



## **Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP)**

**Update September 2025**

As we conclude a very productive and busy third quarter of 2025, we are excited to share key highlights from the Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP). This quarter was marked by remarkable progress, strong participation, and meaningful learning experiences for both learners and their teachers, reflecting KEEP's ongoing commitment to inspiring environmental awareness and appreciation. In light of these achievements, we take great pride in our efforts and remain inspired by the enthusiasm of the schools and teachers who prioritise environmental education and actively engage their learners in our programme every year.

Our dedicated team has been working tirelessly to provide environmental learning opportunities that inspire Namibian youth to reconnect with nature. During this period, the programme engaged a diverse range of groups: while our focus remains on government primary schools, we also hosted groups from private schools, feeding programmes, and even students from the Namibia University of Science & Technology (NUST). It is truly rewarding to see our message reaching a wider and divers audience, and reinforcing our commitment to empowering future leaders to make informed and sustainable choices.

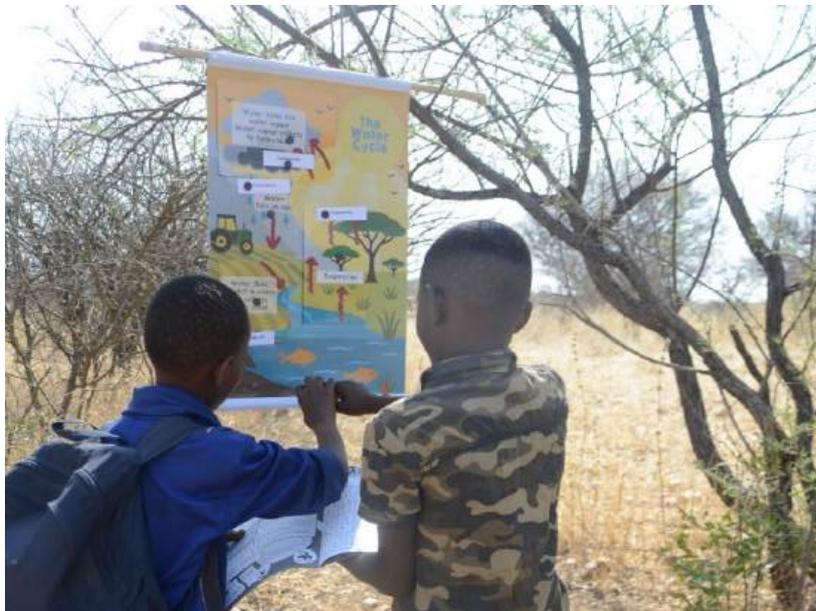


The third quarter of the year is always the most challenging in the field, with dry conditions and intense heat making outdoor work demanding. Thankfully, KEEP's numbers are always impressive by the time summer arrives, as we host more learners during the months that offer preferable conditions for bush-

based activities. This drives us to finish the year strong, reaching as many learners as possible and ensuring meaningful educational experiences for all participants.

Over the past three months, KEEP welcomed a total of **1,615** participants from **11** different institutions, many of which were schools that continue to bring their learners to experience our impactful programme every year. So far in 2025, we hosted over **3,600** students and **172** accompanying teachers. Among these groups was St. Paul College, a private school from Windhoek that has consistently participated in KEEP since our humble beginnings in 2016. It is encouraging to see that schools prioritise environmental education (EE) and include our programme as a regular part of their annual calendars. For us, this is a clear sign that we continue to make a meaningful and lasting impact.

*“Our Grade 3s went on a hike where they learnt about giraffe, their habits, and the importance of conservation from the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. This experience allowed our children to connect with nature and understand the importance of protecting wildlife.”* This quote was taken from the St. Paul College Newsletter.



With every seasonal change, we adjust the programme content to what we can observe in the environment and focus on topics that best reflect the environmental conditions, thus ensuring that all groups, independent of environmental conditions and how much wildlife they encounter, have a meaningful and enriching learning experience. During the drier time for the year, our focus shifts toward topics such as

plant and animal adaptations and water conservation. The dry season presents the perfect opportunity to explore behavioural adaptations of different wildlife and how water moves through its cycle, helping learners develop a clearer and deeper understanding of this important process. To make the lesson more engaging, we recently developed an interactive water cycle game, which allows learners to actively identify and place the different stages of the cycle. This hands-on approach does not only increase engagement and understanding but also strengthens critical thinking and the ability to connect classroom theory with real-world environmental processes.

This quarter was also very special on a personal note: we were fortunate to have had extra hands from two amazing and enthusiastic volunteers at a time we needed support the most. Kyla-Ann Tjombe, a fourth-year Honours student in Environmental Biology at the University of Namibia, volunteered at GCF for a month in July to gain practical experience in the environmental field before her graduation. From further afar, Hazel Fairweather, an Honours graduate in Environmental Science and Psychology from New Zealand, lend us a helping hand. Hazel is currently specialising in EE and volunteered with KEEP for two months to further develop her skills while gaining first-hand experience in EE. It is always



rewarding to see how the programme continues to shape and inspire the next generation of environmental leaders, including those who volunteer with us.

*“This internship gave me a better understanding of what the realities of science and conservation look like in Namibia and made the last few months before I graduate with an Environmental Science degree a little bit more exciting. It showed me that conservation is not just about research, it involves education, teamwork, and creative solutions to real-world challenges,”* – Kyla-Ann Tjombe.



Another highlight was our invitation by the City of Windhoek (CoW) Solid Waste Management Division to attend the Secondary Schools Recycling Competition funded by the European Union, which was held at Havana High School in September. The event formed part of CoW’s efforts to raise awareness and encourage learners to adopt sustainable waste management practices and showcase innovative approaches to recycling and upcycling, and highlighting how waste can be transformed into valuable resources. This collaboration provided an excellent opportunity for our team to strengthening partnerships, celebrate creativity and support schools’ efforts of building a cleaner and greener city for everyone.



As we approach the final months of the year, we still have a few groups scheduled before we conclude our annual activities. Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that bookings for **2026** are now open, and schools can already start contacting us to secure their preferred dates. The earlier you book, the better your chances of choosing dates that best suit your school’s schedule, as later bookings will depend on availability.



As always, a big thank all our generous donors for their continued support.



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