1. Forest patches were preserved as sacred in the traditional cultures of Western Ghats and west coast of India. A major benefit to humans from worship of gods in sacred groves is one of water supply, clean, perennial and protected. Here are two case studies from Honavar taluk of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.

2. The ancient temple of Kamakoteswari (Mother Goddess of Heravali village), inside a 50 ha sacred grove, is recently fenced and protected by Forest Department, Honavar Division with community involvement. Here we studied water levels in 12 open wells through monthly measurements.

3. In the adjoining village of Kharva, no such sacred grove like that of Kamakoteswari exists currently, though temples are present. The forest here is more open and scrubby. Here also we chose 12 wells for monthly measuring of water levels.

4. Water table in the sacred grove village of Heravali was at average depths of 1-2 m, even during dry months of December to May. But in the next village Kharva hardly the rains recede in September the water table drops down to 4 m, almost down to 5 m in May, because Kharva has lost its sacred forest.

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