

Miles, smiles, sweat & support

Running 26.2 miles is something most people would baulk at, particularly if you add 24°C heat into the mix, as well as competition from Mo Farah (and of course, the optional extra: adding 10kg of weight to your back whilst reducing your visibility to 6ft in front!)

Susie Phillips

2017–18 Michael Hearn Intern

Yet, for 63 incredible people, many of whom were new to running, this was the plan

for the day on Sunday 22 April 2018, all in the name of saving the creatures lovingly referred to as 'chubby unicorns'.

Save the Rhino, as many of you will be aware, has been intricately involved in the London Marathon for 25 years now. The event has grown to be our largest annual fundraiser, with runners' sponsorship

helping to provide much-needed financial support to more than 20 field programmes and projects across Africa and Asia. But

10 countries represented

13 rhino costumes started – and finished

63 runners

1,650 miles run

£130,000 raised for rhinos

Above: The whole team before the race and receiving much deserved massages after running

Left: Pre-run stretches and smiles for all runners!



this year was special for a number of reasons...

Our team boasted nine runners who are all working directly on rhino conservation projects in Africa. Programme leaders Elsabe (Technical Advisor), Callum (Security trainer) and scouts Brighton and Thomas travelled from Gonarezhou National Park in south-east Zimbabwe.

Long-term friend of Save the Rhino Ed Sayer travelled from North Luangwa National Park in Zambia, accompanied by Benny Van Zyl (Head of Canine Unit) and rangers Paimolo and Cosmas. And finally



Craig Reid, Park Manager at Liwonde National Park, Malawi, also joined us.

Showing these rangers some of London's highlights was a real treat: the south bank of the River Thames, Stamford Bridge, the Apothecaries Hall, breakfast in the Sky Pod Bar at 20 Fenchurch Street.

We formed an incredible partnership with Ultrasports, an elite London sports clinic with loads of experience of working with athletes, though they had never before dealt with the particular challenges faced by sweaty runners encased in foam-rubber rhino costumes! These dedicated physiotherapists provided a warm up for runners at the start line and extremely welcome ice packs and water at mile 21, just on the return from Tower Bridge.

We raised a whopping £130,000 for rhinos, the highest-ever total from this incredible event. A huge thank you to all the dedicated runners and their supporters for all the bake sales, car washes and bucket collections.

We can't wait to see what's in store for our 2019 London Marathon team! Head online to register if you're interested in taking part.





Left to right: Posing for pictures outside Buckingham Palace

Race day! Callum Duncan (Gonarezhou) and Benny Van Zyl (North Luangwa) both ran the iconic route in rhino costume

A visit to London Bridge underground station and its iconic signage

Cosmas, Ed and Paimolo pose with the Zambian flag at the end of the race

A change from the usual morning run – the south bank of the Thames

Watching Trooping the Colour

Paimolo runs through Canary Wharf



This year we had very special guests joining us from field programmes in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia for the London Marathon.

From Zambia's North Luangwa National Park we were joined by Ed Sayer, North Luangwa Conservation Programme's project leader, Paimolo Bwalya and Cosmas Ngulube, rhino monitoring team commanders and Benjamin Van Zyl, North Luangwa's technical advisor for the K9 Detection and Tracking Unit.

Thomas was our first rhino ranger runner home, finishing in a very impressive 03:29:56.

Our first 2018 rhino costume runner to return was Callum from Gonarezhou, with a time of 05:07:49.

Gonarezhou National Park's team included two talented rangers, Thomas Mbiza and Brighton Jecha, Elsabe van der Westhuizen, Frankfurt Zoological Society's Technical Adviser, and Callum Duncan, Head of Security for the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust. And from Lilongwe National Park in Malawi, we had Craig Reid. For some it was their first trip to London, so as well as the 'small feat' of completing a marathon, we got in some sightseeing.

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Left to right: Posing on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral

After a boat trip on the River Thames, team ZimZam visit the London Eye

London Underground's massive escalators

Who could resist a full tour of Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea football club!



Together, Team ZimZam raised more than £30,000, going towards specific projects in Gonarezhou and North Luangwa, including purchasing more ranger equipment for security, cameras for rhino monitoring and better infrastructure to help rangers get around the Parks.