

## *Nature and the forest teach*

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*Human society is a small part of the ecosphere, yet it has (again) a powerful impact on all spheres. Do we know the truth of the common pasture?*

*The signs of global change in the ecosphere are being monitored and dictate the paradigm shift towards sustainable development, which means human action on the scale of the ongoing renewal of the ecosphere, instead of going beyond its assimilative capacity. This axiom enables people to live in the happiness of coexistence and the primary force of love. And it is only in this way that we will preserve the potential of ecosystem services. We must be able to unravel the loop of the different levels of ecosystem functioning, both in nature and in the environment, or the entire ecosphere. This is why education is so important.*

A big piece of the flat cake of learning, experiencing, feeling... can be assimilated in nature itself, where we learn differently. The natural environment is wonderful and abounds in all its beauty, as it is typical of every season. The forest is a place that offers many opportunities for exploration, observation, creativity and experimentation. And this uniqueness of values can be summed up in Forest Learning or Forest Pedagogy. Many times it is difficult to perceive the exceptional nature of ecosystem services, or we even do not want to see them. In Forest Pedagogy, learning is mediated through direct and indirect perception, which involves learning by doing - with the heart and the head. The forest is both a medium and a place for education, because interdisciplinary thinking can be well experienced precisely in relation to the example of long-term development, showing network-structured thinking and a receptivity to compromise, coherence, cooperation and solidarity. The forest is a very suitable place to show interdisciplinary ways of working (chemistry, physics, geology, meteorology, pedology, hydrography, botany, zoology, etc.). Practicing a life close to nature is a good example of understanding stability and (long-term) sustainability in reference to the use of natural resources. The Forest School thus provides other forms of ecological pedagogy that contribute to the normative objectives of the concept of stability, by training people to talk about and act responsibly towards the environment. This symbiosis with the forest gives a touch of lifelong learning formation and intergenerational socialising.

Learning trails or thematic routes, whether marked or unmarked, can give us an even more focused perception. A trail offers the user an experience of the chosen theme. Thematic trails have informative, educational and recreational purposes. They are those which offer an exceptional educational - teaching moment.