List of Diagrams

Diagram 1: The importance of Sacred Groves in Hydrological cycle. 45
Diagram 2: The importance of Sacred Groves to revive the changing climatic modification in micro level. 46
Diagram 3: Sacred Groves and pedological significance. 48
Diagram 4: Importance of Sacred Groves to cope hazards from environment in micro level. 49
Diagram 5: Sacred Groves and medicinal value, present and future. 50
Diagram 6: Sacred Groves and its socio-economic value in sporadic way. 63
Diagram 7: Geo-environmental appraisal and traditional practices of Sacred Groves: At a glance. 105
Diagram 8: Causes of modification in Sacred Groves. 143
Diagram 9: Changing vision of society about environment. 150
Diagram 10: Deviated Sacred Groves perception as a source of crisis in physical environment. 154
Diagram 11: Deviated Sacred Groves perception as a source of crisis in social-economic and cultural environment. 155
Diagram 12: Women empowerment on Sacred Groves as a source of environmental renewal appraisal. 160

List of Figures

Figure 1: Environment of Sacred Groves. 21
Figure 2: Sacred Grove and traditional practice. 98
Figure 3: Differences between general and special tamarind seeds. 100
Figure 4: The relation between religions and Sacred Groves. 119
Figure 5: Identity crisis of Sacred Groves. 151

List of Tables

Table 1: Questionnaires for getting data. 10
Table 2: Total scenario of field survey (for 37 days). 11-13
Table 3: Means of Sacred Groves. 22
Table 4: Recent numerical scenario of Sacred Groves in India. 37
Table 5: List of tree conservation through Sacred Groves.  
Table 6: List of present faunal conservation through Sacred Groves in West Bengal.  
Table 7: Name of the Sacred Groves those are using for tradition therapeutic application at local level by village-dwellers.  
Table 8: Comparative analysis between two Sacred Groves of plateau and plain landform in respect of per month economy regeneration.  
Table 9: Sacred Groves and related traditional practices in West Bengal.  
Table 10: Nourishing of Sacred Groves on the basis of practices of worshipping of sacred trees/Jungle/grove worshipping.  
Table 11: Traditional Rock Worshipping in Sacred Groves.  
Table 12: Traditional Soil worshipping in West Bengal.  
Table 13: Traditional Hill/Tila/Mound Worshipping in West Bengal.  
Table 14: Traditional Water Worshipping in West Bengal.  
Table 15: Nourishing of Sacrificial system in Sacred Groves.  
Table 16: Nourishing the Traditional Folk-arts in Sacred Groves.  
Table 17: The Ritual maintaining day in different Sacred Groves of West Bengal.  
Table 18: Hindu religion based Sacred Groves in West Bengal (based on surveyed data).  
Table 19: Muslim Sacred Groves in West Bengal.  
Table 20: Number and percentage of religion based Sacred Groves in West Bengal.  
Table 21: List of conserving Sacred Groves among Tribal societies of West Bengal.  
Table 22: Landform-Sacred Groves relation.  
Table 23: List of Sacred Groves in Landform-wise (based on Quadrate method).  
Table 24: Sacred Groves in Urban landscape (based on surveyed data).  
Table 25: Presence of Sacred Groves in Urban and Rural landscape (based on surveyed data).  
Table 26: Nature of modification of Sacred Groves.
**List of Graphs**

Graph 1: Sacred Groves frequency in States of India. 38
Graph 2: Percentage of Jungle/groves worshipping in total observed Sacred Groves. 66
Graph 3: Abstract of religion-wise population distribution in West Bengal. 121
Graph 4: Religion-wise conserving Sacred Groves in West Bengal. 121
Graph 5: Comparative view of Sacred Groves between plateau and mountain/hill areas of West Bengal. 134
Graph 6: Rural-Urban population distribution in West Bengal. 140
Graph 7: Rural-Urban Sacred Groves in West Bengal. 140
Graph 8: Recent status of Sacred Groves in West Bengal. 153

