



Partnering with Tofauti

Our objective

We're here to bring people together to make a difference for Africa's wildlife and communities.

Our guiding principle

We think the best way we can help is by building resilience, not reliance, among Africa's people and animals. We think the only way to a lasting solution is to make them part of the solution.

So, we do this by building teams of passionate supporters, expert partners and local people who together can make a difference.

Our founder

Crista grew up in Kenya as a third generation conservationist and having gone to school in England through her teenage years, Crista fell in love with sport. She became an elite level hockey player and ultimately won Olympic Gold in Rio in 2016 as part of the GB team.

She founded Tofauti to bring her two worlds together. Her belief in the power of teamwork, built through the highs and lows of a 13 year international hockey career, and her deep understanding of the challenges facing Africa's animal and human populations. Africa is the place she still calls home.

What we do

Tofauti's activities are centred around its four impact objectives:

- Reducing human-wildlife conflict;
- Providing access to environmental education;
- Protecting wildlife;
- Building infrastructure to protect habitats.

Human-wildlife co-existence

As the human population grows, its demand for land is constantly increasing. At Tofauti we believe that working with the local people is the only way to help humans and animals find ways to co-exist and thrive together.

Environmental education

We believe that African people need nature to thrive, whether farming effectively and considerately, or enabling economy-boosting responsible tourism. At Tofauti we work with the local people to help them sustain a way of life that leverages, rather than compromises their relationship with the natural world they live in.

Wildlife protection

At the heart of Tofauti's DNA is the protection of wildlife. We appreciate that every area faces its own challenges from bush meat trade to deforestation, disease from domestic animal interaction to drought, and in the worst cases, illegal poaching. At Tofauti we don't believe in one-size-fits-all fixes. Instead we go deep into each situation to create bespoke, long-term solutions.

Infrastructure and habitat

To protect wildlife the need for scout accommodation, road maintenance, water-holding areas, electric fencing and crucial wildlife corridors is vast. Tofauti works with trusted partners on the ground to ensure that these crucial structures are put in place, and that they are planned, managed and measured to the highest standards.

How we work

We go further together

We think the challenges facing Africa can only be tackled through an approach that unites. So core to everything we do is our focus on building teams to create and sustain solutions.

Expert partners - We work with trusted, likeminded partners on-the-ground in Africa and in the UK, building specialist teams around specific needs to maximise project impact and project longevity.

Supporters, not just donors - We rely on donors' generosity, but we also rely on the passion and energy of supporters who help us in a host of other ways and, crucially, who stay with us for the journey.

Share and learn - We operate a model of total transparency and a culture of shared learning. We believe it's the only way to grow better at what we do, both within Team Tofauti and within the broader world of conservation.

We educate and we empower

Experience has shown us that for change in Africa to be long-term, it needs to be owned by the local people. So every Tofauti project is designed to bring local stakeholders on a journey with us.

Change through knowledge - By placing education at the centre of what we do, we are able to shift embedded attitudes that are barriers to change, helping local people appreciate their local habitat, their local wildlife and the importance of their relationship to each other.

Local commitment - Every Tofauti project is built on side-by-side commitment. We expect locals to work just as hard as we do, by sharing in the tough bits and taking pride in the results of our combined efforts.

Long-term ownership - We give locals the tools and training that enable them to not just make change happen, but to sustain it themselves for generations to come.

We connect the dots

We understand that everything is connected. So we are unwavering in applying both depth of knowledge and breadth of perspective to all that we do.

No issue in isolation - We conduct deep project assessment that looks into the issues surrounding the issue we're addressing. We identify the macro and micro economic, cultural and environmental factors that will need to be taken into consideration in any potential intervention.

Future scenario planning - As well as gaining a deep understanding of today's situation, we ensure we also appreciate the events that have led to it. We work through the potential unintended consequences of any action by our team.

