

Behind every successful rhino there's a person

I'm occasionally asked what is the best bit of my job. To be honest, there's quite a list.

Cathy Dean
Director

Emailing someone in the field to tell them that one of our funding applications has been approved and there's a grant on the way. Tracking a rhino in the wild. Working at one of our fundraising events and seeing everyone there having a great time. Opening the newspaper to discover that the picture editor has used an image of one of our rhino-costumed runners to illustrate an article about the London Marathon. Having a giggle with the team about a drinks evening with other ex-staff.

Running an ultra-marathon, something I didn't think I'd ever do.

However, there's one thing that really stands out, and that is the rapport we have built up with the people who run the field projects we support. I can't tell you how motivating that is. Sure, a lot of the emails are pretty fact-based: What's the budget for next year? Has the grant transferred through? Why has the equipment we sent over got stuck in customs? Please send us some high-res digital images asap.

If we're going to help increase rhino numbers, we need to support the people described in this magazine.

But along the way, and greatly helped by the occasional project visit, we've made pretty good friends with the field managers. In typical Brit-style, we comment on the weather (south London normally loses that contest). We compare football results from favourite teams and even, thanks to the miracle of Skype-chat, follow the Grand Prix live if we're working at the weekend. We hear about the kids' progress at school or their latest attempt at running away from school. There's the occasional rhino-world romance, news of job changes and promotions. It's trivia, but it sure makes people 1,000s of miles away seem a lot closer.

So in this issue, we've decided to profile some of the people we work with in the field, so that perhaps you also feel that you know them a bit better. Whatever my own view, rhinos aren't going to be everyone else's highest priority, but perhaps by personalising the projects, we can bump them up the rankings.

Alas, I don't think that the title of this piece would make a bestselling T-shirt, but it's certainly true. If we're going to help increase rhino numbers, we need to support the people profiled in this magazine.




Events Schedule:

Flora London Marathon 2008

RAW Africa 2008

Rhino Cycle Namibia

Rhino May Day

Clay pigeon shooting

The Longest Day

ING New York City Marathon

3 Peaks 3 Weeks 2009

Around the Horn

Seventh Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture

Flora London Marathon 2009

Rhino Cycle Namibia

Rhino Climb Kilimanjaro

Rhino Climb Kenya

Sunday 13 April

Monday 21 - Friday 25 April

Friday 9 - Wednesday 21 May

Wednesday 14 May

Friday 30 May

Saturday 21 June

Sunday 2 November

Wednesday 7 - Saturday 31 January 2009

January 2009 (date tbc)

Wednesday 11 March 2009

Sunday 26 April 2009

May 2009 (date tbc)

Dates to suit

Dates to suit

For more information about any of these, please email events@savetherhino.org or alternatively call +44 (0)20 7357 7474.