



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

UPDATE
June 2024



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@Save_Giraffe



The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF)'s Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) continues to provide young Namibians from the Khomas Region with a unique opportunity to experience nature firsthand while learning about critical environmental issues and sustainable practices. The programme provides a dynamic learning platform out of the classroom in nature, and it aims to inspire learners and encourage experimental learning as well as environmental and wildlife stewardship. As KEEP runs for its eighth year, we take pride in our significant impact and are confident in our continued success in driving positive change for future generations.

This quarter, KEEP welcomed children from 15 different schools and other organisations such as charities, soup kitchens and after-school programmes. Among these groups, eight were first-time participants, including the Havana Charity Work Foundation, which brought the recently elected Miss Earth Namibia 2024 along as one of their guests. We were pleased that she could join us in the field, as she actively uses her platform to promote environmental awareness and to empower young Namibians to become environmental advocates. This mission aligns perfectly with ours and it was a great experience for our team to meet her. In total, we hosted **1,051** students and **124** teachers this quarter. Our ongoing commitment is to reconnect with and expose young Namibians to nature and help them understand that regardless of their age or background, every individual has a vital role to play in conserving our precious planet. We are proud of achieving high participation numbers and feel this is strongly in line with our mission.



Recently, our KEEP team participated in a three-day teachers' information seminar which was held at Eros Primary School in Windhoek. The seminar was themed "Fostering Environmental Awareness for Sustainable Future: Integrating Environmental Education in the Classroom" and served as a platform for primary school science teachers to exchange information on their teaching and learning practices, build networks and gain fresh insights and peer support for implementing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in their classrooms. During the seminar, teachers from various schools shared their experiences and insights, alongside a few invited local science experts. The seminar featured hands-on activities and field visits to key environmental sites in and around Windhoek. The KEEP team highlighted our work during a presentation and then facilitated group discussions on Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development (EE/ESD).

On the final day, approx. 80 science teachers joined our team at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve and engaged in our usual KEEP field activities to get ideas for environmental activities that they could



integrate into their classroom teaching. This experience aimed to enhance their ability to teach environmental education effectively and the feedback from all teachers was very positive and encouraging.



In May, the KEEP team hosted an online meeting with young students and their teachers from Portugal, Croatia and Turkey, who reached out to us as they wanted to broaden their understanding about giraffe and their natural habitats. During the session, our team talked about GCF's initiatives, shared interesting facts about giraffe and showcased a short video of giraffe in the wild, that had been filmed during a KEEP field excursion. The students were eager to learn about giraffe, and their enthusiastic questions and comments made the online session and engaging throughout. This exchange served as a valuable opportunity for both the students and our team to share knowledge and learn about one another. The positive feedback we received was heartwarming, affirming the session's success in promoting education and awareness about giraffe conservation.

“Your expertise and dedication to giraffe conservation left a lasting impact on our young learners. The insights you shared about giraffe behaviour, habitat, and the challenges they face were invaluable. Your presentation sparked their curiosity about wildlife conservation. We are planning to create a little game or a quiz about what we have learned about giraffes.” – Manuela Correia.





Furthermore, the KEEP team attended the launch of the updated Namibian Climate Change Exhibition in June at the Franco Namibia Cultural Centre (FNCC) hosted by the EduVentures Trust, an initiative of the National Museum of Namibia. The exhibition featured the EduVentures Trust mobile classroom and interactive panels on climate change, aiming to enhance environmental education and promote sustainable development. Highlights of the launch included informative videos on Nationally Determined contributions (NDCs), an engaging 30-second climate change game, and an entertaining yet informative performance of climate change-themed songs by the Wakapinya Environmental Education Group. This event provided an opportunity for the KEEP team to network and reconnect with other stakeholders in the environmental field.



IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE

