



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

QUARTERLY UPDATE
April – June 2019



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Winter is always the busiest season for the Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP), as most schools prefer to be in the bush when it is a little cooler. With a really good progress in our bookings this year, the team has been busy and hard at work, providing an adventurous learning experience to learners from different schools. At the moment, our second school term is fully booked, but there are still a few open spaces available in the last term. Should your school be interested to join us in the field, please get in touch to secure your space for the third term of 2019 or for early next year. So far in 2019, KEEP has hosted a total of 1,173 participants from nine schools and two other institutions.



KEEP focuses mainly on primary schools in the Khomas Region. However, during the quieter school holidays, we also invite other groups from different institutions such as orphanages, after-school programmes and youth groups. We aim to reach as many young Namibians as possible and therefore do not limit our environmental education activities to schools but are happy to engage with other interested groups and institutions.

For occupational health and safety and to ensure best practice, GCF makes sure that our KEEP staff is first aid certified. As such, the team participates in regular first aid training every two years. During the



April-May holiday, the team attended a three day first-aid training with E-Med Rescue in Windhoek. The team also attended a one-day workshop on Namibian snakes with local snake expert and renown snake catcher Francois Theart. Both trainings contribute to ensuring the safety of KEEP staff and participants in the field.

An important day in GCF's calendar is



World Giraffe Day (WGD) which is celebrated annually on 21 June – the longest day or night of the year for the tallest animal. This year's WGD marked a special occasion and was celebrated with the first official braai (barbeque) at the new GCF office in Windhoek. In addition, the KEEP team celebrated WGD with learners from Orange Babies Foundation to raise awareness

for our tall friends. Orange Babies Foundation is one of the after-school programmes in Windhoek that have participated in KEEP since the programme started in 2016. The learners especially prepared drama plays and posters for WGD, making use of some of the things they learned during their KEEP field days. The group even choreographed a special dance to make the day extra fun!

GCF is a member of the Namibian Environmental Education Network (NEEN), which aims to bring together environmental educators, including teachers and learners of environmental clubs from different schools to share environmental knowledge, raise awareness and discuss conservation challenges and ideas. This year, the three-day annual NEEN conference was hosted in Rundu, approx. 700 km north of Windhoek in the Kavango West Region. The conference was held under the theme of promoting 'blue' and 'green' economy through communication and public awareness. Our KEEP team of three attended the conference and highlighted the role of KEEP in promoting a 'blue' and 'green' economy in Namibia in their presentation. The conference offered a great opportunity to meet up with other environmental education stakeholders in Namibia in order to learn from each other, share experiences and discuss how to collaboratively enhance environmental education and awareness in Namibia.



As you are aware, 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 schools and communities who depend on the government school feeding schemes. GCF provides a healthy snack and a sandwich for these students when they join us during KEEP 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.

We would also like to take the opportunity to particularly thank one of our new conservation sponsors: the Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO) Trust. TOSCO Trust is a Namibian non-profit membership



organisation for all tourism companies, guides and travellers who support conservation. TOSCO Trust has recently started to support our KEEP transport needs by encouraging its members to provide free transport for school groups to Daan Viljoen Game Reserve. We are very much grateful for this generous support as transport is still one of the biggest challenges KEEP is facing. Some TOSCO Trust members now offered their busses free of charge if they are available for scheduled trips.

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.

