LEAF (Learning About Forests) is an innovative, international programme that encourages learners and communities to take ownership of creating healthy surroundings by engaging with their local forests and planting indigenous trees. Through project-based learning and systems thinking, LEAF champions develop an understanding of the relationship between people and nature, and the cultural, ecological, economic and social functions and benefits.

The Forest Cycle is a well-designed framework to guide LEAF schools in creating biodiversity gardens which inspire change. This 6-step methodology ensures holistic learning and a deeper understanding of the role that forests and indigenous trees play in enabling sustainable life on our planet, from creating jobs and growing the economy to providing revitalising nature walks and maintaining our cultural identity.

Our project-based learning approach nurtures active global citizens and inspires responsibility for leaving a legacy for future generations.
BRINGING NATURE BACK TO SCHOOLS

LEAF has the potential to reach 12,5 million learners and 125 000 teachers across South Africa and aims to:

- create biodiversity gardens as outdoor classrooms in schools and communities through planting indigenous trees
- use a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) approach to teach learners about forests
- enable a reconnection with our natural surroundings through learning with hands-on activities and forest excursions, inspiring the use and appreciation of our forests and nurturing a deeper understanding of the need to love and protect them
- explore the relationship between our everyday lives and our natural and social environment

HOOOKED ON (BIO)DIVERSITY

South Africa has a rich variety of culture and natural resources. LEAF encourages diversity in learning, tree species, planting methods, people, forest foci, caring for trees, using our forests and sustainable living.

Schools can select from a variety of themes and aspects to explore based on the needs of the school and community - thereby optimising the LEAF programme for their local environment.
BENEFITS TO LEARNERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**PROJECT-BASED LEARNING**
The programme increases knowledge about forests among learners, teachers and communities, and helps identify practical solutions for global issues.

**CONSERVATION OF OUR WATER RESOURCES**
In 5 years, 1 tree recycles R46 000 worth of water and provides R38 000 worth of soil erosion control.

**APPRECIATING LIFE SUPPORTING RESOURCES**
LEAF explores the key role forests and indigenous trees play in enabling sustainable life on our planet for humans and animals.

**CARBON DIOXIDE ABSORPTION**
1 mature tree absorbs more than 22kg of CO₂ per year, and 1 million trees can absorb 38 000 metric tons of CO₂ in 10 years, providing R 7 trillion worth of air pollution control.

**TAKING ACTION FOR THE FUTURE**
Learners help create a habitat for biodiversity and take ownership and responsibility for their future.

**STRENGTHENING THE LUNGS OF THE EARTH**
1 million trees supply sufficient oxygen to 4 million people daily.

**PEOPLE & NATURE RELATIONSHIPS**
Learners develop an understanding of the relationship between people and nature, and the cultural, ecological, economic and social functions and benefits of trees and forests.

**REDUCED ELECTRICITY**
Well-positioned trees around buildings can reduce the need for air conditioning by up to 30%.

**CONTACT US**
to join our international movement and be part of the #OurForestsAreOurFuture campaign!

Cindy-Lee Cloete
LEAF Programme Manager
Tel 011 462 5663
Cell 064 752 0598
Email Cindy.Cloete@wessa.co.za
www.wessa.co.za