

Where does your project fee go?



Conservation Travel Africa volunteers support organisations across Southern Africa, on projects dedicated to conservation, biodiversity, community outreach and wildlife research.

Your fees cover the costs incurred by you being at project (e.g. your food, accommodation & transport), and contribute to the expenses needed to promote the project to other potential volunteers. Your fee also helps us continuously evaluate projects, and find new organisations to support.

On the ground

Partner organisations: 72%

The majority of your project fee is paid directly to the organisation running your programme. Their running costs cover a range of expenses, which we split into three key areas:

a) Direct volunteer costs: 30%

These are the direct costs associated with you being at the project, including things like meals, accommodation, airport transfers and transport from your accommodation to do your work.

b) Project running costs: 40%

Your fee covers costs which make your project a worthwhile, long term and safe experience.

These expenses may include; supplies and equipment needed to run the volunteer programme (e.g. vehicles, tools, learning materials, research equipment etc), local staff salaries and staff training, accommodation and vehicle upkeep, utilities, office and administrative expenses, government levies and taxes.

Spending money on programme running costs means that you can be sure the project has a well-organised and well-structured programme, where volunteers are contributing effectively. If there are no staff, no training, no equipment and no housing, then there's no programme!

c) Direct programme contribution: 30%

The most important part of your project fee is used to support the organisation and help them achieve their goals. This might include things like:

- Costs of building and maintenance work around game reserves.
- Support for animal care (e.g. veterinarians, vaccinations, medical supplies, feed)
- Purchase of anti-poaching equipment
- Donations within the local community for school books, healthcare supplies or building equipment
- Payment for equipment and workmen to provide water and sanitation equipment at schools and in villages.



This is your direct contribution to the communities or wildlife you are volunteering for.

Supporting operations

Promoting projects: 8%

Many on-the-ground organisations lack the financial capacity, time and skills to promote their work and reach potential volunteers.

Our marketing costs include the set up and maintenance of websites, brochures and pre-departure material, making sure volunteers always have up-to-date information. It includes our expenditure on online advertising, social media and other on and offline marketing activities.

We tell the world about the projects we support, and this can't be done without incurring costs. Effective marketing allows us to attract more volunteers, which in turn allows us and our projects, to aim for larger social goals.



Project management: 5%

This includes us visiting our current projects, to ensure they are consistently meeting volunteer expectations. It also includes sourcing, evaluating and visiting potential new partners, and where necessary, assisting them in developing and improving the operation of their programme.

Project management ensures we offer only well-run projects that can really benefit from your help.



Volunteer support (bookings, enquiries etc.): 4%

This includes staff to handle volunteer enquiries and bookings, help with their project selection and give travel advice and emergency assistance.



4% Travel advice, enquiry support and emergency assistance.

Organisational and administrative costs: 1.5%

All travel agents have business running costs. We try to keep our administrative costs to a minimum, and allocate just 1.5% to these costs. This covers our small remote-working team, communication equipment, IT and staff training.

Financial management: 1.5%

This includes operational costs such as bank fees and accountancy services.

Profits: 8%

Because CTA is a small, efficient and cost-effective organisation, we do build up revenue over and above our running costs. This allows us to invest in and fund new projects, offer some great projects which are run at a loss, and ensures that the organisation can operate even during times when there are low numbers of volunteers.

