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November 25, 2012

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

Dear President Zuma,

This letter is addressed to you to encourage an increased use of your military against poaching gangs. Over the past 3 years, despite raised awareness for rhinos, over 1,236 have been poached for their horns. This number is unacceptable. Rhinos are at risk of becoming extinct because Asians believe their horns have medicinal value. The value that these gangs believe the horns have causes them to capture rhinos and steal the horns and let them bleed out and die.

The reason you should devote all resources to stop the poaching is because firstly they are at risk and the African Rhino, African Elephant, African Leopard, African Lion and Cape Buffalo are the Big Five of your country. The Big Five of South Africa is what accounts for a large portion of the national economy. These majestic and beautiful animals attracts tourists from all around the world. People want to visit national parks and see these animals roaming in the wild not in zoos.

The problem is that people are apalled by the poaching. These people may be tourists who wish to visit but they won't. Prove them wrong and show that South Africa is a beautiful nation with majestic animals roaming freely and not at risk. If you were to increase border security and checks for wildlife products being smuggled out of the country and enforce tougher punishment for poaching gangs you could decrease the risk of rhinos and other animals going extinct. Also increasing trade restriction with countries that are known for using horns as medicine might discourage illegal trade. Another thing to do would be educating young minds about how great animals are and explaining how poaching is wrong. This could prevent them from becoming poachers themselves.

These changes will make an immediate and lasting impact and will allow these precious animals to thrive into the future, ensuring that your country, and the rest of the world, will be able to enjoy all of South Africa has to offer for generations to come.

Thank you for listening to my pleas. We hope you will do the right thing for South Africa, and for these animals as well.

Sincerely,

Joel Shimada

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