

Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)



Update October 2017

As we start the last term for the school year here in Namibia we are excited to share with you what has kept us busy over the last three months. School holidays are never dull for GCF's KEEP team and this is the time we can take stock, plan and of course interact with the wider environmental education (EE) sector in Namibia as well as focus on outreach activities!

After introducing KEEP field day bags earlier this year, they now look even cooler with the addition of embroidered team names. Team work, cooperation and sharing are integral parts of what we teach during the programme and are important take-home messages for all participants. It is therefore only right that each team can proudly display their animal name during the field day.

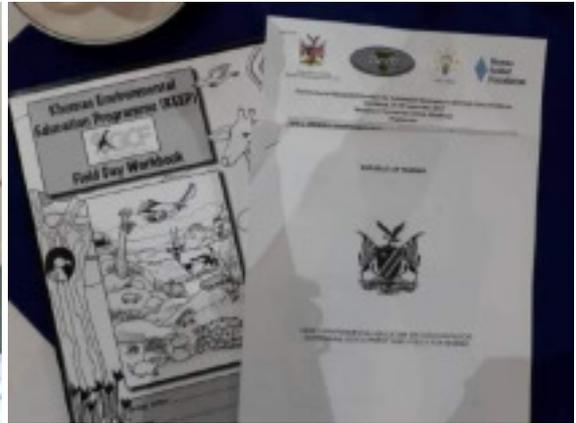


As part of KEEP's commitment to EE throughout Namibia we have committed to expanding KEEP beyond the Khomas Region and to also visiting other regions of Namibia. In September, the KEEP team visited three San community schools in the Oshikoto Region of Namibia. No electricity, basic sanitation and lack of nutrition are just some of the huge challenges teachers and students face at these schools. KEEP teamed up with Hochland 154 Round Table and Waltons to donate some much-needed stationary and books. We were greeted by singing, dancing and a whole lot of excitement!

In November this year, we are planning a similar outreach trip to take KEEP and the wonders of giraffe to schools in the Omaheke Region. We would like to extend our thanks to the Ministry of Education and in particular Mr Semba of the Directorate of Education, Art and Culture or giving us permission to visit the schools.



While the KEEP team normally focuses on grassroots level EE, we had the opportunity to get involved on a much higher level during the Environmental Education/Environment for Sustainable Development (EE/ESD) Workshop, which was held in Windhoek in September. Namibia is in the process of developing a draft policy for EE/ESD and it was an amazing experience for us to be actively involved. The final policy and its implementation aim to contribute to the empowerment and education of all Namibians to take action for a sustainable future.



The new term of course means that we are back doing what we do best: running a fantastic EE programme and getting more Khomas students into the bush! Dorado Park and Windhoek Central Primary school were the lucky ones to kick start this new term. These schools are just two of the many repeat bookings we have had this year for KEEP. This is a strong vote of confidence that confirms that we are doing something right! These classes have now officially push our participation numbers over the 2,000 mark for 2017. This means that we have already reached our participation goal for this year and greatly increased numbers compared last year. As mentioned before, KEEP is open for other groups beside school classes and this month we were also joined by Orange Babies, an afternoon education and care facility. What a great group to have in the field – these eco kids really knew how to look after their environment and have fun at the same time.

“This is great. Really GREAT!”





As you all know, we could not implement KEEP without our donors and their continued support. Of course, running at this capacity does come with its challenges and one of these is making sure we have enough funds to provide healthy food and safe and secure transport for all students. Support does not always have to be monetary and can come in many shapes and forms. One of our biggest needs at the moment is feeding the students that join us on the field. We have made a commitment to provide each student with healthy snacks and a delicious sandwich for the day as any of our students depend on this meal for the day. If you would like to help us provide these nutritious snacks, please get in touch. Your support would make a big difference!

A big thank you to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Education for allowing us to run this amazing programme at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve and to give us the opportunity so share our passion for this beautiful country with students from the Khomas Region.

