



Deforestation, Negative Aspects of Health



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Abstract

Despite the efforts made in some countries to mitigate the negative effects of deforestation on health, there are territories where this activity is not prioritized. The objective of the research is to show the health conditions that can be caused by the conversion of forests into non-arid lands where trees are cut down or burned and are not repopulated with endemic species. The bibliographic review and qualitative analysis were used as a methodology. The result was that deforestation has significant implications for human health, one of which is the appearance of infectious diseases.

Keywords

*health conditions;
deforestation;
respiratory diseases;*

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Analysis and Discussion of the Results

In many territories, endemic trees are cut in an uncontrolled manner, often due to lack of knowledge and in others due to not applying appropriate regulations in the area, in many cases depleting biodiversity (García, 2016). According to Sánchez-González (2021), epidemics have almost always been triggered by changes in the environment caused by human activities. In this context, vegetation plays a decisive role in human health.

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Figure 1 shows conditions caused by deforestation.

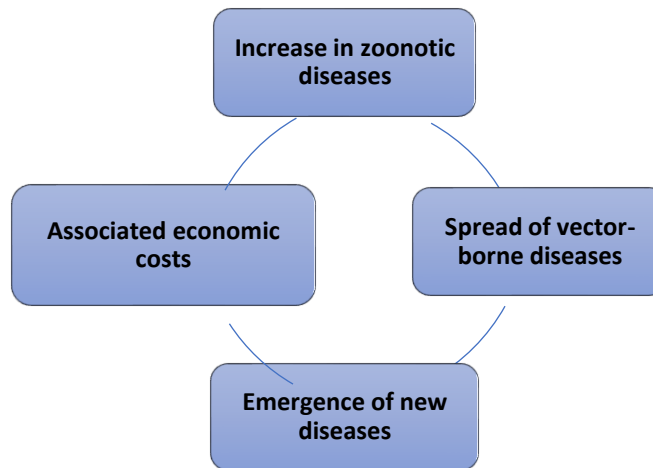


Figure 1. Conditions caused by deforestation

Increase in Zoonotic Diseases

One of the most common difficulties in the deforestation process is that the territory's fauna loses its natural habitat, causing them to move closer to urbanized areas, increasing contact with humans, and thereby causing the risk of pathogen transmission. Zoonotic diseases come from animals; these diseases can transmit diseases that affect health. It is estimated that 58% of infectious diseases come from animals, being zoonotic, as are 73% of emerging or re-emerging pathogens. In the last 50 years, there has been a significant increase in emerging diseases attributable to human invasion of habitats, especially in tropical regions ([Greenpeace, 2024](#)).

Spread of vector-borne diseases

Another difficulty of deforestation is the alteration of ecosystems, creating favorable conditions for the proliferation of vectors such as mosquitoes and ticks, among others, in many cases leading to an increase in the incidence of diseases such as malaria, dengue, and yellow fever. In the Brazilian Amazon, he found that a 10% increase in deforestation was associated with a 3% increase in malaria cases ([Ecociencia, 2025](#)).

Emergence of new diseases

At present, there is a high risk of the destruction of tropical forests, this incorrect management can facilitate the jump of pathogens from animals to humans. In West Africa, it has been linked to the emergence of the Ebola virus, which jumped from fruit bats to humans, causing devastating outbreaks, and the World Health Organization is currently researching vaccines to control the outbreak of the disease (WHO, 2025).

Associated economic costs

All these conditions caused by the felling of forests generate associated economic costs, in addition to the impact on health, having economic repercussions. In Malaysia, treating a single case of malaria can cost around €4,500, a figure that exceeds the economic benefits of deforestation in the short term ([National Geographic, 2019](#)).

In this context, in the process of deforestation and burning of forests, respiratory diseases appear due to CO emissions.² into the atmosphere causing an increase in diseases ([Iqair, 2015](#); [Andrée et al., 2019](#)).

The reality is that this process of deforestation caused by man in different regions of the planet is linked to different health conditions and impacts on the ecosystem, where the non-sustainability of the environments where human beings carry out their activities is revealed (Goka et al., 2014).




Conclusion

Some diseases that can be caused to humans were assessed due to the deforestation process where it not only affects the environment, but also represents a threat to public health by facilitating the transmission of infectious diseases, all of which leads to the need to implement policies that balance economic development with environmental conservation to mitigate these risks to the human species.

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