

Woody invasive alien species in Eastern Africa

Assessing and mitigating their impacts on ecosystems and rural livelihoods

<http://www.woodyweeds.org/>

Effects of Lantana on livelihoods in Tulo and sustainable land management to mitigate those effects



Lantana was introduced in East Africa a long time ago as an ornamental plant and has been widely planted in and around homesteads. It is used as live fence, for timber, fuelwood, and fodder. It is also said to fertilise soil.



“As a member of Woody Weeds project, my work focuses on the social and economic impacts, as well as the environmental costs of Prosopis and Lantana in Eastern Africa.”

Ketema Bekele, PhD student at Haramaya University



In Tulo, Lantana has spread into farmland, where it competes with crops. Its presence increases the cost of farming, as removal requires more labour or the use of herbicides. Lantana also decreases native vegetation and biodiversity.



We map the current distribution of Lantana in Eastern Africa and the areas that are threatened by future invasion. We investigate the impacts of this plant on the environment, people, and the economy. We assess how these impacts change when Lantana abundance increases.

In Tulo, we assess the impact of Lantana on the growth of other plants, on the presence of insects and on soil properties. We also assess how it affects peoples' income by influencing yields and costs of crop production.



Our project will help local communities, NGOs, and authorities to choose the best management options to reduce the negative impacts and maximise the benefits of Lantana. For this purpose, we will identify and promote sustainable land management practices in Tulo.

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