

Sacred Groves and Myristica Swamps

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Sacred Groves

- These are forests or patches of natural vegetation that are left untouched by local people and are protected by their cultural taboos.



Kans or Devarkadu

- Sacred groves are known by different names in different parts of India, but they are locally known as kans or devarkadu in Karnataka

Importance

- They entail spiritual and ecological values.
- Contain trees that are considered socially, culturally, or medicinally important.
- They are repositories of rich medicinal plants, and homes to many endangered species.

Entada purseatha



Myristica malabarica



Semecarpus kathlekanensis



Hydrocarpus pentandra



Vateria indica



Mimusops elongi



Deterioration of Sacred Groves

- Loss of faith
- Expansion of villages
- Encroachment due to agriculture
- Modernization and urbanization

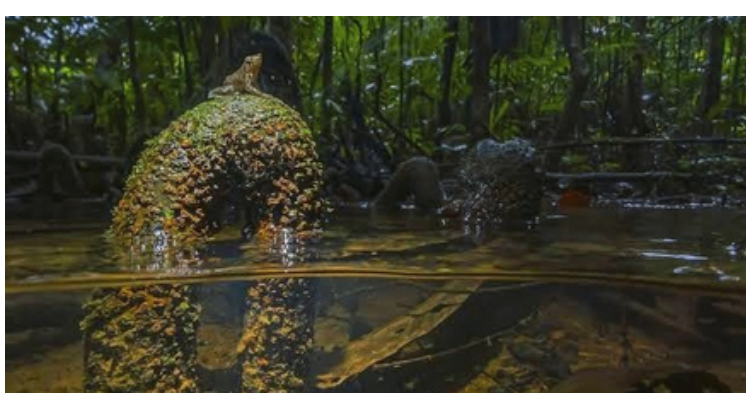
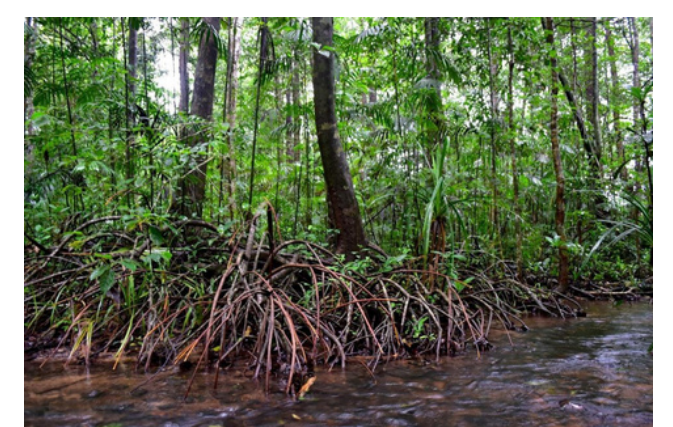


Myristica Swamps

- These are threatened freshwater swamps endemic to the Western Ghats.
- They are biodiversity hotspots and home to much exotic flora and fauna.

Steps to conserve

- The government has to enact a special law
- We must reduce pollution in neighboring hamlets and villages
- We must conserve and do more ecological studies on threatened species



References

- <https://sacredland.org/sacred-groves-of-india-india/>
- <https://isha.sadhguru.org/rally-for-rivers/sacred-groves-india/>



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