

Prosopis, Parthenium and beyond - Elements for an integrated strategy of IAS control in the Afar region

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Paper presented at the
Regional Conference on Managing Prosopis Juliflora for better
(agro-)pastoral Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa.

May 1 - May 2, 2014, Addis Ababa



Prosopis came not alone

- More than 35 IAS in Ethiopia
- Prosopis control to be part of an integrated IAS-strategy
- IAS-control: a method integrated into modern sustainable landuse et resource conservation

Important invasive species in Afar region

Parthenium
hysterophorus



Acacia nubica



Distribution of *P. hysterophorus*

Distribution of the Invasive Weed Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.) in Ethiopia



Map by Dr. Kassahun Zewdie, EIAR: PP-Presentation Biological Control of Parthenium hysterophorus in Ethiopia: An overview

Parthenium hysterophorus damages

Dry-season aspect. Photos: Nov. 2013, close to Chiffra

Overgrown irrigation plot



By the roadside



Control measures of *P. hysterophorus*

- On farmland (irrigated)
- Irrigation canals
- On rangeland
- Road sides
- Settlement areas

Implementation of control measures

In Afar only marginal activities of
Parthenium control:

- Some on irrigated land
- Very little on range land

Acacia nubica invading rangeland
dry-season aspect. Photo: Nov. 2013, close to Chiffra



Common frame of control for all IAS

- Benefits: synergies in on the level of
 - Observation of spreading,
 - information/capacity development,
 - policy dev., institutional strengthening, etc.
- Resulting in stronger institutional setting, faster response, less cost, etc.

Elements of an integrated strategy

- **Integration Levels:**
 - **Policy definition**
 - **Institutional mandates**
 - **Socio-cultural compatibility of measures**
 - **Cooperation of actors**
 - **Landscape ecology**
 - **Economic (Profitability of land-use)**
 - **Research and Technology Development**
 - **Information & Capacity Development**

Focus: communities / land-users

- Challenge: continuity of control measures
- How to put land-users in the driver seat
- Socio-cultural compatibility of measures including gender
- How to create stimulus for land-users to invest in profitable land-use.

Focus: Total area coverage

- Ambition to cover the total area of the Afar National Regional State
- But with site- and context specific measures
- Adapting measures to communities, to land-use, to natural conditions, etc. ?

Focus: Integrating IAS control

- **IAS be integrated into a larger package for the strengthening Livelihoods:**
 - Land use planning
 - Modernising agriculture and range land-use
 - Accompany ongoing transformation of livelihood strategies

Focus: Institutional development

- **How to create a fitting institutional set-up between national – regional and local level?**
- **Clear institutional mandates for all levels**



What to build on?

Sound base to build an integrated strategy on:

- **Existing research (Removing barriers to invasive plant management in ET,**
- **Experiences gained in programmes**
- **Existing vocational programmes**
- **Policy paper of Afar**
- **Willingness of partners**