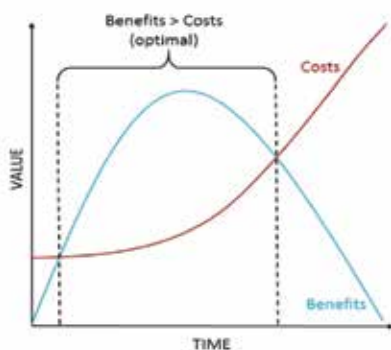




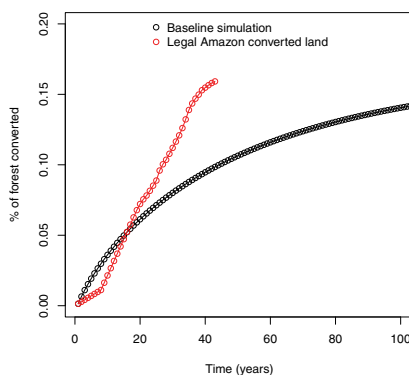
COST OF LAND USE CHANGE

ISSUE: Economic growth and population spread have led to unprecedented land conversion. Land use change and environmental degradation may threaten human health since it increases human contact with wildlife and alters pathogen transmission pathways.

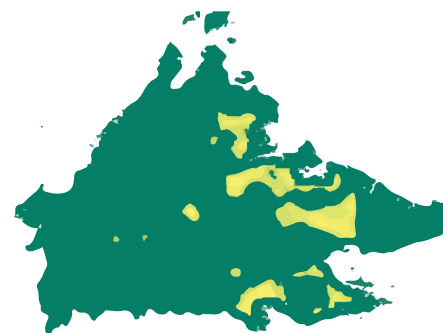
Economic Models can be used to weigh the economic costs against the environmental and human health benefits of converting land to determine:



HOW MUCH land should be allocated for development?



HOW QUICKLY should conversion occur for production to be sustainable?



WHERE should land be converted to minimize environmental and health impacts?

Our results show too much land has been too rapidly developed in the wrong places.



Future Steps:

- Estimating the costs of other infectious diseases of major public concern
- Analyzing impacts of land use changes in other geographic areas like West and Central Africa, the Amazon and Mekong sub-region
- Rolling disease regulating value into comprehensive ecosystem services valuations estimates