

Palm saplings planted along Singanallur Lake

The Hindu Bureau

COIMBATORE

To mark the World Wetlands Day, a United Nations environment programme, the Forest Department, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore Corporation and Centre for Urban Biodiversity Conservation and Education (CUBE) jointly organised an awareness rally and sapling planting programme along Singanallur Lake here recently.

To encourage forest conservation, officials also issued identity cards to about 10 'Wetland *Mithras*' (Friends of Wetlands).

Palm saplings were planted on the banks of the lake and a cycle rally was flagged off in which over 150 school students and people took part to raise awareness on the importance of wetlands.

Conservator of Forests S. Ramasubramanian said Singanallur was fit enough to be declared a bird sanctuary.

"We are planning to create favourable conditions, such as planting saplings so that the area becomes a nesting ground for birds."

Plans to announce the area as 'Conservation Reserve' was under consideration, he added.