

Date:
2 Feb 2025

Cambodia's Pursat Province Reports Fire Incident Amidst Alarming Tree Cover Decline

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Cambodia has recently experienced a fire incident in Pursat Province, highlighting ongoing environmental concerns. Over the past two decades, the country has seen a significant reduction in tree cover. Analysis of historical data reveals that Cambodia has lost approximately 2,787,895 hectares of tree cover, which equates to a 25.59% decrease from its original extent.

Shifting agriculture and forestry have been the primary drivers of this loss, with shifting agriculture accounting for a substantial portion of the tree cover decline. In 2023 alone, shifting agriculture was responsible for the loss of 23,667 hectares, while forestry contributed to a loss of 18,869 hectares. Urbanization, although a smaller factor, also contributed to the reduction.

This trend of tree cover loss has serious implications for the country's biodiversity, climate, and local communities. The latest incident in Pursat Province serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability of Cambodia's natural landscapes to such disturbances.