**List of Maps**

Map 1: The state-tour for 37 days in West Bengal. 14
Map 2: Major landform division of West Bengal. 16
Map 3: Therapeutic application of Sacred Groves. 58
Map 4: Traditional Rock worshipping in Sacred Groves. 78
Map 5: Traditional Water, Soil and Mound worshipping in Sacred Groves. 86
Map 6: Distribution of Sacrificial (living alive) tradition in Sacred Groves. 89
Map 7: Religion-wise Sacred Groves distribution. 118
Map 8: Distribution of Rural and Urban Sacred Groves. 139

**List of Plates**

Plate 1: Sirhdevi Sacred Grove in Sukna of Darjiling district. 23
Plate 2: Kankalitala Sacred Grove of Birbhum district. 23
Plate 3: Pirtala Sacred Grove in Rangamati of Bankura district. 23
Plate 4: Daityasur Sacred Grove in Satkahania of Barddhaman district. 23
Plate 5: Iconographic Madnatala Sacred Grove in Bistupur. 23
Plate 6: Burial Sacred Grove in Jhargram of West Medinipur district. 23
Plate 7: Rama and his wife Sita in Panchabati forest. 28
Plate 8: Dying Dronacharya under Ficus tree. 28
Plate 9: Radha-Krishna sacred couple and related sacred place. 30
Plate 10: Buddha and Bodhi Sacred tree.

Plate 11: Gurunanak and his followers sing song under tree.

Plate 12: Chatimtala of Santiniketan of Birbhum district.

Plate 13: Brahmacharitala in Indas of Birbhum district.

Plate 14: Darbarshahebtala in Labpur of Birbhum district.

Plate 15: Basiltala in Keshriya of West Medinipur district.

Plate 16: Gutulikalitala of Monhorpur in Birbhum district.

Plate 17: Pirtala in Sahara of Barddhaman district.

Plate 18: Kalitala of Bora in Birbhum district.

Plate 19: Sacred Grove in Chandrakona of West Medinipur district.

Plate 20: Bagra Thaan Sacred Grove of Manbazar.

Plate 21: Dhir Dham Sacred Grove of Darjiling district.

Plate 22: Kankalitala temple based Sacred Grove in Birbhum district.

Plate 23: Idhgaha in Panchanandapur of Malda district.

Plate 24: Pirer darga of North 24 Parganas district.

Plate 25: Merimother Church in Kalimpong of Darjiling district.

Plate 26: Church based Sacred Grove in Basanti Island of South 24 Parganas district.

Plate 27: Pirtala Sacred Grove in Rangamati of Bankura district.

Plate 28: Natmandir in Jaibababara pahar of Puruliya district.

Plate 29: Infrastructural improvement in Fullaratatala of Birbhum district.

Plate 30: Madnatala Sadhumela in Barjora of Bankura district.

Plate 31: Mud horses & elephants worshipping of Bankura district.

Plate 32: Special vow item sinni in Nadia district.

Plate 33: Gopal Bairagya of Madnatala Sacred Grove in Nityanandapur of Bankura district.

Plate 34: Marriages in Kankalitala Sacred Grove of Birbhum district.

Plate 35: Sacred Jungle in Haripurbarazar.

