



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

UPDATE
June 2023



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It is the end of the second quarter of the year, and with that comes another quarterly update on the Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP). The past three months have been a busy time for our KEEP team. We were contacted by many schools who wanted to join our field programme before the mid-year holidays to take advantage of the cooler weather during winter (April to August).



This quarter we hosted over 1,000 students and 78 teachers for a fun-filled and educational day in the field at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve for a hands-on learning experience. This bumper number brings the total of this year's participants to 1,993 students and 118 teachers from 11 schools and 4 non-school organisations.





As most Namibian schools are currently on holiday, we should see a slower uptake of our programme at the moment. However, we have used this opportunity to open our doors to other organisations and extended invitations to a wide range of groups and children from around Windhoek including orphanages, after-school programmes and youth groups. So far, KEEP has hosted three groups of children from after-school programmes and a soup kitchen for vulnerable children. All these groups included a large age range from 5 to 18 years, which makes these outings more challenging but also lots of fun and often very interactive. Hosting the group from the soup kitchen was a very special and moving experience as they provide food for homeless, disadvantaged, and orphaned children in Windhoek and the KEEP field day was a very special adventure for these children.

We have more groups booked for July, which should keep us busy until schools reopen again. Our goal is to educate as many young Namibians as possible to become environmentally literate so that they can make environmental decisions for Namibia's fragile environment.



Our GCF Nature Workbook continues to be an important and valued environmental teaching resource for many schools in the Khomas Region and beyond. So far, we have distributed over 5,000 copies to numerous schools all over Namibia and we continue to receive additional requests for books from new schools who have heard about our initiative from colleagues, friends or education networks. To accommodate these demands, a second batch of 5,000 workbooks was printed in June and we will continue to distribute them in the coming months. The feedback we receive from schools is extremely positive and teachers highlight how useful the workbook is in promoting environmental awareness at their schools. We cannot wait to hear how other schools are putting these workbooks to good use. As the Principal from Oneputa Combined School in the Oshana Region in northern Namibia said: "Donations like these are vital to the continued success of our mission: Promoting environmental awareness and love for nature."

It is only a few weeks until schools will reopen for the second term, and if your school has not yet participated in KEEP this year, now is the time to book. There are still open spots on our calendar, so please get in touch with



us if you would like to have your students participate in our KEEP programme or know of any group that would be interested in joining us.



While it is fantastic that we manage to reach more and more children in the Khomas Region, our own effectiveness also comes with a disadvantage. Our programme costs have increased significantly. Not only due to generally increasing costs of fuel, food and basically everything, but also due to the sheer number of groups and children we are hosting. While this is somewhat a great problem to have, we will have to make sure to raise enough funding to continue this successful and important programme.

So, as always, we would like to use this opportunity thank all our generous donors for their continued support.



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