



Jonathan Leeming

SPEAKER • AUTHOR • CONSERVATIONIST

Biography

Jonathan is a unique individual. Born in England in 1970, he was fortunate to have been brought up in a family who encouraged an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the natural world. Camping, hiking, climbing, fishing and sailing were all part of his “formal” education as a child. Immigrating to South Africa in 1984 sparked a new, and boundless fascination in the natural world. Spiders were hairier, scorpions were plentiful, snakes were more venomous and nature was woven into the fabric of society.

Fascinated by those creatures that bite and sting, his journey through a world that so many fear yet few understand began. In 2003, he wrote *Scorpions of southern Africa*, which gave him the leverage and a platform to be seen and heard. A few books later Jonathan quickly became the venomous animal go-to-guy.

Since the publication of his first book, Jonathan has worked in 10 countries and with people of many different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds - unravelling the barriers in our values and beliefs that steal the joy and inspiration that the world has to offer. How the mere image of a spider, scorpion or snake reveals a deeply entrenched phobia that defines our culture, creating fear and developing a disconnection from the natural world.

Today, Jonathan’s work does not answer the question of “If it bites me will I die?”, but rather helps us answer the question of “How do we avoid becoming a victim of our own circumstance?”. From waving the flag for venomous animals, Jonathan’s purpose has taken aim at the looming target of sustainability and how civilisation’s attitude towards the world is stealing the future from our children and our children’s children.

Jonathan has developed the One World sustainability framework that bridges the gap between sustainability objectives and the individual’s values and beliefs, aligning the intent of an individual to the intent of the organisation. The message of One World is presented in 3 different formats: One World Inspire, One World Leadership and One World Strategy.

Social entrepreneur, professional speaker, conservationist and author, Jonathan offers unique insight into creating a sustainable future by teaching lessons from the natural world, to create opportunities for change, leadership and innovation.