



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

November 2022 Monthly Report



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City of Cape Town

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION	3
2.1	DA GAMA TROOP (DG).....	3
2.2	GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)	3
2.3	SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)	4
2.4	SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)	4
2.5	WATERFALL TROOP (WF)	4
3	NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION	5
3.1	CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)	5
3.2	MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)	5
3.3	MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)	5
3.4	TOKAI TROOP (TK).....	6
3.5	ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)	6
4	MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY	7
4.1	OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN.....	7
4.2	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	8
4.3	HOTLINE REPORTS.....	17
4.4	RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS.....	18
4.4.1.	<i>Troop Specific Recommendations & Actions.....</i>	<i>18</i>
4.4.2.	<i>Recommendations & Actions for all Baboon Impacted Areas.....</i>	<i>20</i>

1 INTRODUCTION

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (NCC) was appointed on 1 October 2020 as the service provider for the City of Cape Town's Urban Baboon Programme (UBP) on a three-year contract. NCC are contracted to prevent baboon troops from entering the urban area for at least 90% of daylight hours to minimise human-baboon conflicts.

2 SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Da Gama Troop spent 96.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 86.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and individuals moved through the residential areas in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen on several occasions where they accessed food from bins.
- TK55 and one to two adult females frequently split from the troop and moved into the urban area while the main troop remained in the natural space. On one occasion, TK55 slept in Da Gama Park while the troop roosted kilometres away in the natural space.
- Refuse was collected late in the day on two occasions and once on the following day.

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The GOB Troop spent 100% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent an unknown amount of the time in the urban area.¹

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope section (CoGH) of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) during the month.
- The troop has spent most of their time in the southern and western sections of their ranging area.
- During the month one of the females in the Scarborough area was caught and released back into the reserve area. There are currently still two females, one juvenile and one infant

¹The same three adult females and juvenile male that arrived in Scarborough a few months back have remained in Scarborough and to a lesser degree Misty Cliffs. These individuals moved independently from the troop without field rangers assigned to them and thus individual time in town for this month is unknown.

remaining in the Scarborough area. Continued attempts to catch and re-release these individuals back into the reserve area are planned for next year.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 94.7% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 88.6% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop largely moved throughout the eastern and western portions of their ranging area.
- The troop entered Capri and Ocean View where they accessed bins on a few occasions.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 95.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 94.6% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- WF8 has continued to move north towards and into Simon's Town. This encouraged the movement of the SWB Troop in this direction. This resulted in the troop spending time in Simon's Town and Seaforth where the troop and individuals gained access to bins as well as roosted at the Simon's Town quarry.
- WF8 has continued to split the troop. On 10 occasions, he created a distance of 3km between his small group and the main troop. On several occasions, he roosted away from the troop, occasionally at the East Yard. The tracking collar worn by WF8 is used as a tool to track the troop, however this has become decreasingly effective as a troop-monitoring device as he is often far from the troop.
- Individuals were recorded accessing houses on several occasions. One of these incidents involved an individual breaking a window to gain entry to a house.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 89.1% of the time out of the urban area.²
- Individual baboons spent 98% of the time out of the urban area.²

²When adjusting the time out of town figure to account for time spent on urban SA Navy property, this figure is reduced to 65.8% of time out of the urban area for the troop and 72.1% for individuals.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- There are several SA Navy facilities within the suburb of Simon's Town. These naval facilities act as human-derived feeding hubs within the built area. These hubs are dispersed across the urban area, facilitating easy baboon movement between them and into the urban space.
- Inadequate waste management at SA Naval facilities continues to be a key factor attracting the troop to the urban area of Simon's Town.
- Poor waste management at the Waterfall Barracks continues to encourage the baboons to roost on the Waterfall Barracks ladies' flats roof and subsequently facilitates the troop's movement deeper into the urban space.
- WF9 continued to lead the troop and/or a group of individuals into the urban space and assertively grabbed food from a person on one occasion.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 99.7% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's time in town continued to decrease compared to the previous months. This was largely due to the troop spending more time in the mountains above the wine farms and on the wine farms themselves.
- The troop only entered the urban space on one occasion this month and continued to roost above the wine farms and south of the Price Drive stream.

3.2 MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT1 Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop has spent the majority of the time above Buitenverwachting.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 98.8% of time out of the urban area.

- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted above The Range for majority of the month.
- The troop crossed Orpen Road and went to Bloekom Laan on one occasion during the month.
- The troop continues to enter Constantia Uitsig on a regular basis.
- The tracking collar has continued to be valuable in monitoring the troop's movement and assisted the field team in preventing them from moving deeper into the urban space.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The TK Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals gained access to food from tables at the Tokai Picnic on two occasions.
- Forest Glade Centre and the surrounding area was not visited by baboons this month.
- The troop spent most of the month in the high mountain areas of their range.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The ZW Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Same factors as for the Tokai Troop due to the overlap of their ranging areas.
- Neither the troop nor individuals gained access to food at the Tokai Picnic area.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 97.6% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The WF Troop did not reach 90% this month. Overall individual time out of town was 96.4%, however individuals from the DG and SK troops did not reach 90%. The amount of time GOB Troop individuals spent in town is unknown. Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

