

Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

Update March 2025

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation's Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) is off to another successful year with impressive participation numbers from various primary schools and institutions from the Khomas Region in the first quarter. We are in our ninth year of implementation and KEEP continues to demonstrate measurable progress in reaching and actively engaging an increasing number of young Namibians in environmental education. The programme remains firmly aligned with the Namibian school curriculum and strives to achieve its objective of reconnecting Namibian youth with nature and preparing them to contribute to a sustainable future.

Like most of Southern Africa, Namibia has received an exceptional amount of rainfall this year, a rare occurrence in recent years due to climate change. This abundance of rain has created excellent opportunities for wildlife sightings in the bush and provided our participants with the opportunity to truly reconnect with nature while learning new things at the same time. Many schools are making the most of this rainy season by joining the programme to experience the unique creatures that emerge with the rain as well as the rare sight of flowing rivers in the Daan Viljoen Game Reserve.





In the early years, it was a struggle to fill spaces for KEEP early in the year. However, now many schools are keen to join our team in the field at the start of the school year before the calendar fills up and the school work gets too serious. Our first group joined us already in January: Moses Garoeb Primary School has been a regular participant since 2017. In the first quarter of 2025, we hosted a total of **1,306** students and **63** teachers/adults from **9** different schools or institutions. These numbers mark the highest participation recorded so far in the first quarter, and we eagerly look forward to the final count at the end of the year.

We particularly enjoy sharing our KEEP outings with special guests. This quarter, we were joined in the field by Ms Theophilia Ndahalele, a Waste Education Officer at the City of Windhoek. With her extensive experience in environmental education and her current role in solid waste management, her visit was insightful and eye-opening both for our team and all participants.



Ms Theophilia was accompanied by three colleagues to observe our programme, but our team also enjoyed the inspiring exchange with colleagues from the environmental sector. We all learned a lot from each other. The City of Windhoek team also used the opportunity to educate our participants on the importance of solid waste management and talked about the water reclamation plant that recycles water in our capital city, Windhoek. At GCF, we believe in the power of collaboration for progress and are always eager to connect with relevant stakeholders.



The GCF Nature Workbook remains an invaluable learning and teaching resource throughout Namibia and all over Africa. This time, we distributed a total of 1500 Workbooks to a number of schools in different parts of Namibia and also to the University of Namibia (UNAM). UNAM offers qualifications in education and has recognised the GCF Nature Workbook as a valuable resource for their primary education students. Their curriculum includes Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the GCF Nature Workbook will serve as a valuable addition to help prepare students to integrate ESD into their classrooms when they start their careers. We hope that the UNAM education students will have the opportunity to join us in the field to experience KEEP firsthand and gain deeper insights into real-world environmental practices.

We are also excited to announce that the GCF Nature Workbook is now also available in French, Portuguese and Swahili for use in other parts of Africa.

2025 promises to be a busy year from our KEEP team and most spots for the first terms of the year already fully booked, so stay tuned for the final tally – it might just become our busiest year so far.



A special thank you goes to the Namibian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Environment who allow us and many young Namibians access to Daan Viljoen Game Reserve. This first quarter of 2025, we hosted the following groups detailed by school or institution.

A big thank you to all our generous donors for their continued and generous support.



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