



# Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

QUARTERLY UPDATE  
January – March 2022



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Our energetic Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) team has embarked on yet another year of raising and promoting environmental awareness among school learners in the Khomas Region in Namibia. The KEEP programme started its sixth year of implementation at full speed! Judging by our achievements in this first quarter of the year, we are confident that 2022 will be another productive and successful year for KEEP.

Before we delve into updating you on what has happened so far, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the schools, groups and other institutions that have made KEEP a fixture in their annual calendars and regularly bring their students to participate in our programme year after year. We applaud you all for contributing to KEEP's goal of promoting environmental learning for our future decision-makers and feel honoured by the trust you place into our team.



The school year in Namibia started early in January this year and the KEEP team has never been so busy this early in the year. In previous years, our programme has been off to a slow start with school bookings usually coming in slowly as teachers are slowly easing into the new school year and focusing on their yearly planning and annual sports activities. It has been a challenge to fill these early field spots in previous years, however, bookings came in rather quickly this year and by the end of this quarter, KEEP had already hosted a total of 1,031 learners and 38 teachers from six different schools. Wow, what an achievement!

We are taking some credit for this success as our team has worked hard on encouraging schools to participate as there is a lot to see in the bush at the moment. There has been quite a bit of rain and Daan Viljoen Game Reserve looks lush and green. Additionally, many schools are now aware of our KEEP programme and its benefits for their students, however, previous school closures due to Covid-19 during winter might also have contributed to this early rush.

Most schools so far were 'KEEP regulars' – schools who bring their Grade 4 learners every year. Most schools have many students in each year level and fill up whole weeks with 30-40 participants each day. In the field, all



groups were treated to exciting sightings of different creatures that come with the rain such as frogs, millipedes, tortoises, snakes, and lots of small insects. Other field highlights so far have included sightings of larger animals such as giraffe, zebra, kudu, wildebeest, eland and impala. The bush is so much busier during the rainy season and the ephemeral/seasonal river in the reserve recently flowed and finally filled the dam again. This is fantastic news as this means that the animals will have water to drink during the approaching dry season which will likely start sometime in May.



As explained above, the KEEP programme is normally off to a slow start in January. For this reason, we schedule additional admin for this period and had planned to spend some time to update our KEEP Field Day Workbook. We are proud to announce that despite lots of field days, we have indeed managed to revise the workbook, printed it, and are now using the new edition in the field. We have added a brand-new section on sustainability as well as included a few pages from the GCF Nature Workbook that our team uses for environmental education and outreach throughout the African continent. All our materials get updated and revised regularly to stay up-to-date and relevant in line with the Namibian Primary School Curriculum. The new KEEP Field Day Workbook (<https://giraffeconservation.org/2019/10/02/85029/>) as well as the GCF Nature Workbook (<https://giraffeconservation.org/2021/04/16/nature-workbook>) are available for downloading on the GCF website, so please have a look and contact us for a high resolution PDF if you would like to print your own copy.



As you might remember, we joined forces with the National Botanical Institute and Gardens last October and planted indigenous trees at a few schools during National Arbour Week. Our KEEP team recently visited these schools as a follow up and we are pleased to report that the trees are thriving and well-taken care of.





In other news, and please excuse us when we sing our own praise here, we recently received a lovely letter of appreciation from the Olof Palme Primary School. With so much negativity in the world at the moment, it was such a nice surprise and encouragement to receive such positive feedback and that the Head of Department had taken the time to put it in writing.

While our calendar is fully booked for the first school term, there are still a few open spots in the second term. We are also still taking bookings for groups that would like to join us during the upcoming school holidays. If you would like your learners to join our KEEP programme or know of any group that might be interested in joining, please get in touch.

**As always, we would like to thank our generous donors for their continued support.**

