

SACRED AND INDIGENOUS PLANTS FOR CONSERVATION OF ECO-SYSTEMS IN KOLLI HILLS, TAMILNADU, INDIA

Sacred Groves are parts of the forests and overflow with a varied flora. They are communally protected and usually have a significant religious connection for the protecting communities. Sacred groves are associated with temples, shrines or monasteries in the rural areas and are typically associated with the concept of a "Presiding Deity". Such groves are found in many places in India and stand as an evidence of the traditional conservation of ecology. Hunting and logging are usually strictly prohibited within these patches.

However due to modernization, increasing populations and pressure on lands, more and more sacred groves see their size being reduced considerably, thus posing serious threats to the environment and nature. Kolli Hills of Eastern Ghats, Namakkal District is one of such places, losing not only the traditional values but reducing severely forest cover, thereby impacting biodiversity.

At this juncture, **Socio-Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS)** is taking up initiative among the tribal masses in Kolli Hills to raise awareness on the need of conservation of the grooves. We also support the local population in revamping traditional practices of conserving the biodiversity of trees and other plant species for the next generations.

Goal

SEEDS wishes to ensure the participation of more people from Kolli Hills (target area) and spread the project throughout the year.



Current Activities

- Creation of a "Green Club" among Tribal Children in 5 schools: each club regroups 20 students per school, who take care of the Sacred Grove's growth and maintenance.
- Augmentation of the awareness of school children through educative competition programs and of parents and teachers through community level programs on promotion of the sacred groves.
- Creation of specific nursery gardens with traditional medicine plants and fruit trees, such as Java Plum, Black Plum, Bengal Quince, Indian Gooseberry, Jack Tree, Mango Tree, Bamboo Tree, Indian Peach, Zizipus Tree, Nutmeg Tree, Guava Tree, Tamarind Tree or Indian sandalwood for the coming monsoon plantations.



<http://goo.gl/WBrjTk>

For further information, please contact:

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