



The world lost a football pitch-sized area of tropical forest every six seconds in 2019

03 June 2020

The world lost a field worth of forest every 6 seconds in 2019, analysis says 01:50

(CNN)The world lost 3.8 million hectares of tropical primary forest in 2019 -- equivalent to a football pitch every six seconds -- according to a new report published Tuesday.

The loss of tropical primary forest makes up about a third of the 11.9 million hectares of [tree cover](#) that was lost last year, reveals a report from Global Forest Watch (GFW).

Primary forests are [described as](#) "some of the densest, wildest and most ecologically significant forests" in the world and are particularly important for carbon storage and biodiversity.

The hardest hit areas were in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia, the report says.

The report, which uses data gathered by the University of Maryland, shows primary forest loss was 2.8% higher in 2019 than the previous year.

Experts are also concerned the coronavirus pandemic could increase deforestation rates.



Deforestation in the Amazon is accelerating despite coronavirus

GFW tracks land use, climate and biodiversity changes around the globe through its open-source data monitoring and mapping tool.

Analysis focused on primary forests, which "once they are lost... can take decades or even millennia to grow back," according to [a post](#) on GFW's website by World Research Institute's Mikaela Weisse and Elizabeth Goldman.

The rate of primary forest loss has remained "stubbornly high for the last two decades despite efforts to halt deforestation," says the report.

Primary forest loss was lower last year than its peak in 2016 and 2017, but the total loss in hectares is the third-highest since 2000.

This amount of primary forest loss is associated with the same annual carbon dioxide emissions as 400 million cars, according to the report.

Source:[https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/02/world/tropical-forest-six-seconds-scli-intl/index.html#:~:text=\(CNN\)%20The%20world%20lost%203.8,a%20new%20report%20published%20Tuesday](https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/02/world/tropical-forest-six-seconds-scli-intl/index.html#:~:text=(CNN)%20The%20world%20lost%203.8,a%20new%20report%20published%20Tuesday).