



Project Nook Hostel

Report from April 24 to September 24

21.11.2024

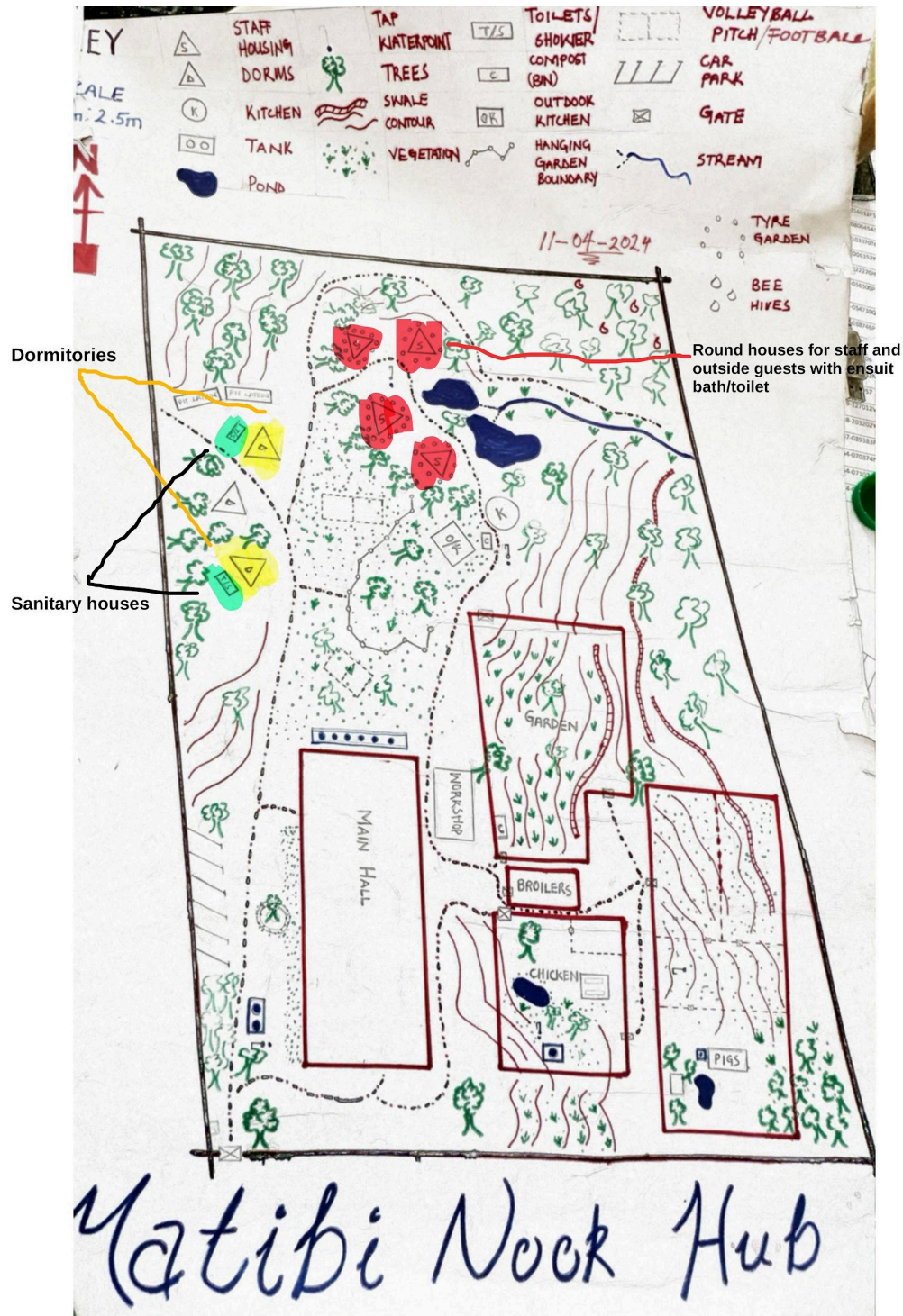




Table of Content

1. Introduction	3
2. Key Developments	3
a. Hostel Construction	3
b. Project Timelines	3
c. Community Engagement	4
d. Stakeholder Inception Meeting	4
e. Expansion of land	5
3. Challenges	6
4. Future Directions	6
5. Conclusion	6
6. Pictures	7



1. Introduction

This report seeks to show how the project has been progressing in the last 6 months since its inception. Friends for Matibi Trust is receiving support from LB Foundation for the construction of a learners hostel which will have permaculture integration. The project started well with much excitement with how the outcome will be like despite encountering unforeseen challenges. This report outlines our accomplishments, obstacles, and future directions.

