajectory, with recent years witnessing some of the highest rates. Urbanization, although contributing to a lesser extent, also plays a role in the reduction of tree cover. Wildfires, while not the leading cause, have consistently contributed to the loss over the years. The net change in tree cover indicates a decrease of 3.61%, a concerning figure that underscores the need for attention to this environmental issue.

The latest incident data from 2025 reports a fire alert in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples region of Ethiopia, adding to the challenges faced by the country in managing its natural resources. This singular incident, while small in number, is part of a larger pattern of environmental stress that Ethiopia must address.