

Date:  
17 Jan 2025

# Nigeria Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss and Single Fire Incident in Oyo

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.



# Nigeria Battles Escalating Tree Cover Loss and Single Fire Incident in Oyo

## BODY

Nigeria is grappling with a significant decline in tree cover, as recent data reveals a net decrease of 6.07% in the country's tree cover. The analysis of historical data indicates that shifting agriculture is the primary driver of tree cover loss, accounting for a substantial portion of the depletion. The country's tree cover extent, which stands at over 10 million hectares, has been facing persistent threats from various factors, including urbanization and forestry activities.

The impact of these losses is not only felt in the depletion of natural resources but also in the increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Over the years, the total gross emissions from tree cover loss have reached alarming levels, with shifting agriculture being the most significant contributor. The trend shows no sign of abating, as the latest figures from 2023 indicate a continued pattern of tree cover loss.

In addition to the ongoing deforestation, Nigeria has also recorded a fire incident in the region of Oyo on January 17, 2025. Although the incident count is one, the occurrence of wildfires adds to the environmental challenges the nation faces. The cumulative effect of these incidents and the broader trend of habitat destruction could have far-reaching consequences for the country's biodiversity and climate.

The situation in Nigeria is a stark reminder of the urgent need for sustainable land management practices to mitigate the loss of tree cover and protect the environment. The data underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of deforestation and implementing measures to preserve the remaining tree cover for future generations.