



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

QUARTERLY UPDATE
July – September 2020



@giraffe_conservation



@giraffeconservationfoundation



@Save_Giraffe



Despite all the disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Khomas Environmental Education (KEEP) is still going strong! As for many other people around the world, 2020 continues to be an unprecedented year full of uncertainties for the KEEP team and as we are entering into the last quarter of the year we are most grateful for the fact that we were able to successfully switch to a new way of delivering our environmental education (EE) message.

With most Namibian schools closed or limited to online teaching, our KEEP team has not been able to take primary school students into the field since March this year. However, schools are now slowly opening again and while for some schools the focus is on catching up on missed work, we are happy to report that we have already booked some groups for field days in the coming months. As our team continues to reach out to primary schools in the Khomas Region we are excited about the prospect of taking primary school students into the field again soon.



In the meantime, our creative KEEP team has reverted to producing a series of short EE videos focusing on different environmental topics derived from our KEEP curriculum and workbook. All video episodes are available on all GCF social media platforms and shared widely on WhatsApp with primary school teachers and other interested parties who can use them as valuable teaching tools. So far, the team has produced seven video episodes on different topics, namely on the environment, ecosystems, plants, water management, litter and waste management. Developing the content for these videos has allowed the KEEP team to learn more about these topics in a Namibian setting. For the latest episode on waste management, the GCF team visited the Solid Waste Management Unit of the City of Windhoek as well as the Recycle Namibia Forum to gain a better understanding of the topic and learn how waste is managed in the Khomas Region. During a visit at the Kupferberg landfill site, located some 10km southwest of Windhoek, our team experienced first-hand how solid waste is managed in Windhoek and where most of our household waste ends up. Seeing these large quantities of solid waste highlighted the



challenges our society faces managing vast amounts of waste on a daily basis. We hope this insightful episode will help to change attitudes and inspire people to manage their waste properly and responsibly. You can find all our KEEP video episodes on the GCF website <https://giraffeconservation.org/2020/06/05/keep-videos/> We would love to hear your feedback, so please get in touch!



While social media and WhatsApp are easy ways to get our KEEP videos to a larger audience, we are only able to reach a limited audience. Many students in remote parts of Namibia have limited or no access to the Internet and do not necessarily follow GCF social media channels. We are excited to report that we have now partnered with Tribefire Studios and One Africa TV, a Namibian production company and a local television broadcasting cooperation, who will professionally produce eight short environmental education videos that will then be broadcasted on the One Africa TV channel and their associated social media channels. The KEEP team is thrilled about this opportunity and it will allow us to reach a far wider audience with our EE message as before. This is indeed exciting news during these crazy Covid-19 times and a great example of new opportunities presenting themselves if you only look for them. Our GCF team is truly making lemonade in a time when we have all been handed lemons and the KEEP team is busy working on updated scripts and plan to start filming soon.

As it was not possible to host school groups during the Namibian state of emergency restrictions, the GCF team extended an invitation to tour guides in Namibia to learn more about giraffe, GCF and KEEP. With the help of TOSCO (Tourism Supporting Conservation) Trust, a Namibian non-profit membership organisation for tourism companies, guides and travellers who support conservation, GCF organized a session of informative giraffe presentations in the GCF office in Windhoek. Several of the participating



guides took us up on the offer to join a KEEP field day the following week and our team hosted two groups of tour guides from TOSCO Trust and Chameleon Backpackers in the field. These fun-filled field days were a great experience for the tour guides but also the KEEP team as both groups exchanged lots of knowledge and experiences.



Another project that the KEEP team has embarked on is to produce a more generic, Africa-wide version of the KEEP Workbook. With the Kenya Nature Workbook we have already developed a Kenya specific version, but we have had enquiries from other parts of Africa and the world. This new version will include the most common African wildlife and plants and offer a wider African conservation perspective. In addition, the team is working on some additional fun activities and games to be included in the workbook, so stay tuned for this new edition soon.

While we remain hopeful for life to return to some kind of 'normal' soon, we continue to take the necessary precautions to stay safe and we hope you are all doing the same.

As always, and particularly in difficult times like this, we would like to thank our generous donors for their continued support. Allowing us some flexibility with budget lines has been an amazing help during these difficult times. With salaries secured and our KEEP team intact, we are ready to continue implementing our successful KEEP field programme at any time and adapt further to precautionary measures if necessary.



Thanks again for your continued support.

