



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

QUARTERLY UPDATE
April – June 2022



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@Save_Giraffe



2022 is certainly a remarkable year for the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) and more specifically for our Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP). Since the beginning of the year, our KEEP team has been extremely busy with offering young Namibians a unique opportunity to learn and explore nature. We are thankful to all the schools, groups and other institutions that continue to recognize the value of our programme and keep us busy throughout the year. You are all contributing by helping us to promote environmental awareness and create a generation of responsible, smart, and informed leaders for Namibia.



Winter has always been our busiest season as most schools prefer to bring their students to participate in our programme during the cooler season. However, this year is slightly different; in recognition that Covid-19 cases may increase during winter, the Namibian government has adjusted the school calendar by shifting the April-May school holidays to June-July, the coldest months of winter here in Namibia. This shift has made the first term much longer and allowed us to host a record number of students this quarter! We are excited to announce

that we hosted over 700 students and 170 teachers from a total of ten schools and other organisations. This brings the total number of KEEP participants for this year to 1,742 students and 205 teachers. Considering that our KEEP calendar is almost fully booked for the next school term, we are confident that we will host more students than ever before this year and by far surpass our participation targets. But then again, we had banked on an exceptional year in 2020 and see where that got us ...





In April, the KEEP team hosted a very special group: for the first time, the group from the School of the Visually Impaired in Windhoek joined us in the field. Accompanied by their teachers, some of whom were also visually challenged, the learners showed a passion for the environment and were eager to learn about different environmental issues. Hosting this special group has once again proven that the KEEP programme is suitable for anyone and that our team can adapt to different requirements and

challenges. In their feedback, the teachers expressed gratitude to GCF for providing their learners with a life-changing experience and indicated that this was the first ever field trip for their school. We are very proud of this achievement and look forward to hosting this school again next year.

Another highlight this quarter was our participation in the three-day workshop organized by the Sabine Plattner African Charities (SPAC), an organization that focuses on the protection of nature through education and community-driven empowerment. 150 teachers from six different Namibian regions spent three days in Windhoek to receive training on toolkits that will help them take edu-conservation resources into their classrooms. On the second day of the workshop, the teachers joined the KEEP team for a nature walk in Daan Viljoen Game Reserve to gain hands-on experience and put their environmental knowledge to the test. What a great opportunity to promote our KEEP programme to the schools beyond the Khomas Region and send each teacher home with copies of our amazing educational resources as an addition to the toolkits they had already received. While some of the teachers were not too excited about the walk in the park initially, everybody returned with new knowledge and lots of enthusiasm for nature.



While schools were busy with exams and could not bring their learners, the KEEP team travelled to the Namib Desert to assist an MSc student with his field research to assess the feasibility of the re-introduction of giraffe to the ProNamib Nature Reserve. With their solid knowledge of the Namibian flora, the team assisted with vegetation plots on the reserve and assessing the home ranges of the giraffe in the neighbouring NamibRand Nature Reserve to help better understand the habitat requirements of giraffe in the southern Namib Desert ecosystem. What a great opportunity for our team to visit a part of the country they had not previously experienced and for collaboration and networking.



June is the most important day of the year for all of us giraffe-lovers and in particular for GCF. 21 June is World Giraffe Day – the longest day (or night!) for the tallest animal. This special day was initiated by GCF in 2014 to celebrate this iconic animal and raise awareness for giraffe internationally. This year's WGD was dedicated to raising funding for our most ambitious giraffe translocation ever to bring giraffe back to Mozambique. Years of civil unrest have driven giraffe to the brink of extinction in Mozambique and today, there is only 250 giraffe left in the country. Together with the Mozambican government and other partners, we are going to move over 350 giraffe to four key areas in the country over the next five years. The KEEP team celebrated WGD in style and GCF's social media pages were full of happy faces from our giraffe friends showing us how they too celebrated giraffe. The KEEP team also made sure their voices were heard loud and clear by promoting this special initiative during a radio interview on the Namibian radio station Radiowave.



While our calendar is pretty full for the next school term, there are still a few spots available. If you would like to join our KEEP programme or know of any group that might be interested in joining, please get in touch with us!



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



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