

December 10, 12

President Jacob Zuma
c/o One More Generation
P.O. Box 143627
Fayetteville, GA 30214



Dear President Zuma,

Your country is blessed beyond measure with beautiful and majestic animals. How I wish I could have these magnificent creatures wild in my land. As it stands, I can only see these animals by visiting your county or going to a zoo. I find the latter sad for both animal and human. I see nothing natural about an animal walking around in a pen.

I am aware that your African Rhino is in serious trouble. In your country there have been 588 Rhinos killed in 331 days. I have seen terrible pictures of this amazing animal butchered in the cruelest manner just for their horn. It is shocking to see such violence. I have always been aware of poaching but honestly believed your country was doing everything it could to stop the practice. I hope I am still correct.

I would like to reintroduce some possible solutions to this problem.

- Institute tougher punishment for poaching gangs.
- Increase border security and checks for wildlife products being smuggled out of the country.
- Improve education throughout the country about the power and benefits of working with, rather than against, wildlife.
- Increase funding for Rhino and other species protection nationwide.
- Increase trade restrictions with countries that are knowingly supporting the eradication of Africa's irreplaceable animal resources.

I would also like to add my own education advice. I believe it is time the people are educated about the Rhino horn. Before science became the standard for medical care folklore believed the Rhino horn could cure fevers, headaches, anxiety, rectal bleeding, smallpox, boils and devil possession. Current medicine, and even the Chinese herbalists, has learned this is all false. Contrary to popular belief, traditional Chinese medicine never used Rhino horn as an aphrodisiac.

Your ministry told me over nine million visitors travel to your country every year just to see the animals. That is a good number and must be a big part of your economy. I am afraid if you do not stop the poachers there will not be any animals for people to see. They could just stay home and go to the zoo. Please keep this from happening.

My very best to you,

Lucy Robinson
Bluffton, South Carolina, USA

