



## Biography

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, beliefs and backgrounds, unraveling the barriers in our values and beliefs that steal the joy and inspiration that the world has to offer. How the mere image of a spider, scorpion or snake reveals a deeply entrenched phobia that has poisoned our culture and creates fear and perpetuates a toxic belief system.

Today, Jonathan’s work 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?”. 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.

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

Jonathan has developed the One World sustainability framework that bridges the gap between sustainability objectives and the individuals values and beliefs, aligning the intent of an individual to the intent of the organisation.

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.