

PROJECT PROFILE

Title of the project: Survey and documentation of Phytodiversity in and around Singanallur lake, Coimbatore	
Theme/Area:	Biodiversity Conservation
Year:	October 2017 to September 2018) Extended upto January 2019
Project duration:	1 year
Sanctioned budget:	Rs. 2.48 lakhs
Funding Agency:	Centre for Urban Biodiversity and Education, Coimbatore
Principal Investigator:	Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Scientist-G
Co-Investigators:	Smt. R. Tamilarasi, STO
Project findings:	
<p>The Singanallur lake area (30.50 sq.km) was surveyed and the plant specimens were recorded in different parts of lake, agricultural fields and surrounding areas. A total of 453 plant species belonging to 304 genera and 84 families were enumerated. Few aquatic species like <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, <i>Lemna minor</i>, <i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i> which prefer polluted water were also recorded. On the basis of habit, 193 species of herbs, 144 tree species, 56 species of shrubs, 55 species of climbers and liana were recorded. There are about 328 species were categorized as medicinal, 86 ornamental, 72 edible and 46 fodder species. Quantitative analysis of the vegetation on all the bunds revealed that <i>Brachiaria mutica</i> is the highly frequent and dominant grass spread along the lake shore and help in protecting the bunds. The vegetation around the lake also acts as nesting or hiding places for birds, herpetofauna and small mammals. <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>, <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>, <i>Xanthium strumarium</i>, <i>Desmanthus virgatus</i>, <i>Croton bonplandianus</i> and some other climbers which disturb the vegetation were also recorded.</p>	