



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

QUARTERLY UPDATE
April – June 2020



@giraffe_conservation



@giraffeconservationfoundation



@Save_Giraffe



Winter is normally the busiest season in the Khomas Environmental Education Programme's (KEEP) calendar with school groups booked back to back as everyone wants to take advantage of the colder months and avoid the piercing Namibian sun and hot days. However, nothing is 'normal' this year and the current State of Emergency restrictions in Namibia and temporary closure of all schools in the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic, has not allowed our team to host school groups in KEEP since March.

However, as already mentioned in our previous update report, this does not mean that our KEEP team sits idly in the office – quite the opposite. Together we have looked for new and alternative ways to reach Namibian students and share our passion for the environment.

While some schools in Namibia manage well with online remote teaching, this is a real challenge for many under-resourced government schools. Teachers and students don't have access to computers or a secure internet connection, however, most people in Namibia have smart phones and access to some data. As a way of reaching young students throughout the country and maybe even the world, the KEEP team has embarked on producing their own environmental education videos. Each episode focuses on a different environmental topic derived from our KEEP curriculum and workbook. So far, the team has produced four videos and they have plans for at least another six episodes. These short videos are scripted, filmed, and edited by our KEEP team showing just how passionate they are when it comes to educating young Namibians. While filming and editing is still very new to them, they are producing informative and engaging videos in order to keep not only Namibian children, but kids all around the world, engaged and learning about the environment while remotely learning from home due to the pandemic. The videos continue to be shared with teachers from many primary schools throughout Namibia. Please check out the videos on the GCF website and let us know what you think. We really appreciate your feedback. <https://giraffeconservation.org/2020/06/05/keep-videos/>





In the absence of students, we have also extended an invite to teachers to participate in KEEP. Most teachers in Namibia have returned to school but without their students. As most schools have limited means to provide remote teaching, this is also a time for teachers to increase their knowledge and skills. So far, the KEEP team has hosted two groups of teachers who participated in the field day with a hands-on experience of the KEEP programme in order to enhance their own environmental education (EE) knowledge and gain new tools to establish EE clubs at their respective schools. Our KEEP team currently supports two schools in Windhoek in establishing their own EE clubs to address the environmental challenges faced at their schools and in their communities. Please get in touch if your school is interested in some EE support.



We wrapped up this quarter with the most important day in the annual GCF calendar: 21 June was World Giraffe Day (WGD), the longest night of the year here in Namibia for the tallest animal. This year WGD was celebrated around the world a little differently in keeping with social distancing rules. However, many people still found ways to celebrate our tall friends and raise some important funding for Operation Twiga V – the next translocation of Nubian giraffe in Uganda.

As always, and particularly in difficult times like this, we would like to thank our generous donors for their continued support. We have been in touch with many of you who have been amazingly supportive and



allowed us to re-allocate some of the budgets to ensure that salaries for our KEEP team are secure. With many jobs in Namibia currently on the line and many people having to endure significant salary cuts, we are proud to make this commitment to our staff. We at GCF are ready to jump back into action and continue implementing KEEP in the field once this will be possible again.



Thanks again for your continued support.

