



Woody invasive alien species in Eastern Africa

Assessing and mitigating their impacts on ecosystems and rural livelihoods

Economic Impacts of Prosopis



Prosopis juliflora is a fast growing species that provides shade and produces good quality wood, which was initially introduced to increase wood availability and soil fertility (and thus crop yield and fodder) in degraded habitats. Presence of the species can thus strengthen or create new economic opportunities (employment and income from charcoal making). The trees can also provide supplementary fodder for livestock, living fences and timber.



Prosopis negatively affects economic activities due to changes in the natural it causes. The loss of grassland reduces the number of livestock that can be sustained, combined with a shift from cattle to sheep and goats, and the availability of plant species with medicinal or cultural value. The need for additional weeding increases the cost of farming and injuries caused by the thorns increase death of livestock and human health costs.

Undisturbed



Degraded



Invaded by Prosopis



Characteristics of undisturbed, degraded and Prosopis-invaded environments.

😊 indicates better, and 😞 indicates worse situations.

	Undisturbed	Degraded	Invaded
Income from wood	😞	😞	😊😊
Number of cattle	😊	😞	😞
Employment	😞	😞	😊
Fodder for livestock	😊	😞	😞
Injuries	😊	😊	😞
Cost of farming	😊	😊	😞