



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

QUARTERLY UPDATE
April – June 2021



@giraffe_conservation



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@Save_Giraffe



The Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) continues to provide environmental awareness for young Namibians in the Khomas Region in order to generate environmentally literate youth who are engaged in real world environmental issues. Despite all the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our KEEP team has been hard at work, providing an adventurous and fun learning opportunity for primary school students in the Khomas Region. During this second quarter of 2021, the KEEP team hosted 419 students from three different primary schools and two other groups, bringing the total number of KEEP participants in 2021 to 1,064 students from eight different schools and three additional groups. Our participation number for 2021 has now already topped last year's total – an achievement we are proud of as our implementation continued to be affected by restrictions due to the global pandemic.



As you may already be aware, KEEP is not limited to schools only. During the school holidays, we invite groups from other institutions such as orphanages, after-school programmes and youth groups to increase our reach and offer our amazing field EE programme to a wider range of participants. Our aim is to inspire as many young Namibians as possible to develop a passion for nature at a young age and start taking responsibility for looking after our fragile Namibian environment. During the April-May school holiday, KEEP hosted two groups of children (aged between 5 and 18) from two orphanages in Windhoek. While accommodating a group of such a wide age-range can be somewhat challenging, our team is always happy to host and engage with interested groups. It is such a privilege to spend time in the bush with children from different backgrounds and see their faces light up with joy when spotting an animal and learning about environmental issues that are relevant to their communities.

"I usually take my kids (from the orphanage) to my farm just for them to have fun outside town (Windhoek), but now am thankful that they got the opportunity to be exposed to a different natural environment and enlightened about different topics that contribute to the conservation of our natural resources." said Rosa, the Coordinator at Dolam Children's Home.



In addition to our normal outings, the KEEP team also held two virtual sessions with groups of Grade One students from two schools in the USA via Zoom. This was a first-time experience for our team and an exciting opportunity for them to share their giraffe knowledge. The young students asked lots of questions about giraffe, what they eat, how they drink, how tall they grow, and much more making it an interesting experience for all involved. The American children were eager to learn more about Africa's giraffe and find out some fascinating facts. The KEEP team would be excited to chat to more children around the world to share their passion for the environment and giraffe. If you are an educator and interested in participating in an online Q&A session with the KEEP team, please get in touch!



In April, the KEEP team filmed the last takes for our environmental education videos with Tribefire Studios and One Africa TV. For this last filming session, the KEEP team visited Voigtland Guesthouse just outside Windhoek, to get close and personal with their three habituated giraffe. We are excited to announce that our locally produced environmental education series is now available online on GCF's website and YouTube channel. The series is currently shown on One Africa TV, which is airing two episodes per day for one month starting 22 June 2021. We are receiving a lot of positive feedback and are excited to share this series with a wider audience. If you have not seen our episodes yet, please have a look here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4VFia68Sc57ykrwLSZ_joRbykhY2i6



Every year in June, we celebrate the most important day for giraffe: 21 June is World Giraffe Day (WGD) – the longest day or night for the tallest animal. Initiated by GCF in 2014, WGD is celebrated around the world to raise awareness for giraffe and celebrate these iconic animals. This year’s WGD was dedicated saving the last West African giraffe. There are only about 600 West African giraffe remaining in the world and they all live in Niger, one of the world’s poorest countries.



Winter is normally the busiest time of the year from our KEEP team with many schools wanting to take advantage of the cooler days to spend time in the field. However, during a global pandemic, winter also brings increasing COVID-19 cases and as Namibia is experiencing our third wave of cases, schools have



closed again in the country. Just as last year, our KEEP field programme was brought to an immediate halt due to the temporary closure of all primary schools in the country. The KEEP team worked from home for a few weeks, but they are now back in the office with many new and exciting ideas for alternative ways to continue implementing the KEEP programme. So, stay tuned while we will continue to take the necessary precautions to stay safe and we hope you are all doing the same.



As always, 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 excited to continue implementing our successful KEEP field programme.

Thank you for your continued support.

