



GFW 2024 Report on Indian Forests

Source: BS

The [Global Forest Watch \(GFW\)](#), an open-source **forest monitoring platform** developed by the US-based research organisation [World Resources Institute \(WRI\)](#), has recently released data highlighting **India's deforestation and forest degradation trends from 2001 to 2024**.

Key Findings of the WRI Report on India's Forests:

- **Extent of Forest & Tree Cover Changes (2001-2024):**
 - Between **2001 and 2024**, India **lost 2.31 million hectares** of tree cover, a **7.1% decline** since 2000, causing **1.29 gigatonnes of CO₂ emissions**.
 - **In 2024 alone**, India lost 150,000 hectares of natural forest, resulting in approximately **68 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions**.
 - **Primary forest loss increased** from 17,700 hectares in 2023 to 18,200 hectares in 2024.
 - Between **2002 and 2024**, 348,000 hectares (**5.4%**) of **humid primary forests** (mature tropical forests not recently cleared) **were lost**, accounting for **15%** of total tree cover loss.
 - Tree cover loss due to **fires** amounted to **36,200 hectares from 2001 to 2024**, peaking at **2,770 hectares in 2008**.
 - Despite losses, India **gained 1.78 million hectares of tree cover** between **2000 and 2020**, contributing **1.4%** to **global net gains (Top 3 Gainers: Russia, Canada, US)**.
- **Key Drivers of Deforestation:**
 - **Northeastern states** lead in **forest loss due to shifting cultivation**, logging, and infrastructure. **Central India suffers from mining**, while the **Western Ghats face road, tourism, and plantation pressures**.
 - Globally, **India ranked second in deforestation (2015-2020)**, losing 668,000 ha/year (FAO).

Read More: [Reviving India's Forests, 18th India State of Forest Report 2023](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/gfw-2024-report-on-indian-forests>