



THE AFRICAT FOUNDATION

ALL GREAT PROJECTS - NEED GREAT SPONSORSHIPS



HELP SPONSOR THE AFRICAT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

WHY WE NEED A SECOND EDUCATOR:

The interest in, and the popularity of, our programme has grown considerably since its humble beginnings in 1998, significantly at the more influential schools.

Additionally, AfriCat's excellent Environmental Education programme is set to expand so that it can increase the number of learners who pass through its doors. A second educator will greatly assist the present head teacher with the additional school groups on site as well as expand on our outreach programmes across the country.

THE AIMS OF THE AFRICAT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

- To continuously develop, propagate and improve Environmental Education programmes for the benefit of Namibians, in the pursuit of increasing awareness and understanding of the complexity of environmental issues.
- To teach and encourage sustainable living practices.
- To promote greater tolerance of carnivores outside of protected areas and to find practical solutions to the farmer-predator conflict issues.
- To develop the knowledge, skills and action-competence of learners and their communities, enabling them to participate in the conservation of their areas, leading to the sustainable management of carnivore populations in Namibia.
- To develop and support specific community initiatives, programmes, and projects, which are targeted to sustainably contribute to economic enhancement of households, with the consequent gradual, but steady impact, of poverty alleviation and skill augmentation.

The AfriCat Environmental Education programme is an enabler within the broader Namibian education system. Catering to a wide spectrum of ages and socio-economic backgrounds, AfriCat's vision is to harness the rapt attention which learners embody when they visit AfriCat's two Centres into a deep-seated awareness of ALL environmental issues and, specifically in the Namibian context, those involving the *vexed juxtaposition* between farming communities and the country's large carnivores.



EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AFRICAT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

Within the Namibian government and NGO communities, there is a growing recognition of the importance of environmental education and sustainable development, and the role these play in the degradation of the country's natural heritage. There is a lack of structured environmental education within the formal curriculum in most Namibian schools as well as the effective and practical teaching of this subject. Apart from the need to evangelize the broad tenants of environmental education, there is a specific and practical requirement for the upgrading of the old, traditional methods and conventional wisdoms of both agriculture and livestock farming in all sectors of the country's farming communities. AfriCat has identified the need for environmental education centres in the Otjozondjupa (Central Namibia) and Kunene (North-Western Namibia) regions.

The programme has already reached over 40,000 children and young adults at AfriCat's two Education Centres and through its Outreach Programmes. We have discovered that for many Namibian children and adults, the AfriCat Environmental Education Programme is their first camping and outdoor educational experience. Few have had the opportunity to visit wildlife reserves, observe antelope and wild large carnivores, and to experience the natural wonder of their own country. Neither have they been introduced to the vocational opportunities which tourism visitation, hand-in-glove with conservation, offers.

AfriCat has advocated environmental education since 1998 and acutely recognizes the urgent need to offer as many learners, of all ages, exposure to the enormous challenges facing Namibia's increasingly fragile natural heritage, and offering constructive solutions and an alternative path to the present one taken.



HOW THE PROJECT WILL OPERATE TO MEET ITS AIMS AND GOALS:

After many years of working with farming communities it became evident that environmental education was vital to the long-term conservation of large carnivores, Namibia's most endangered fauna. The programme endeavors to develop the knowledge and skills of learners and their communities, enabling them to participate in the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife populations in Namibia. The programme is aimed at pupils (twelve years and older), tertiary students, and adults from the farming and teaching communities.

They visit the Centres for 3 to 5 days in small groups (ideally no larger than 15–20), granting each learner the opportunity to play an active role in the programme.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE INVOLVED?

The programme takes the students on a variety of walks in the "bush" (day, night, sunrise, sunset); game drives in the 200km² Okonjima Nature Reserve that include tracking leopard and hyaena; cheetah-tracking on foot for the older groups; numerous enviro-games; visits to the AfriCat Carnivore Care & Information Centre; time close-up with AfriCat's 'feline' ambassadors; assisting the community with the building of a stock-kraal; monitoring the movements of the lion we research west of Etosha; downloading camera-trap footage; as well as the very important practical involvement in whatever project is available.

The programmes aim is to open hearts and minds:

We also identify keen, motivated, and talented individuals within each group who are then invited back for a follow-up camp, so as to "keep the fires burning". In this way, AfriCat will be in a better position to mentor and support future community leaders with, a passion for, and understanding of, conservation.





Sponsor the AfriCat Environmental Educator: Funding in Namibian \$ and US\$

	Namibian \$	US\$
<i>Salary for one Environmental Education Teacher</i>	300,000.00	21,337
Total Funds Needed in N\$	300,000.00	
Total Funds Needed in US\$		21,337

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