

Jonathan Leeming

ONE WORLD

Together we can change tomorrow today



JONATHAN LEEMING

SPEAKER • AUTHOR • CONSERVATIONIST

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Supplementary Resources

Visit **www.JonathanLeeming.com** for One World for free downloads that include posters, audio files, blogs, and workshop tools.

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The background of the page is a repeating pattern of various animal silhouettes in a light gray color. The animals include birds, insects like bees and flies, mammals such as kangaroos, camels, and deer, and marine life like dolphins and seahorses. The silhouettes are scattered across the entire page, creating a textured, nature-themed backdrop.

Dedicated to Rachel and Roy Leeming

To my parents who gave me the gift of appreciation for the smaller things in life, the vision to see the wonders that nature has to offer, and the wisdom to question why, when and how.

Jonathan Leeming

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. 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 began through a world that so many fear, yet few understand. 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 from many different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. He has an understanding of how the mere image of a spider, scorpion or snake, often reveals a deeply entrenched phobia that creates fear, and a disconnection from the natural world.

From waving the flag for venomous animals, Jonathan’s purpose has now 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.

One World does not answer the question of “If it bites me will I die?”, but rather helps us answer the question

of “If we don’t change our values and beliefs, will we become a victim of our own circumstance?”. The One World sustainability framework bridges the gap between sustainability objectives and the individual’s values and beliefs.

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.

Contents

Preface	2
Acknowledgments	4
SECTION I	
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!	5
Introduction	6
Chapter 1 - You Are Here!	17
Introduction	17
Remarkable Mediocrity	18
Population Pressure	26
Mankind's Impact	27
The Role Of Technology	30
Your Impact	32
The Snake And The Rabbit	33
Eco-Anxiety	35
Conclusion	39
Chapter 2 - A Fatal Disconnection	40
Introduction	40
Nature Has Become A Destination	44
4 Principles For Living In Areas With Venomous Animals	48
The Woolly Mammoth In The Room	53
Civilisation Collapse Disorder	59
Conclusion	62

SECTION II	
CREATING AN UNDERSTANDING	63
Introduction	64
Chapter 3 - Misspent Value	66
Introduction	66
How We Value Nature	70
Ecosystem Services	78
Technology And Innovation	83
Conclusion	89
Chapter 4 - Units & Systems	91
Introduction	91
How We Treat The Environment	94
Tragedy Of The Commons	109
Externalisation Of Costs	113
Planetary Boundaries	117
Conclusion	134
Chapter 5 - The Ego / Eco Paradigm	136
Introduction	136
Some Aspects Of Our Lives Are Ego	139
Some Aspects Of Our Lives Are Eco	140
Some Aspects Of Our Lives Could Be Ego or Eco	140
Some Aspects Of Our Lives Are Ego, But We Have No Alternative	142
Some Aspects Of Our Lives Were Eco, But Are Now Ego	143
Some Aspects Of Our Lives Appear To Be Eco, But They Are In Fact Ego	144
Can We Be 100% Sustainable	146
The Art Of Green Washing	148
Conclusion	152

SECTION III	
THE FUTURE STARTS NOW!	154
Introduction	155
Chapter 6 - The Road To Sustainability	158
Introduction	158
Components Of Sustainability	159
The Road To Sustainability	166
Risk	172
Extended Producer Responsibility	177
Conclusion	180
Chapter 7 - Earning The Future	181
Introduction	181
Average Is Not Enough	183
Time To Pack Your Bags!	187
The Foundations Of Sustainability	192
Change Management	192
Innovation	198
Responsible Leadership	207
Power Of Purpose	211
One World	215
Conclusion	218
Index	221
Further Reading	235

Preface

One World has been growing inside of me for many years. It is only one step away from my obsession with venomous animals. The seed was planted soon after *Scorpions of Southern Africa* hit the bookshelves in 2003, as I immediately realised that there are vastly different reasons why people bought my book.

Some people wanted to be wowed by the 8 legged awesomeness that scurried from every page. They had an open mind, a thirst for knowledge, and didn't mind getting dirty in order to learn. Conversely, there were those people who were steeped in old wives tales and fear. They were afraid of scorpions not because of what they knew, but rather because of what they did not know. Although they rubber necked from cover to cover, there was no awesomeness radiating from the pages for them.

My 2019 revision of *Scorpions of Southern Africa* is now out. The revision has given me the opportunity to experience the difference in my values and beliefs from 2003 until now, and how far they have evolved. I realise that my ability to understand the world is driven by my willingness to de-construct my own values and beliefs, which in turn, creates an environment that guarantees personal growth and development.

Working with venomous animals has given me an insight into how we perceive the world as we are, and not how the world actually is. Time and time again, I have witnessed how our misguided values and beliefs create an ever increasing disconnection between ourselves and the natural world. It is a sad state of affairs when the very

processes that give us life, become perverted by the mind into something to be feared. This disconnection is the sole reason why a shift to a more sustainable mindset is so vital for the future of humanity.

Sustainability is a subject that touches every aspect of our lives. There is no getting away from the consequences of our actions. However, given the scope and importance of the subject, writing this book has been an eye opening experience for me. While working on this manuscript, I've taken a closer look at my own impact upon the world. I always thought that I was one of the more sustainable people that I knew. I don't buy plastic bags, I have vegetarian days a few times a week, I avoid fast foods and soft drinks and I'm very conscious about the waste that I generate.

However, my research has taken me into deeper areas of my life that have made me very uncomfortable. I now realise that my efforts are not enough, and that I have a desire to disassociate myself from the smoke and mirrors of modern life. The desire to dig deeper and to learn more about my impact on the world, has been the driving force behind my motivation to write this book.

One World is divided into 3 sections. The first section, **Right Here, Right Now**, is an exploration of our current situation. The second section, **Creating An Understanding**, touches upon the broader and more important concepts that create the foundations for a sustainable mindset. The third and last section, **The Future Starts Now**, focuses upon the change management, innovation and leadership that is so desperately needed to create our new world.

Acknowledgments

Thanks must be given to the audiences of various organisations who allowed me to bend their ears with early versions of my presentations that were based upon a draft manuscript. Your comments and suggestions were noted and much appreciated. Special thanks to the Miss Earth ladies who have borne witness to my transformation during the time that I spent working on this project.

Thank you to the following people who waded through an early draft of One World and offered comments, suggestions and corrections, Karin and Steve Spottiswood, Grant Hinde.

A big-big thank you to Ray Spencer for editing the original manuscript, the comments and suggestions. His influence on this project has added immense value, and without his input, I doubt that this manuscript would have seen the light of day.

Special thanks have to go to my parents who gave me the gift of appreciation for the smaller things in life, the vision to see the wonders that nature has to offer, and the wisdom to question why, when and how.