2. Key Developments

a. Hostel Construction

Permission from local authorities has been delayed, hindering construction commencement. The Mwenezi rural district authorities and other government departments which are relevant to the project have been delaying in approving our plan for the hostel with no sufficient reason hence the organisation has been with them for a long time in establishing the current nook structures. The organisation has done its necessary preparation for the commencement of the project hence the delay from the Mwenezi rural district authorities has been the main delaying factor. With the delays from other works to be implemented, permaculture activities have been going as planned and learners were fully involved in setting up the layout.

b. Project Timelines

Delays of the construction have impacted the original timeline which was set at the beginning of the year and not all planned activities have been implemented within the set timeframe. We have set new timelines for the remaining last part of the year breaking it down to a monthly basis starting from October 2024. The budget for the project has not been affected by the delays in the project.

Tentative timelines adjustments taking into account the rainy season that we are fast approaching. Overall, we plan to have finished the project by March 2025.

ACTIVITIES	DURATION	NOTE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Final Processing of Building Plans- Final Processing of Bill of Quantities- Sensitization of skilled personnel from the community- Exchange visit with Kufunda and Scope	October	We changed from A-frame houses to thatched houses with concrete walls due to a fire prevention recommendation by the public construction inspector.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of two dormitory - Installation of 5kva Solar-power - Construction of blair toilets - Construction of two sanitary houses 	October/November/December 2024	<p>The thatching of the first roof is done. Second in progress. Next is laying foundations and building the walls.</p> <p>We need to buy some more sanitary pipe material that is hard to get.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of water management and biogas system - Drilling of borehole under wethole policy - Installation of solar pump, water tank and pipes - permaculture integration (<i>ponds, digs, trees, plants, fireplace kitchen and furniture like beds, tables, chairs, hammocks, lounges</i>) 	December 2024 - March 2025	<p>We are still looking for the right provider for water management and biogas systems.</p> <p>The borehole will be placed quite far away because there was no water found nearby the hostel. We need to buy longer cable and pipes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of one traditional houses for office - Construction one guest House - Installation of 10kva Solar-power 	December 2024 - March 2025	<p>The roofs are constructed and thatched in December (after the dorms) then construction will be in 2025.</p>

c. Community Engagement

Successful community engagement has garnered local leadership who are keen to see the place bloom to its full potential. The local leadership has assisted us in identifying skilled personnel in various fields of work that are relevant to the project and with this in mind it will assist the learners who will be taking part in the construction of the hostel and gain more experience and exposure even after leaving the nook space.

d. Stakeholder Inception Meeting

A stakeholder inception meeting was held and the following stakeholders took part: Mwenezi District Development Coordinator, Mwenezi Rural District Council, Mwenezi Public Service Commission, and Zimbabwe Republic Police, Chief Mawarire Representative and Traditional Village Heads. This meeting was done after numerous attempts and failures to bring all the stakeholders together.

As this was a high level stakeholders meeting there was a need to present all the necessary and relevant documentation of how the project will be implemented and also how they can assist us to ensure that we provide services that will boost the Matibi community and Mwenezi district at large.



During the meeting there was a concern raised regarding our current size of land which was allocated to the organisation when the nook project was initiated. It was discovered that the land won't be sufficient to cater for all the future activities to be implemented like permaculture farming extensions, butchery, briquette production, hostel and guest house expansions and that more land would guarantee more privacy between learners and guests.

e. Expansion of land

The current expansion of the land came as a recommendation by council as there was a chance for land to be expanded based on the activities we wanted to do. The structures fit on our current land though stakeholders envisioned it would be nicer if accommodations are scattered for increased privacy between staff, students and outside guests. However, we will stick to our initial plan in parallel with the land expansion.

Mwenezi Rural District Council agreed to assist us in fast tracking the land expansion request as this has taken much time and has had a negative impact on the learners. It is very feasible that we can expand to 100mx100m from 100mx50m very soon. This proposal was accepted and now needs processing by the authorities. We are also applying for more farmland on the other side of the nook. This is not yet granted.

The land where the organisation is situated is partially owned by the community which at time hinders progress and improvement hence the organisation is working hand in hand with the Mwenezi Rural District Council to acquire necessary paperwork and purchase the land to prevent future conflicts between the organisation, traditional leaders and other political parties who have shown interest in the land. It can take up to one year and even more. Bureaucratic processes in Zimbabwe are hard to guess timewise.

