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Central African Republic Grapples with 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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The Central African Republic (CAR) has experienced significant tree cover loss over the past two decades, with shifting agriculture being the primary driver. Analysis of historical data reveals that the country has seen a net loss of approximately 1.32% in tree cover, which is a concerning trend for the region's environmental stability. The total area of tree cover loss attributed to shifting agriculture amounts to a staggering 95.60% of the total loss, underscoring the impact of this practice on the country's forests.

In recent years, the trend has continued with 54,533.56 hectares of tree cover lost in 2023 alone, a slight increase from the 51,29.57 hectares lost in 2022. The cumulative effect of these losses over the years has led to an overall net decrease in tree cover, despite some gains from reforestation efforts.

Adding to the environmental challenges, the latest incident data from 2025-01-17 reports a fire alert in the Haut-Mbomou region. Although the count is currently at one, the presence of fire incidents is an additional threat to the remaining tree cover and poses risks to biodiversity and local livelihoods.

The CAR's rich forests are a vital part of the country's ecosystem, and the continued loss of tree cover could have far-reaching consequences for climate regulation, soil health, and wildlife habitats. The data presents a clear call to action to address the underlying causes of deforestation and to promote sustainable land management practices.



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