Long-term measurement - All partnerships are based on a commitment to long-term project monitoring and evaluation. We believe in sustained, deep-rooted change, and not short-lived red ribbon moments.

Where we work

We primarily support projects in Kenya, as that is where we have the strongest connections. However, we are looking to have an Africa-wide portfolio, and are currently evaluating projects in Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda and Namibia. We will only consider projects in countries which meet our specific criteria.

Our project criteria

In order to meet Tofauti's project funding criteria, partners will need to be able to answer "yes" to these initial five questions:

1. Is the partner organisation a registered charity or a not for profit, or a conservation organisation which can demonstrate that the primary activity of the project is designed to make a difference to Africa's wildlife and communities?
2. Will the project's focus be on one of Tofauti's impact areas and geographies?
3. Is Tofauti's role in the project clear?
4. Is the project designed to bring local stakeholders on the project journey with us?
5. Does the project have a definitive duration with its impact and output being clearly defined?

Partners will also need to be able to answer "no" to these initial four questions:

1. Is the partner organisation a pressure group or a campaigning or political organisation?
2. Does the project aim to promote religion or politics of any kind, and does it exclude any part of society?
3. Is the partner organisation seeking "top-up" funding for a large project, "shortfall" funding, or funding for ongoing activities or core costs (which includes salaries, overheads and/or management fees)?
4. Have any of members of the Board of the partner organisation ever been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, or abuse of vulnerable people?

Project application guidance notes

How to apply?

Applications for project funding must be made in writing, in English, on the Application Form. All Application Forms must be accompanied by the required supporting documents. Details of required documents are on the Application Form.

Who can apply?

Any organisation planning an appropriate project in Africa which aligns with Tofauti's overall project funding criteria. Tofauti will consider projects of varying amounts and durations, although projects are not normally supported for longer than three years.

When to apply?

There are no deadlines for applications. Tofauti's leadership team meet regularly to review and approve applications.

What happens after Tofauti has received an application?

We will acknowledge every project application. If the proposal doesn't meet Tofauti's funding criteria we'll write and tell you. All eligible applications will be assessed and we may contact you for more details about your project.

How long will it take to get a decision?

Tofauti's leadership team will review the application at the first available meeting. We will keep you updated on the status of your application.

Progress Reports

If the application for project funding is successful, we'll ask for regular progress reports based on mutually agreed timescales. Details of the reporting schedule will be agreed before the funding is provided.

Project funding terms and conditions

Project funding from Tofauti is made on the understanding that beneficiary organisations have agreed to the following general terms and conditions:

1. Funding recipients must provide copies of their bank details eg a photocopy of a recent bank statement or a letter from their bank and ideally would provide three years' certified accounts.
2. Beneficiaries must acknowledge receipt of the funds, preferably by letter on headed paper, or if necessary by email, confirming that the funds provided will be spent on the project agreed by Tofauti.
3. No changes to the funded project will be made without the agreement of Tofauti in writing.
4. Project beneficiaries will send progress reports based on a mutually agreed timetable and a copy of their annual report and accounts (if available) at the end of the year of the project.
5. Where possible, the funding should be acknowledged in any materials that the beneficiary organisation produces in relation to the project which Tofauti has funded.
6. Tofauti may include the name of the project beneficiary on its website, social media channels and in its publicity materials.
7. Where appropriate, Tofauti's leadership team may wish to visit Tofauti funded projects at their own expense.
8. Tofauti reserves the right to withhold funding or require repayment of funds already provided, if it finds that any false information is supplied to it, either deliberately or in error.
9. Tofauti reserves the right to withhold project funding or require repayment if the beneficiary organisation becomes insolvent or goes into receivership, administration or liquidation and the funds have not already been spent on their intended purpose.
10. Tofauti reserves the right to share the information it receives in relation to project requests with other relevant parties to verify the application.
11. Sometimes additional conditions will need to be included to account for specific aspects of a particular project grant, and these must be agreed in advance.