



Jonathan Leeming

SPEAKER • AUTHOR • CONSERVATIONIST

## Suggested Introduction

We are the first generation who truly understands that the world our children grow up in will be vastly different from our own. How we overcome the challenges of our time will make the difference between a world that we tolerate, and a world in which we prosper.

Our next speaker was born in the UK in 1970. After immigrating to South Africa in 1984, his imagination was sparked by a new and boundless fascination for the natural world. Spiders were hairier, scorpions were plentiful, snakes were more venomous and nature was woven into the fabric of society.

While many have described him as “strange, but in a nice way”, or “the guy you want on speed dial when you get bitten or stung by something”, he describes himself just as the creepy crawly guy who waves the flag for those uncharismatic animals that so many fear, yet few understand.

Since the publication of his first book in 2003, he has worked in 10 countries and with people of many different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds, unraveling how the mere image of a spider, scorpion or snake reveals a deeply entrenched phobia that defines our culture, creates fear and an ever increasing disconnection from the natural world.

He has spent the past 20 years working with some of the most venomous creatures on earth, in some of the most beautiful places, and **tonight/ today/ this morning** he will be speaking about

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Please welcome the creepy crawly guy himself, Jonathan Leeming...