

Morning Desiree

It is with a sad heart that I am writing this email. On reading a post from Tracey Bodington saying that the iconic Imhoff snake park and reptile rehabilitation center would be closing down after 20 years. I felt obliged to write and say that we that live in and around Fish Hoek and Cape Town cannot let this happen.

How can we let a place that has given so much to educating our children, communities and schools be allowed to close its doors due to a lack of funding and support from our government and large companies as well as us the man in the street.

We support SANCOB, SPCA and Tears and many other fantastic centers but what about the less furry and less loved animals we share our country with. The Imhoff snake park and reptile rehabilitation center is a place that should get our support as it is the only one that I know of that rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes reptiles and snakes. The work they do there is fantastic and the knowledge they have is invaluable, and they have managed to keep this amazing place going by themselves for 20 years. I think that it is time that the government and large companies help the smaller centers survive in today's economic climate, we all know how tough it is getting, and to cover expenses that a rehabilitation center generates must be unbelievable. If we allow this center to close Cape Town will be all the poorer for letting this happen.

Shaun and Tracey Bodington as well as their family and team, have done such an amazing job of educating the communities, school children and adults alike. I don't think that there is a school going child that has not experienced one of their shows, leaving with a different perspective on snakes and reptiles. Their shows are well known to be fun and interactive and this shows the love for what they do through this platform.

The peace of mind that they give the community knowing that if we find a snake in our homes we can call the center and know that it will be taken care of and released in a professional manner, is invaluable.

The snake park too is well run and always a wonderful experience to go and walk around. A small but interesting park, which is used to fund the rehabilitation center. This park is visited by locals and overseas tourists alike and a great way to showcase the diverse animal life one is likely to find on Cape Town.

Once again I appeal to you to see if funding can be given to support a very worthy cause.

Kind regards
Karen De Lange

Tracey Bodington