A joint program between the French Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education.
Main goals

• Forestry sector
  « communication » objective:
  Enhance the acknowledge by society of the benefits that provides sustainable forest management

• Environmental Education
  objective:
  - Promote outdoor and concrete learning about forest in schools
  - Implement Forest Related EE
A l’école de la forêt

- Started in 1990: 20 years of experience
- 25,000 pupils and 1,000 classes involved
- In 350 to 400 projects per year
- 550,000 pupils involved in « AEF » projects

French primary schools:
- Age range: 3 to 10 years
- (possible twinning with secondary school)
Each year, a national call for school projects is made among primary schools in Spring.

After being selected by a regional committee, the selected projects receive:
- the “AEF” label
- the technical support of a forester (free)
- a financial support

The regional committees are composed with local representative of the forest administration and of Ministry of Education delegates
= a 250 members’ network

The ONF (National Forest office) and the CRPF (Private Forest-Owners Center) are the main Partners of “AEF” program.
Projects selection’s criterias

Project lets the pupils discover the:

- Forests
- Multifunctional role of forests
- Necessity of a sustainable forest management
- Wood material and its by-products
- Forest economical sector and wood industry

Project:

- Involves the participation of a forester and/or professionals of wood
- Lasts minimum 1 year
- Is based on active discovery by pupils
- Is based on a varied partnership (local authorities, parents, EE associations, ….)
Financial framework

Annual grant by the Ministry of agriculture to the school projects:
• 100 000 euros

Financing max. 50% project’s budget
• Educational material, multimedia furnitures, plants, transports…..

Are not financed:
• Equipement goods, accomodations and food costs, administrative work…
Concrete activities

Observe and make investigations about forests

Visiting a sawmill

Planting trees

Collecting seeds

Moulding animal footprints

Writing a story about forest
• Each school project is unique and different …but all projects have a common objective: « Learning and understanding the relationship between people and forests »

• A l’école de la Forêt national Program integrates « Learning about forest » in the teaching programs as environmental education for a sustainable development (defined in circular of Min.of.education, 8.07.2004)
The « AEF » program’s efficiency is based on:

- the close partnership between foresters and teachers during one school year

- the technical and pedagogical support of the 250 members’ network of local correspondants from forest and educationnal Administration
Thank you!

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