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Sibusiso Vilane puts his hand up for Rhino Peak Challenge 2018

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World-renowned adventurer, Sibusiso Vilane, has committed to continuing his fight for endangered species when he takes part in the 2018 edition of the Rhino Peak Challenge on 22 September – World Rhino Day. He will be representing the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) while taking on this fantastic challenge.

Sibusiso's list of achievements includes summiting Mount Everest twice, summiting all seven of the world's highest peaks and walking to the South Pole unassisted. The upcoming Rhino Peak Challenge will pale in significance to his previous feats; however, he understands the importance of an event like this.

"At the moment I am not working towards anything so I am not in the best shape but I am prepared to go out there and suffer as much pain as our rhino population is at the moment," he said. "We all need to rise up to this challenge in whatever way we can to be the voice of our endangered species. Their conservation is our sole responsibility, I believe."

Organisers of the event have hoped that Sibusiso would take part in the past but due to his busy schedule, it hasn't been possible. The intervention of EWT CEO, Yolana Friedmann, allowed Sibusiso to be confirmed for this year. He explains, "I was running my ninth Comrades Marathon this year when an old friend, Yolana, reminded me about the Rhino Peak Challenge and before I knew it she had recruited me as I said I had nothing planned for those dates!"

As an ex-game ranger, Sibusiso has been at the forefront of conservation in South Africa and understands the importance of events and awareness drives like the Rhino Peak Challenge. He keeps conservation of all animals close to his heart. "Not just rhino conservation, but all wildlife matters to me and I believe that we have a responsibility to make sure that they are protected and conserved. I cannot stand and watch from the sideline while the rhino is being wiped off the planet. It would be a shame if that happened and I had not done anything to support initiatives which seek to protect our rhinos," he added.

Sibusiso's large following and profile is something that he continues to use in order to promote awareness for the plight of endangered species in South Africa. He feels that it is his duty to pass on the word of conservation.

Despite having a constantly busy schedule, he is currently taking some time away from his exciting adventures to focus on a goal that might be slightly easier to achieve than scaling Mount Everest.

Anyone interested in making a pledge to support Sibusiso Vilane, and the Endangered Wildlife Trust, can visit www.rhinopeakchallenge.co.za

The EWT is proud and grateful to be one of the beneficiaries of the Rhino Peak Challenge, and to have an esteemed athlete such as Sibusiso representing the organisation in the event.

End

About the Endangered Wildlife Trust

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) has worked tirelessly for over 45 years to save wildlife and habitats, with our vision being a world in which both humans and wildlife prosper in harmony with nature. From the smallest frog, to the majestic rhino; from sweeping grasslands to arid drylands; from our shorelines to winding rivers: the EWT is working with you, to protect our world.

The EWT's team of field-based specialists is spread across southern and East Africa, where committed conservation action is needed the most. Working with our partners, including businesses and governments, the EWT is at the forefront of conducting applied research, supporting community conservation and livelihoods, training and building capacity, addressing human wildlife conflict, monitoring threatened species and establishing safe spaces for wildlife range expansion.

A beacon of hope for Africa's wildlife, landscapes and communities, the EWT is protecting forever, together. Find out more at www.ewt.org.za

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