



Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)

Update June 2025

As the second quarter of the year concludes, we are pleased to share the latest update on the Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP). The second quarter continues to be KEEP's most active and impactful time of the year, with most schools keen to participate in the months leading up to examination time. The programme offers students valuable hands-on learning opportunities in key areas of subjects like Natural Science and Social Studies, which are often covered only in theory in the classroom. By providing this practical experience, KEEP plays an important role in helping students gain a deeper understanding of these concepts, thus supporting their exam preparation. This is also a contributing factor why many schools choose to participate earlier in the year.



During this quarter, KEEP offered environmental education (EE) opportunities to a diverse range of groups, including school groups, institutions, and special groups from the Khomas Region. Following Namibia's shift to a two-semester school system post-COVID-19, we have been able to host more schools compared to the previous three-semester system, as the semesters are now longer and school holidays fewer. The second quarter coincides with the start of winter, which provides favourable weather conditions for outdoor activities. This season significantly enhances the learning experience, offering participants increased opportunities to observe wildlife and engage in hands-on interactions with nature, as the environment is still green from the early-year rainfall.

As we continue to expand our reach, we have observed an increase in new bookings with a wider audience engagement. This quarter alone, KEEP welcomed over **550** students and **40** accompanying teachers, bringing the total participation for the year to **2,000** students and **102** teachers, which marks the highest participation recorded for KEEP in the first half of the year.



Among the groups we hosted were tourism students from the International University of Management (IUM), who joined KEEP for the first time as part of their practical coursework for their Animal and Plant Taxonomy module. During their visit, both students and lecturers participated in hands-on learning activities focused on identifying animal and plant species, using both local and scientific names. This experience offered valuable insights into biodiversity and

sustainability, highlighting KEEP's contribution to developing environmentally conscious future professionals and decision-makers. Additionally, the KEEP team once again welcomed children from the School of the Visually Impaired, who were accompanied by their teachers, some of whom were also visually impaired. The learners showed great enthusiasm for the environment and were keen to learn about a range of environmental topics. Hosting this special group has once more proven that KEEP has the capacity to successfully engage diverse groups and create a meaningful impact.

KEEP's curriculum aligns with national and international environmental education standards and is regularly reviewed by both the KEEP team and external experts. In May, our KEEP team had the honour of hosting Ms Renée Lighton, an experienced education expert from South Africa with a background in teacher training. Her visit focused on observing the KEEP team in action and providing guidance on enhancing participant engagement during and after their field experience. Renée also shared practical strategies to support participants in implementing EE initiatives after their participation in KEEP, such as establishing EE clubs in their schools and communities.



Our KEEP team has established themselves as an important EE partner in Windhoek and Namibia. Another key highlight from this quarter was the exciting opportunity for the KEEP team to attend several events by special invitation. First, the team participated in the "Adventure into Citizenship" event hosted by the Rotary Club Windhoek, a longstanding programme that has successfully engaged



grade 11 learners from Windhoek secondary schools for the past 15 years. This year’s theme, *"Wildlife Conservation, Protection and Law Enforcement – Your Role and Responsibility as Citizens,"* provided an ideal platform for GCF to share insights on giraffe conservation and present the KEEP programme to a new audience of young leaders. The event proved to be an inspiring experience, allowing the KEEP team to share how they found their way into conservation, sharing their passion for conservation and connecting with the emerging changemakers.

The KEEP team was also honoured to be invited for a tour of several solid waste management facilities operated by the City of Windhoek as part of the project “Improving Solid Waste Management in Windhoek, Namibia.” These facilities included the Waste Buyback Centre, the Incinerator and Autoclave, as well as the municipal landfill. The project focuses on reducing landfill waste, increasing recycling rates, and creating employment opportunities. A highlight of the tour was the Waste Buyback Centre, which handles approximately 100 public drop-offs monthly, playing a vital role in waste reduction and resource recovery. These visits provided the KEEP team with a meaningful perspective into the city’s waste management practices, which will enhance field discussions and deepen participants’ understanding of urban environmental challenges and solutions.



Our calendar is already pretty booked for the coming school term; however, there are still a few remaining slots that can still be secured by interested groups. We are also accepting bookings for groups wishing to participate in July while schools are on holiday. If you are interested in bringing a group to the KEEP programme, or you know of any group that would enjoy or benefit from a ‘KEEP experience,’ please feel free to contact us.

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



