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# Chad Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss, Latest Fire Incident in Salamat

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## BODY

Chad has been grappling with a significant loss of tree cover over the past two decades. The latest incident report from Salamat, Chad, indicates a fire alert, adding to the country's environmental challenges. An analysis of historical data reveals that Chad's tree cover extent, which stands at approximately 409,749 hectares, has been under persistent threat, primarily due to shifting agriculture practices.

The country has experienced a net loss of tree cover amounting to 843,797 hectares, which translates to a 7.83% decrease from the stable tree cover. Notably, shifting agriculture has been the dominant driver of tree cover loss, accounting for the overwhelming majority of the total loss each year. For instance, in 2023 alone, shifting agriculture was responsible for nearly all of the 11,067 hectares of tree cover loss.

While other factors such as wildfires and forestry have contributed to the loss, their impact pales in comparison to that of shifting agriculture. The loss of tree cover has also led to substantial CO2 emissions, with the total gross emissions reaching over 5 million Mg in 2023.

The trend over the years has been alarming, with tree cover loss peaking significantly in certain years. The data indicates a pressing need for strategies to mitigate the loss and preserve Chad's remaining tree cover for the sake of environmental sustainability and the well-being of its ecosystems.