

TROPICAL SAVANNA GRASSLANDS

ADAPTATIONS

XEROPHYTIC

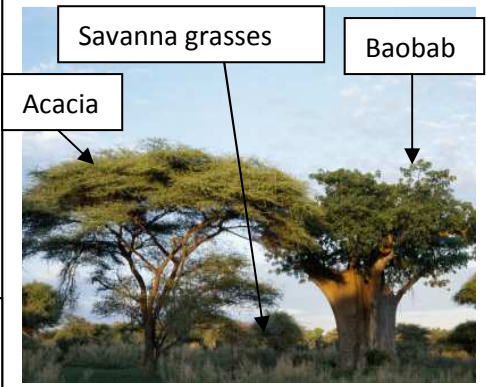
- Perennial grasses grow vigorously after rain (1inch in 24 hrs)
- Plants lose leaves in the dry season
- Plants are dormant in the dry season
- Deep tap roots
- Hardened leaves
- Thin needle-like leaves (Acacia)
- Water filled tree trunks (Baobab)
- Early seed production (in life cycle)
- Dormant seeds wait for rain

ANIMALS / GRAZING

- Sharp bitter tasting grasses
- Grasses grow from the base where they are undamaged
- Tree leaves are thorn-like
- Tree leaves give off alkaloid deterrent when eaten

PYROPHYTIC

- Grasses have corms / rhizomes beneath the surface (protected from fire)
- New grow arises from corms / rhizomes
- Plants can sprout from fired wood
- Fire can rejuvenate dense vegetation by thinning out the woodland and allowing grasses to predominate
- Plants produce seeds very early in their life cycle
- Some dormant seeds need fire to allow germination
- Oils in some plants aids fires by increasing the heat



80% of the rainfall is in summer, drought in the 'cooler' season

Fires can be natural or man made

DESERTIFICATION

- LOSS OF VEGETATION
 - SOIL EROSION
- DUE TO**
- Human activities
 - Overgrazing
 - Overcultivation
 - Deforestation
 - Climate change

SERE / SUCCESSION

- CLIMATIC SAVANNA - Climax community based on climate
 - EDAPHIC SAVANNA - Climax community based on local Conditions eg. Soils
 - DERIVED SAVANNA - Affected by fires and human activity
- PLAGIO-CLIMATIC CLIMAX (Overgrazing and fires are inhibitors)
- Succession normally leads to dominant species. Fires and inhibitors aid biodiversity