The process of expansion and purchasing the land will not affect the timeline as we will construct the hostel and the two guest houses on the already granted land. Once we will construct more guest houses and more dormitories if needed, then we will need the additional land. We will also need the additional land for planned income generating projects next year.

3. Challenges

- The organisation has had delays in obtaining local authority permissions to start the construction process of the learners hostel which has affected a number of learners in participating in the program. The local authorities will be expecting to receive incentive for each and every meeting we would like to have as this is a norm which is being done by other organisations in the district. Hence it affects our budget and it derails the whole purpose of activities we want to implement.
- The land ownership complexities in which the organisation is situated has also affected the progress.



- The project timeline adjustments have affected implementation of the project and causing a delay in completion of all the planned activities for the year 2024-2025

4. Future Directions

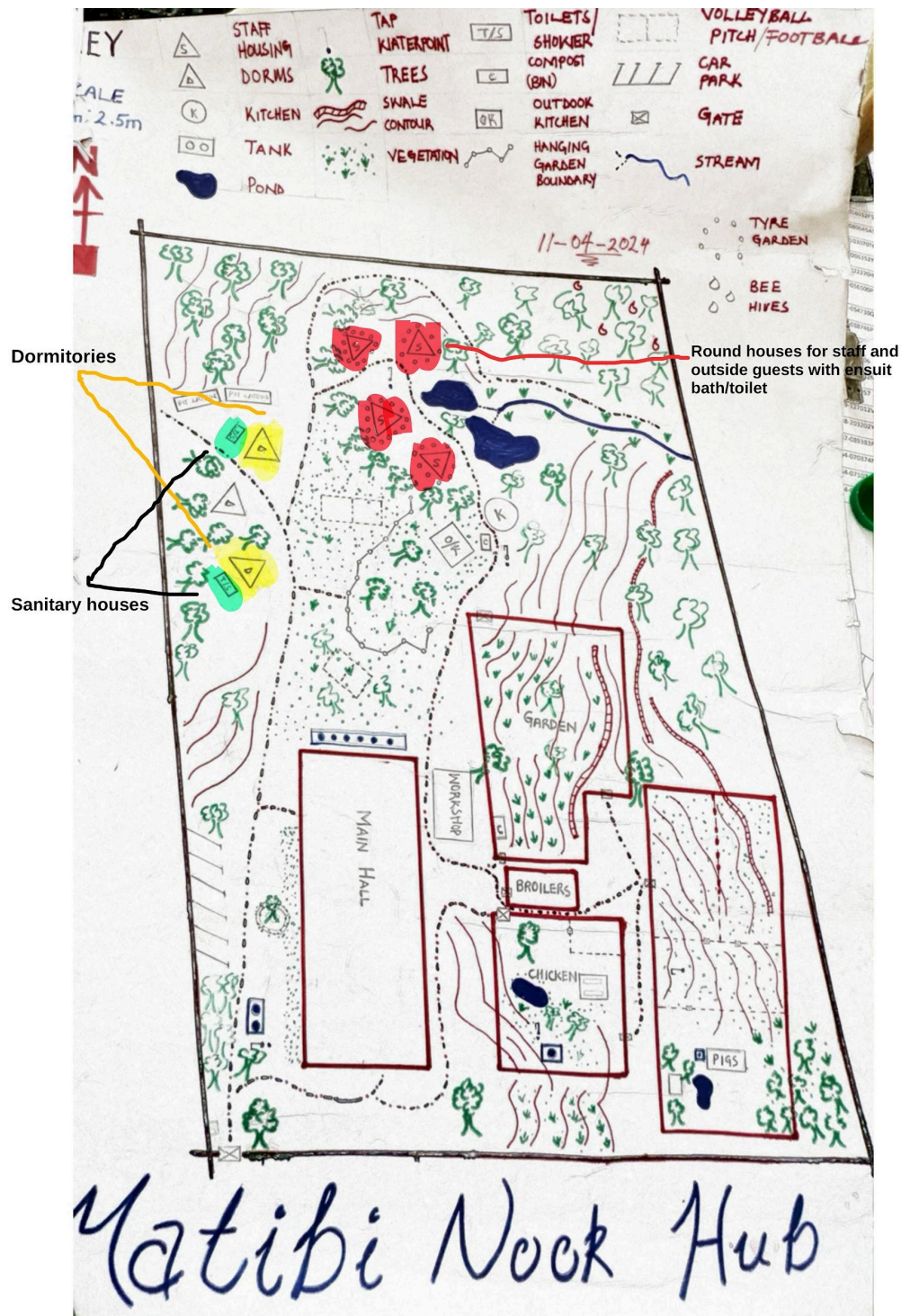
- The organisation with the help from Mwenezi Rural District Council is in the process of resolving the land ownership issues to avoid further delays in implementation of projects and activities.
- Reassess project timelines and adjust accordingly
- The land expansion process and paperwork submission has begun with the help of local leadership who are custodian of the land and also engaging other relevant authorities.
- Continue community engagement and stakeholder collaboration