Plate 36: Garhchandi mandir in Garjangal of Barddhaman district.
Plate 37: Rangini Thaan in Khatra of Bankura district.  
Plate 38: Gagoram Sacred Grove in Balarampur of Puruliya district.  
Plate 39: Dead Neem tree in Gopiballavpur of West Medinipur district.  
Plate 40: Banbibi in South 24 Parganas district.  
Plate 41: Elongated Rock worshipping in Uttar Dinajpur district.  
Plate 42: Devi Manasa Sacred Grove in West Medinipur district.  
Plate 43: Chanditala of Barddhaman district.  
Plate 44: Movement in Devi Durga of Puruliya district.  
Plate 45: Rock worshipping in Richateswari temple of West Medinipur district.  
Plate 46: Gosaitala in Satkahania of Barddhaman district.  
Plate 47: Burial ground based Soil worshipping in Kankalitala of Birbhum district.  
Plate 48: Maguria hill in Hura of Puruliya district.  
Plate 49: Sindhri hill in Bankura district.  
Plate 50: Pond worshipping in Kankalitala Sacred Grove.  
Plate 51: Garan Thaan in Lalgarh of West Medinipur district.  
Plate 52: Gramdebota Sacred Grove in West Medinipur district.  
Plate 53: Kharimati/ chalk/alluvial folk-art.  
Plate 54A: Nalateswari Tila of Birbhum district.  
Plate 54B: Foot print of Devi Sati on rock in Nalateswari Tila.  
Plate 55: Sitalatala Sacred Grove in Nandigram of East Medinipur.  
Plate 56: Saitan tree Jaygaon of Jalpaiguri district.  
Plate 57: Face of aspiration in Golgram of Barddhaman district.  
Plate 58: Burimartala in Kaliganj of Nadia district.  
Plate 59: Rock worshipping in Suratheswar Sacred Grove of Birbhum district.  
Plate 60: Rammandir Sacred Grove in Ayodhya hill of Puruliya district.  
Plate 61: Fullaratal Sacred Groves of Birbhum district.  
Plate 62: Bonbibi in Sundarbans of South 24 Parganas district.  
Plate 63: Bakreshwar Shiva temple of Birbhum district.  
Plate 64: Daityasur in Satkahania of Barddhaman district.  
Plate 65: Dalipujo in Satkahania of Barddhaman district.
Plate 66: Baram Thaan in Khamarberia of Bankura district. 108
Plate 67: Sacred Grove of Swarupnarayan Nagar in Lalgarh of West Medinipur district. 108
Plate 68: Kuratalai in Belsula village in Bishnupur of Bankura district. 109
Plate 69: Grave Katagoria in Nalhati of Birbhum district. 115
Plate 70: Grave in Puraton Jhargram of West Medinipur district. 115
Plate 71: Garmandaram in Gihat of Hugli district. 115
Plate 72: Erosim in Puruliya district. 124
Plate 73: Salpujo in Keshiriya block of West Medinipur. 125
Plate 74: Baghmundi Sacred Grove Puruliya district. 125
Plate 75: Mokorkol village in Sarenga block of West Medinipur district. 126
Plate 76: Kalipuja in Saluni village of West Medinipur district. 127
Plate 77: Brahmandiha village in Sarenga block Bankura district. 128
Plate 78: Kurchidanga village in Sarenga block of Bankura district. 128
Plate 79: Dangalikalitala Sacred Grove in Bolpur town of Birbhum district. 145
Plate 80: Maichampadanga Sacred Grove in Illambazar of Birbhum district. 145
Plate 81: Relict of Sacred Grove in Alipurduar rail station of Jalpaiguri district. 145
Plate 82: Bagratala Sacred Grove in Dhallah village of Illambazar (Birbhum district). 146
Plate 83: Completely modified of Sacred Grove in Bandel of Hugli district. 146
Plate 84: Shivatala Sacred Grove in Jayanti road of Jalpaiguri district. 146
Plate 85: Mathkalitala Sacred Grove in Bachra village of Murshidabad district. 146
Plate 86: Billyamangal Chintamani Ashram in Burddhaman district. 147
Plate 87: Basulidham Sacred Grove of Puruliya district. 147
Plate 88: Chandimandir Sacred Grove in Muchipara of Durgapur (Barddhaman district). 148
Plate 89: Shivatala of Barddhaman town. 148
Plate 90: Plastics pollution in Bara Baba Sacred Grove of Puruliya district. 148
Plate 91: Relict of Sacred Groves in urban area. 149
Plate 92: Scene of changing belief about Sacred in Uluberia of Haora district. 149
Plate 93: Male organized worshipping in Dhallaha village of Birbhum district. 158