Supplementary Figure Legends

Supplementary Figure 1. Purity of naïve T cell after cell sort.

OT-1 T cells were MACS purified and the frequency of naïve OT-1 cells before and after cell sorting was evaluated**.**

Supplementary Figure 2. DC from infected mice drive the proliferation of antigen-specific F5 CD8$^+$ T cells.

DC_{naive} or DC_{mat} were cultured with CFSE-labelled naïve F5 cells with or without peptide. CFSE dilution of viable F5 cells in the absence and presence of peptide, was determined at d5. This experiment was performed twice.

Supplementary Figure 3. Antigen-independent polyclonal CD8 T cells proliferation is largely mediated through CD86 costimulation.

(**A, B**) 2x10^6 CFSE-labelled WT polyclonal CD45.2 cells were adoptively transferred into CD45.1 mice 1 day prior to infection with *L. donovani*. Blocking CD86 mAb or control mAb was administered i.p 12h prior to infection. After 5 days, CFSE dilution of splenic donor CD8$^+$ T cells was analysed by flow cytometry (**A**) and the frequency of divided viable cells was enumerated (**B**). The experiment was performed twice and data represent mean ± SD of triplicate cultures.

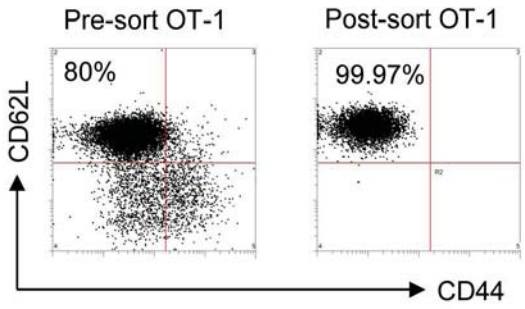
Supplementary Figure 4. DC production of cytokines related to T cell proliferation. (**A**) Relative expression of IL-7 and IL-15 mRNA between sorted DC_{naive} and DC_{mat} analysed by quantitative RT-PCR. (**B**) Naïve CFSE-labelled OT-I cells were cultured with DC_{mat} without peptide in the presence of sIL-15Rα (T1; grey bar) or control protein (M4; black bar) and after 5 days were analysed for dilution of

CFSE in OT-I cells. Control cultures contained T cells alone (open bar). (C) DC_{mat} were co-cultured with CFSE-labelled OT-I cells and stained for IL-2 production at 24h by intracellular flow cytometry. No IL-2 was detected in DC_{mat} (left hand $CFSE^-$ population), whereas IL-2^+ OT-I cells (right hand population; $CFSE^+$) were evident (see Figure 6A for summated data). IL-2 production was also absent from DC_{naive} (data not shown). The experiments were performed twice and data represent mean ± SD of triplicate cultures of flow plots from pooled samples.

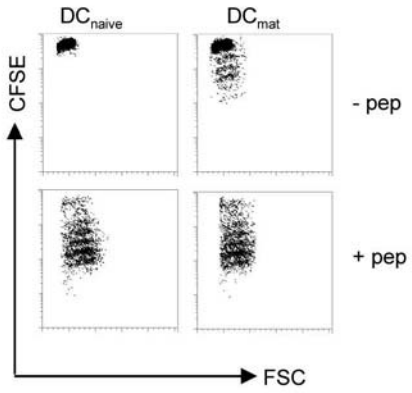
Supplementary Figure 5 Phenotype of OT-I cells activated by DC_{mat}

(A, B) CFSE-labelled OT-I cells were co-cultured for 5 days with DC_{mat} (Ag-OT-I) and their phenotype compared to naïve OT-I cells (N-OT-I) in terms of expression of (A) CD44 and CD62L and (B) CCR7 (CCR7, solid line; isotype, hatched histogram).

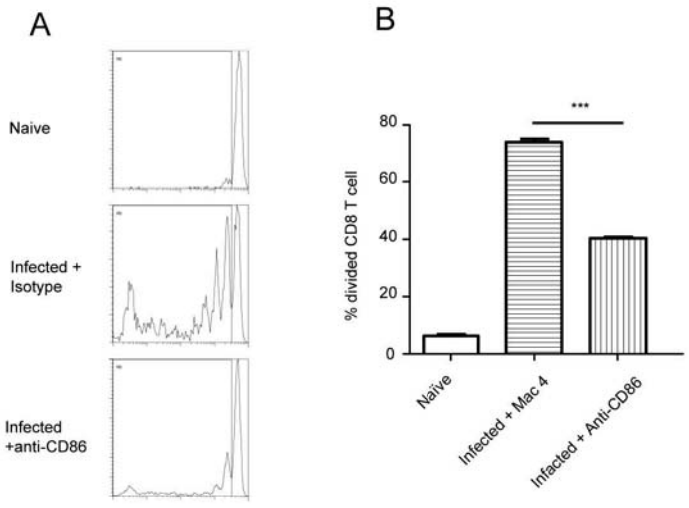
Supplementary Fig 1



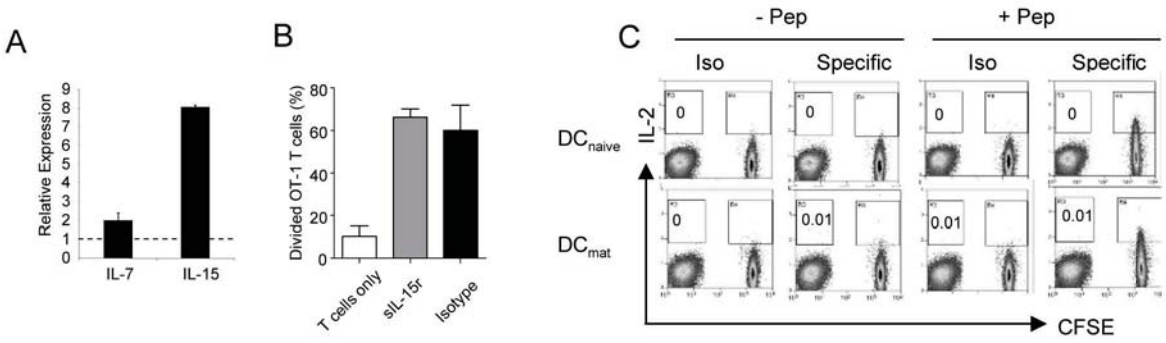
Supplementary Fig 2



Supplementary Fig 3



Supplementary Fig 4



Supplementary Fig 5