



Chikukwa, Chimanimani, Zimbabwe

Using permaculture design to rebuild
a degraded landscape and revitalise a
collapsing community.

Background

- Some of the seeds that led to the creation of Sector39 came from Zimbabwe. This was not one of our projects but one that we visited, learnt from and have been following ever since.
- This amazing project was set in motion in 1991 and has travelled a long way since then.
- These case studies are literally priceless in terms of the lessons they offer up.

Stabilising slopes with swales and contour planting – in Wales in public garden







Root Systems of Prairie Plants

Conservation Research Institute

Red River 1995

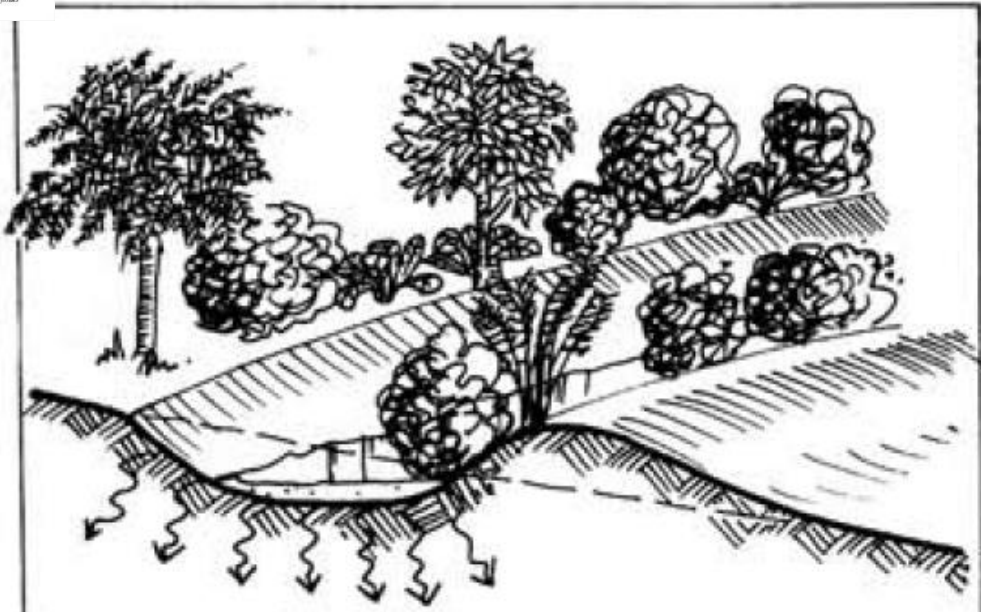


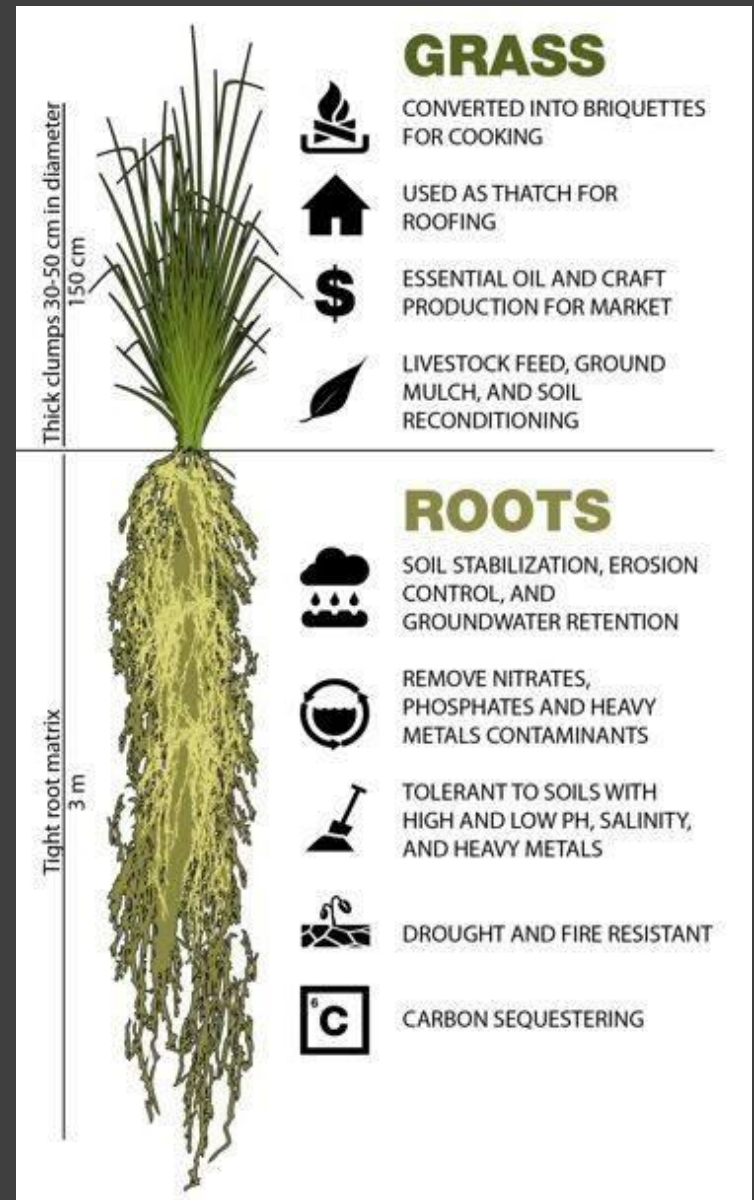
FIGURE 7.23
Swales on contour do not flow; they first stop and then infiltrate overland flow. Swales on hillsides are part of access or production systems.

Vetiver

Remember:

Select elements for your design which perform multiple functions.

- Biomass resource
- Animal feed
- Essential oil
- Land stabilisation
- Soil building
- Rainwater infiltration
- Self propagating plant – saleable
- Very tough, drought and flood resistant
- Carbon sequestration
- Many more..







Conclusion

Permaculture is an open ended on-going process, guided by feedback and evaluation

The initial design input and planning represents an up-front investment to kick start this process

In such projects the outcomes reveal themselves over many decades, we need to keep an overview to be able to spot the patterns