



# Woody invasive alien species in Eastern Africa

Assessing and mitigating their impacts on ecosystems and rural livelihoods

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

## Effects of Prosopis on livelihoods in Baringo and sustainable land management to mitigate those effects



Prosopis was introduced in the late 1970s in arid areas of East Africa to curb soil degradation and to alleviate fuel wood shortage. It can provide fodder, shade, fuel wood, and income from charcoal production. It is also used for fencing.



*"I work with students and experts from different countries to help us better understand and manage the problem and to compare the situation with other countries affected by the same plant."*

*Purity Rima, PhD student at the University of Nairobi and KEFRI*



In Baringo, Prosopis has spread to areas where it is now causing damage: its thorns cause injury to humans and animals; it degrades pasture quality, reduces access to fodder and water, reduces biodiversity and increases costs of land management.



We map the current distribution of Prosopis 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 Prosopis abundance increases.

In Baringo, we assess how the spread of Prosopis is affected by human and animal movement, and by hybridisation of the originally planted Prosopis species. We also investigate the effects of the plant on belowground carbon storage, which could be important for climate change mitigation.



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 Prosopis. For this purpose, we will establish plots to demonstrate Prosopis management and grassland restoration.

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