

## **Restoration at Pampadum shola National park**

The grasslands of Pampadumshola has been converted into timber plantations by planting exotic species such as Eucalyptus and Wattle. These exotic species depleted the nutrients from the soil and hampered the growth of native species leading to loss of biodiversity, including wildlife that depended on the grass for fodder, and ecological imbalances like water scarcity. Forest department during the last decade started restoration of the area with the help of volunteers from various organisations and educational institutions in Kerala. The saplings of the wattle and eucalyptus were removed from the area and the tree trunks were used for contouring in the slopy region to reduce soil erosion. Then the grass species planted in the region.

The Students of School of Environmental Sciences has been regularly participating in the restoration of degraded forest ecosystem in Pamapadum shola national park. Different batches of students of the School participated in restoration program.



Students removing exotic plants



Students removing the sapling of wattle plants



Contour bunding with destroyed tree trunks



