Date:
9 Jan 2025

Central African Republic Grapples with Tree Cover Loss and Recent Fire Incident

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

The Central African Republic (CAR) is facing significant environmental challenges as recent data indicates a troubling trend in tree cover loss. Over the years, the country has experienced a net decrease in tree cover of approximately 1.32%, with a total loss of 1,210,279 hectares and a gain of just 482,449 hectares. This loss is largely attributed to shifting agriculture, which accounts for the vast majority of tree cover loss, followed by smaller contributions from forestry activities.

The impact of these activities is evident in the country's landscape, where the tree cover extent is approximately 47 million hectares, representing a significant portion of the CAR's total area of over 62 million hectares. Despite the efforts to increase tree cover, disturbances have led to a net loss of 727,831 hectares, further exacerbating the environmental situation.

Adding to the environmental strain, the latest incident data reveals a fire alert in the Ouham region. While the count of incidents is currently at one, the implications of such events can be profound, considering the already vulnerable state of the country's tree cover.

The trend over the years has shown a fluctuating but generally increasing pattern of tree cover loss, with shifting agriculture remaining the primary driver. This consistent loss highlights the need for a closer examination of land-use practices and their long-term sustainability.

As the CAR continues to navigate these environmental challenges, the data underscores the importance of sustainable land management and the protection of natural resources to mitigate further loss and promote recovery.


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