

17th December 2012

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

Dear President Zuma,

This is not a letter in which I am going to preach you about what needs to be done in regards to the wildlife in your country, neither is it a word of warning about the bleak future which awaits them should we all fail to act in time in response to the changing circumstances.

You, as the leader of an exemplary African nation, surely are better informed and aware of the precarious state of the wildlife, and in particular African rhinos, than I am. You are lucky enough to live in a continent and a country which boasts some of the most amazing and majestic wildlife on the planet, and at the same time, you are burdened with the weight of the expectation to protect and save them. I understand that it must feel like carrying a heavy backpack on a long hike, but one which stores some refreshing drinks and will reward you at the end of your path.

I am passionate about wildlife, and in particular African Rhinos, but I believe asking you alone to act in a way that ensures their survival, and leaving your country with this difficult task, does not seem fair to me. After all, it is your nation's budget and resources which will be put into work to save a species from extinction for the sake of all men.

But you are not alone. Just the fact that thousands of people have taken the cue and have written to you in person, is a reminder of how united so many of us are in our attempt to save the planet's wildlife, and African Rhinos.

We may not succeed; it may be too late already to save them from extinction. But to give up on African Rhinos, that will be the ultimate failure, a burden with which we all have to live with for the remainder of our lives.

I once watched a wildlife documentary about Africa when I was still a kid. At the end of the show, the narrator said a phrase that changed my life forever, and made me determined to come and work in Africa in order to do my best to help save its precious wildlife. That phrase was: "Africa, it is the last place on earth where it is still the beginning of life."

Please, let us all unite and not let it be the ending for African Rhinos, but a new beginning.

Sincerely

Navid Samed
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