

Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

QUARTERLY UPDATE
January – March 2019



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The Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) now runs in its fourth year and we are proud of how this programme has grown into an important fixture of many primary school annual calendars in the Khomas Region. Our energetic team embarked on yet another fun year of taking learners into the bush, sharing their enthusiasm for nature and our beautiful Namibia, and delivering an excellent environmental education programme from Namibians for Namibians.

Experience has shown, that bookings only start slowly in the new year, so we now know not to panic. In January, schools are busy with their annual planning and sports activities, which makes it difficult for them to bring their learners into the field. However, this time gives our KEEP team the opportunity to visit new schools to introduce the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) and the programme and build new relationships.



Luckily, some of our regulars started filling up spaces in February and March and we got a chance to field-test our new games and implement the exciting changes we worked on during the holiday season. So far in 2019, KEEP has hosted 524 learners from six different schools. This is a great start to a successful 2019 and we are looking forward to hosting many more students over the coming months.

Before hosting our first class group, our KEEP team had to ensure that 'our mobile classroom' at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve was ready for the new season of environmental education adventures. Rainfall has been sparse this rainy season and the Khomas Hochland has been no exception. The dam in the Game

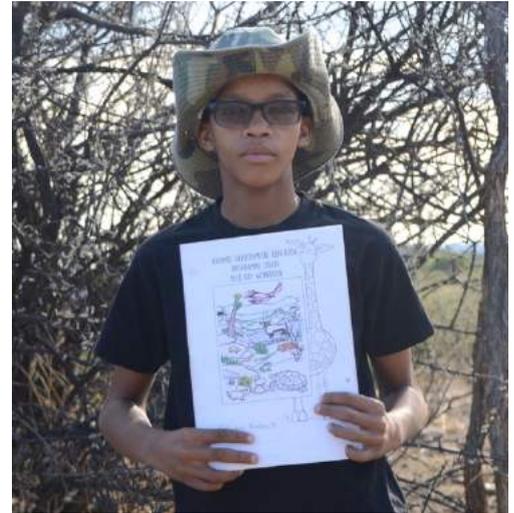
Reserve is almost empty and we are still hoping for more rain. With rainfall comes the opportunity to show our students the amazing little creatures that come with the rain such as frogs, millipedes and more. The lack of water makes game viewing a challenge as most animals migrate to other parts of the park to find water. Luckily giraffe are not dependant on open water and they seem to stick around for us to regularly greet our school groups. Thank you for





that! In the meantime, we use the empty dam to teach the students about the importance of saving water and why it is important to take care of our environment.

No two days in the field are ever the same and every group is different. We were excited to see a familiar face in the group from the SOS Children's Village recently. Chuster Frederick joined us as part of a mixed age group and proudly presented his coloured-in workbook that he received when first participating in KEEP in 2016. As a treasured item, the workbook was well-used but still in good condition. What an exciting highlight for KEEP!. It is little encounters like this that show us how much participants value our teaching resources and remind us of the importance of finding funding to provide these workbooks for each student and deliver the best programme we can.



The local media plays an important role in promoting our programme. This year, our KEEP press release was picked up by four Namibian newspapers and our team was joined in the field by a journalist from Allgemeine Zeitung, Namibia's German newspaper, who wrote a full-page feature on KEEP. The media coverage helps to promote the programme and also reaches primary schools from other regions. As a result, KEEP hosted a school from Okahandja in the Otjozondjupa Region last month. It was a great experience to host these learners from beyond the boundaries of the Khomas Region and to introduce them to a different part of their beautiful country.

As already mentioned in the last update, we continue to improve our programme and ensure to keep it up-to-date. As such, we developed a few new field activities, including an interactive web-of-life game. The game is a visual way of showing the students how everything in nature is interlinked and gets everyone involved including the teachers. It has quickly become one of the favourite field activities and some teachers asked if we would sell the cards we use for the game to make it part of their environmental lesson in class – maybe another income stream to investigate in the future.





As you know, GCF could not implement KEEP without our donors, so as always a big thank you goes to everyone as listed below. Most of our participants are from under-privileged communities and depend on the government schools' feeding schemes. KEEP provides a healthy snack and a sandwich for these students when they join us in the field. To keep costs low, our team currently prepares all the sandwiches themselves. If



you would like to help us provide nutritious snacks, please get in touch. Your support would make a big difference and remember that your contribution does not necessarily have to be financial.

A big thank you also goes to our everyday partners, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for allowing GCF to continue to run this programme at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve and the Ministry of Education for allowing students and teachers from the Khomas Region (and beyond!) to join us for a memorable day in the bush.

Please visit our website at (<https://giraffeconservation.org/>), for more information about GCF and KEEP.

Thanks again for your support.

