



# Woody invasive alien species in Eastern Africa

Assessing and mitigating their impacts on ecosystems and rural livelihoods

## Social impacts of Prosopis

Prosopis does not affect all people in the same way. For example, while some people suffer from restricted access to pasture land in Baringo and Afar, others appreciate the shade and the wind shelter that Prosopis provides. These different perceptions of the impacts of Prosopis can lead to tensions and conflicts between different stakeholder groups.

### Water:

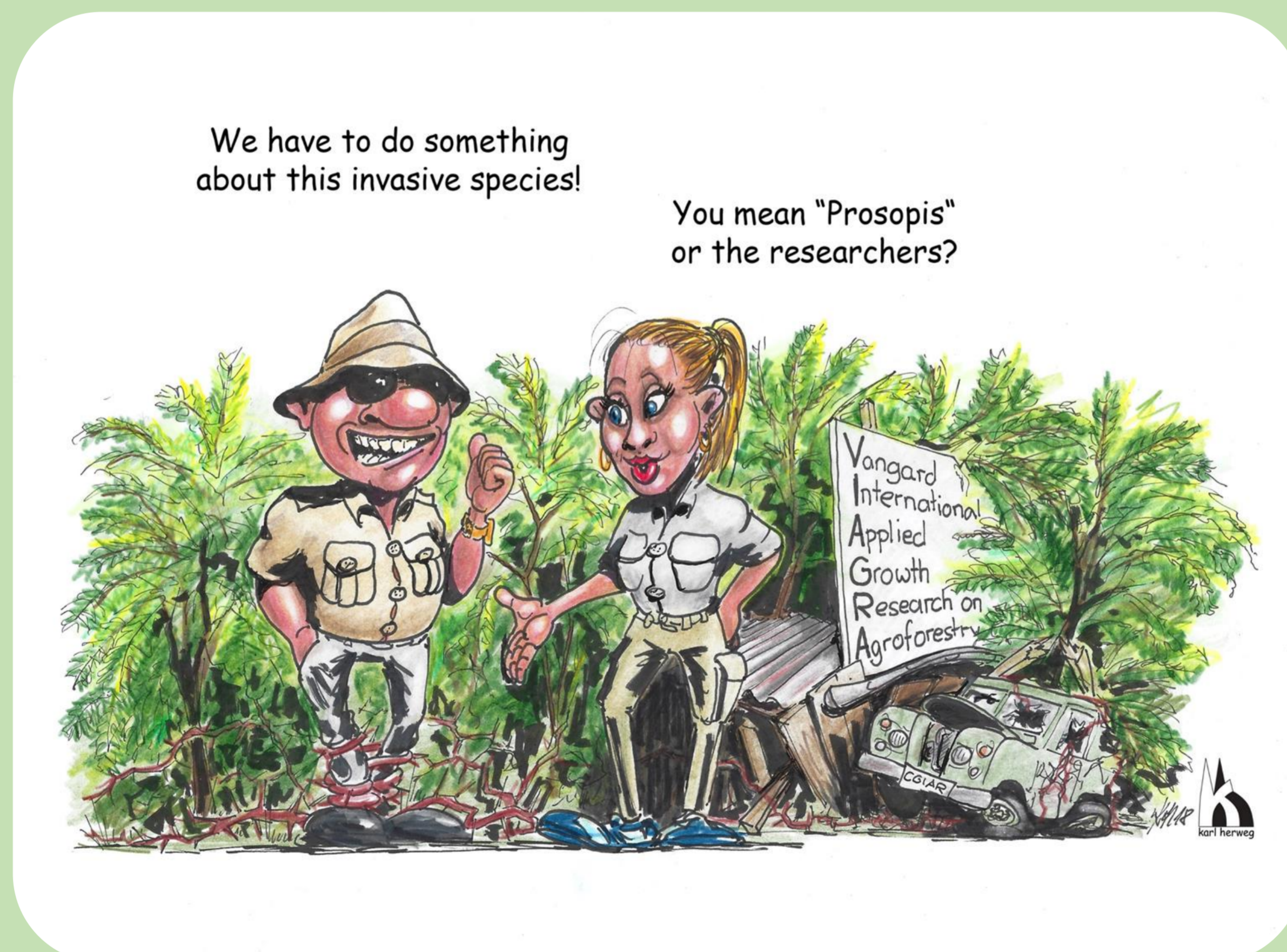
Prosopis hinders mobility and reduces access to water sources and watering places.

### Shelter:

Prosopis has a positive effect on micro-climate by providing shade and slowing down the speed of wind.

### Health:

Households incur higher health risks and costs due to Prosopis, for example due to injuries. Prosopis is also said to attract more mosquitoes.



### Grassland:

In Ethiopia and Kenya, Prosopis has reduced the access to community grasslands and the number of cattle that can be raised on it.

### Employment:

Some people are able to benefit from Prosopis by adopting new economic activities such as charcoal making. This leads to a shift of livelihood away from cattle and towards wood-derived income.

### Conflicts

In Afar, ethnic conflicts over the use of remaining drought-season grasslands have erupted and were further aggravated by Prosopis erosion.