5. Conclusion

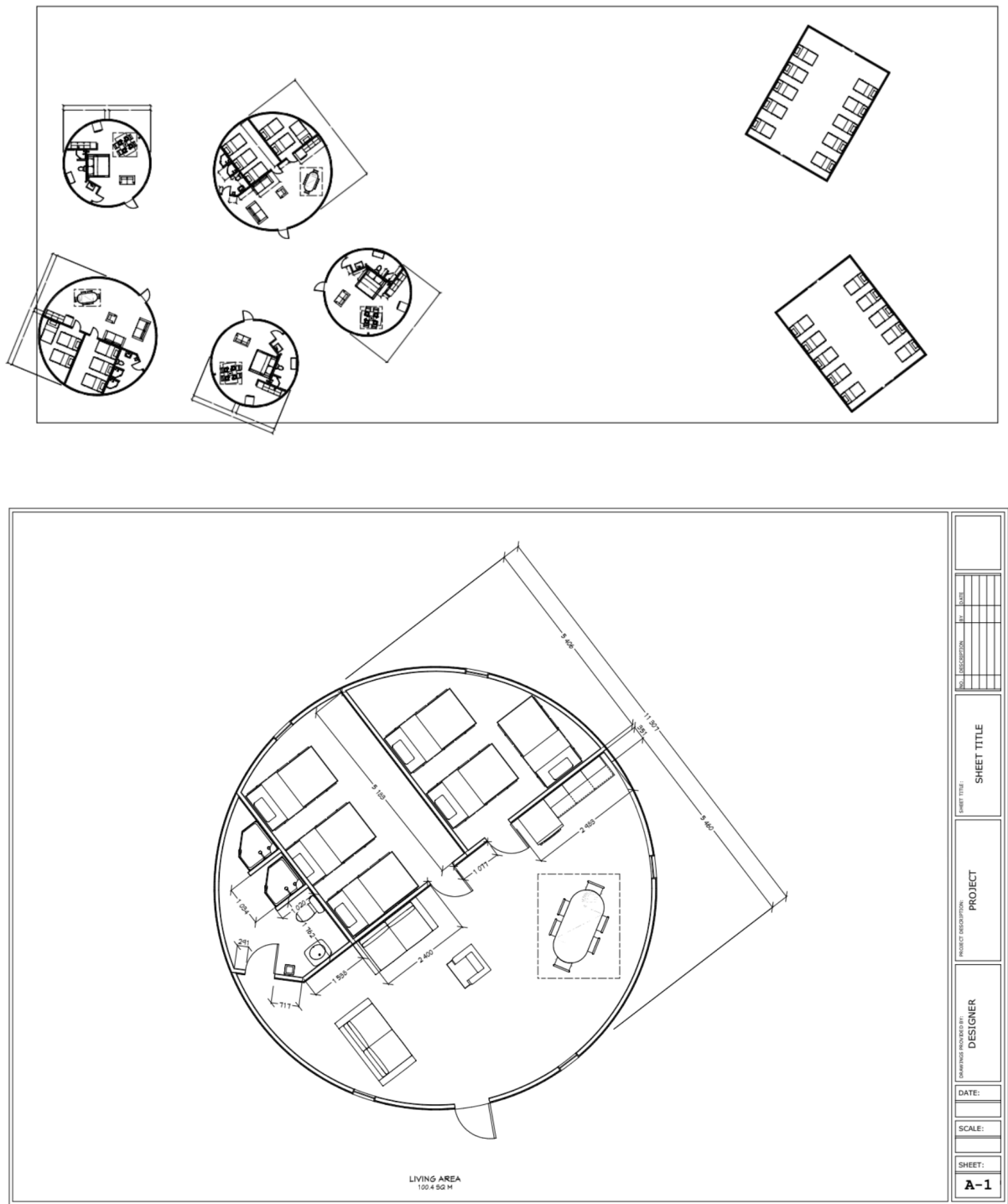
Despite encountering obstacles, Friends For Matibi Trust remains committed to its objectives. We appreciate the support from LB Foundation, local leadership, and all other relevant stakeholders and look forward to overcoming challenges and achieving our goals and improving the lives of the Matibi community and the rest of the Mwenezi District.

