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Guinea Grapples with Environmental Impact as Tree Cover Loss Escalates

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Guinea has witnessed a significant environmental impact due to the escalation of tree cover loss over the years. The country, with an area of approximately 24.48 million hectares, has a tree cover extent of around 8.16 million hectares. However, the stability of this tree cover is under threat, with a net loss of over 1.58 million hectares, marking an 8.34% decrease.

The primary driver of tree cover loss has been identified as shifting agriculture, which has consistently accounted for the vast majority of the loss each year. Other contributing factors include forestry, wildfires, and urbanization, though these represent a much smaller portion of the total loss.

The trend of tree cover loss has been alarming, with some of the highest losses recorded in recent years. For instance, in 2016, the country saw over 216,000 hectares of tree cover lost, followed by a staggering 231,588 hectares in 2017. Although there was a slight decrease in loss in subsequent years, the figures remained high, with over 130,000 hectares lost in 2022 and over 154,000 hectares in 2023.

The environmental impact of these losses is considerable, with the total CO₂e gross emissions from tree cover loss amounting to millions of megagrams each year. The latest incident data from 2025 reports a fire alert in the region of Kankan, Guinea, which adds to the ongoing environmental challenges the country faces.

As Guinea continues to grapple with these environmental issues, the data underscores the need for a broader discussion on sustainable land management and conservation efforts to mitigate further loss and preserve the country's natural heritage.

