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## Learning about Forests

### Award/Certificate of Achievement Criteria Certificate of Participation Criteria



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**The LEAF Award.** In recognition for their work, schools that fulfil the Forest Cycle are awarded a **Certificate of Achievement**. In a number of countries they are awarded in the form of a **LEAF plaque**. This depends on the resources of the coordinating organisation within a country. The National Operator is responsible for assessment and delivery of the LEAF Award in their own countries.

**No award – Certificate of Participation.** A number of LEAF countries are running the programme through an existing forest school programme. These countries are not following the Forest Cycle or awarding the schools. However, their work is still acknowledged by LEAF International as they are still fulfilling the goals and objectives of the LEAF programme. A **Certificate of Participation** can be awarded to such schools.

The National Operator is responsible for assessment and delivery of awards/certificates in each country.

All programme activities, teacher training, materials for students and teachers shall be in accordance with LEAF programme vision, mission and philosophy.

### Award/Certificate of Achievement Criteria

To receive the **LEAF Award/Certificate of Achievement** the participants must fulfil the following criteria:

#### Aims of LEAF programme must be met:

- ✓ Increased level of awareness and knowledge about the key role forests play for sustainable life on our planet
- ✓ Increased level of environmental maturity irrespective of age and previous knowledge.

#### Goals and Objectives of the LEAF programme achieved:

- ✓ Ensure students learn to enjoy the outdoors, experience and observe nature. Encourage positive experiences outdoors and develop a positive attitude toward the environment and our forests. Help students gain a general curiosity about nature and human interaction with forests
- ✓ Ensure students understand the ecological web. It is important to understand the ecology of forests. This knowledge leads to a better understanding of nature's processes
- ✓ Ensure students understand the interplay of man and nature. The programme reflects all the functions forests fulfil for people: cultural, ecological, economic and social. Understanding the balance between these is crucial when understanding the potential conflict of interests that exist between different stakeholders

- ✓ Ensure students are capable of making decisions on environmental issues. By understanding the interplay between forests and humans we can identify where conflicts of interest may arise. Questioning skills are crucial to collect knowledge and reliable information. Based on education and knowledge, students can make well-informed decisions
- ✓ Ensure students help take responsibility for their future. Every individual is responsible for their own actions. The LEAF programme and the structured approach to education and awareness of forests has the potential to create a highly educated, informed and skilled population translating into many associated environmental, economic and societal benefits through better understanding of forests and related disciplines.
- ✓ The self-selected activities must cover multiple functions of forests:
  - **Cultural** (how people interact with forests)
  - **Ecological** (how forests provide for rich biodiversity, clean air, improved soil quality etc.)
  - **Economic** (forests provide lots of resources and jobs)
  - **Social** (how people use the forest in a social context).
- ✓ The school must work on at least one of the LEAF themes each year (see new LEAF Theme guidelines).
- ✓ The participating schools/classes/groups need to include at least one field trip to a forest(s) or at least carry out activities outdoor in a park or similar areas.
- ✓ **Schools must complete all the essential elements of the Forest Cycle:**
  - **Registration**
  - **Implementation of the Forest Cycle (6 Steps)**
  - **Application**
  - **Award**

## Certificate of Participation Criteria

To receive the **Certificate of Participation** the participants must fulfil the following criteria:

### Aims of LEAF programme must be met:

- ✓ Increased level of awareness and knowledge about the key role forests play for sustainable life on our planet
- ✓ Increased level of environmental maturity irrespective of age and previous knowledge.

### Goals and Objectives of the LEAF programme achieved:

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