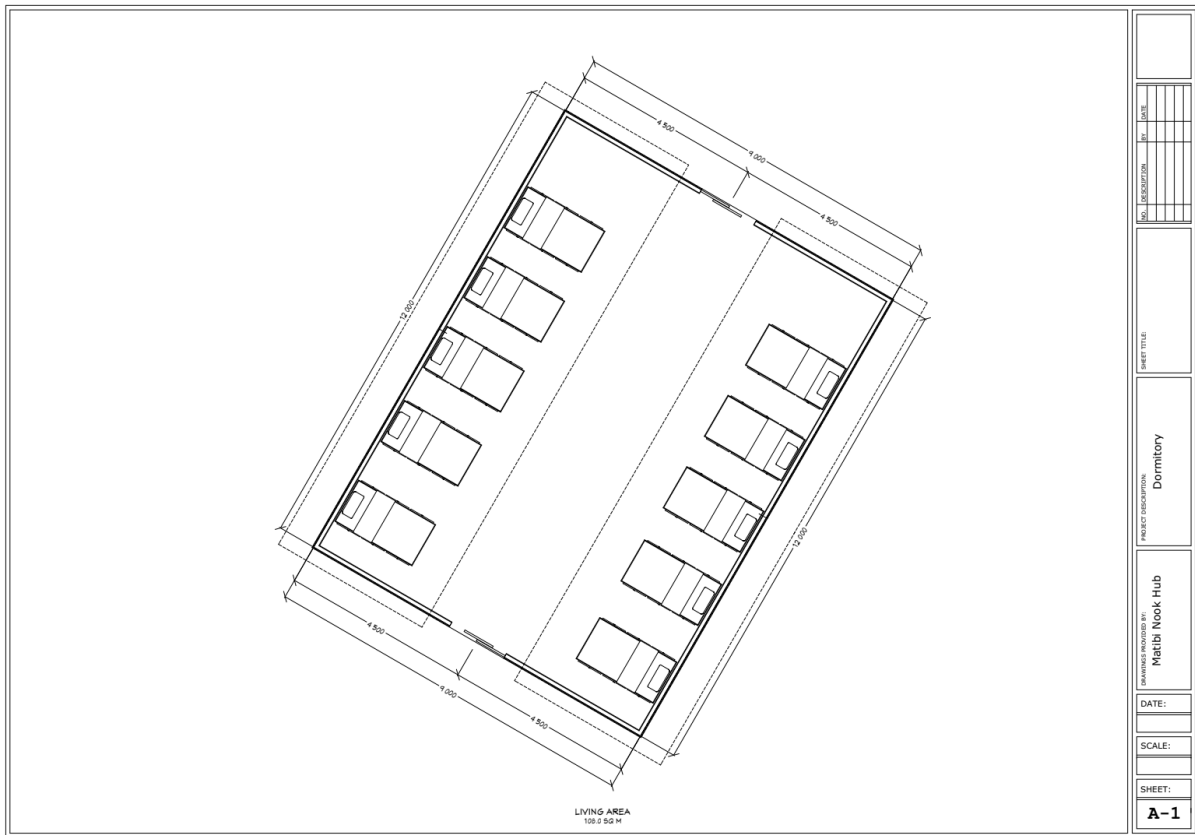
6. Pictures

Sitemap



Architectural plans





[Link](#) to video 2

A large, traditional thatched-roof structure, possibly a granary or a communal building, is under construction or repair. The structure features a steeply pitched roof made of dried thatch, supported by a complex wooden frame of horizontal and vertical poles. Several workers are visible on the structure: one is perched high on the roof's ridge, another is on a lower beam, and a third is on the ground to the left. The building is situated in an open, dry area with scattered straw and debris on the ground. In the background, there are trees and a simple white building. The sky is clear and blue.

Roof 1 in progress



Roof one finished, roof two started





Second roof thatching







Inception meeting



Picture from the permaculture activities with the learners



Picture from the permaculture water retention experiments





Picture from the permaculture workshop attended at SCOPE Zimbabwe by Gilbert Rupere and Simbarashe Mtandadzi