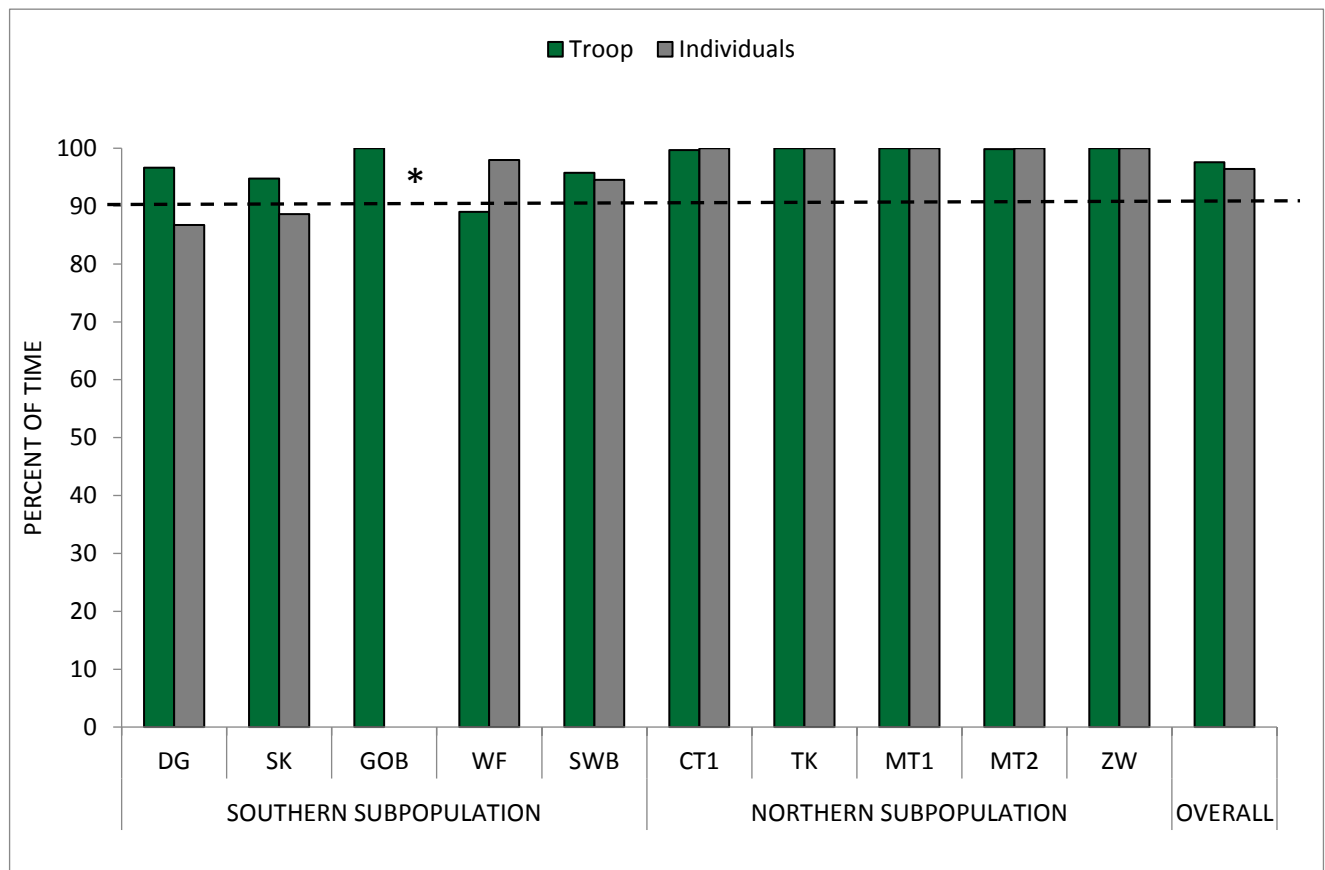


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of November 2022. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per month.

*Time in town for GOB individuals was unknown this month.

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Site visits, stakeholder liaison, and community engagement, including education initiatives, took place this month as follows.

SITE VISITS

Private properties in Da Gama Park, Imhoff's Gift, Welcome Glen, Simon's Town, Tokai, Scarborough & Murdock Valley:

- Engaged with residents whose homes had been accessed by baboons and advised them on how to mitigate the likelihood of future incursions.
- Notified residents of the need to remove or secure fruiting trees and vegetable gardens in baboon ranging areas.
- Advised residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour when faced with a baboon on their property.
- Informed residents of how to mitigate property damage by baboon-proofing and modifying or strengthening existing infrastructure (**Fig. 2**).
- Engaged with residents about the challenges of managing baboons in the urban environment and discussed how community members can assist.
- Assessed individual properties at the owners' request to recommend measures to prevent or reduce baboon visits and mitigate property damage (**Fig. 3**).
- Provided advice on the design of residential baboon-proof bin cages.
- Engaged with individual residents about the importance of securing household waste and ensuring that they have sufficient capacity to store all their waste in their refuse bins.
- Ways in which the community can help to prevent baboon injuries was discussed as well as legislation and the correct reporting channels that should be followed by anyone who is privy to suspected illegal activity.
- Met with residents who were concerned about interactions between baboons and their dogs on their properties. Ways in which the residents can minimise the chances of an altercation were discussed.
- Discussed the potential advantages of strategically placed baboon-proof electric fences for Simon's Town and Scarborough with individual residents. The need for trained personnel to be positioned at the ends of the fence to prevent baboons from entering the urban area was also discussed.



Figure 2. Example of a bin lid which was broken by baboons. Residents were advised to secure the lid at two points going forward until a new baboon-proof bin can be provided.

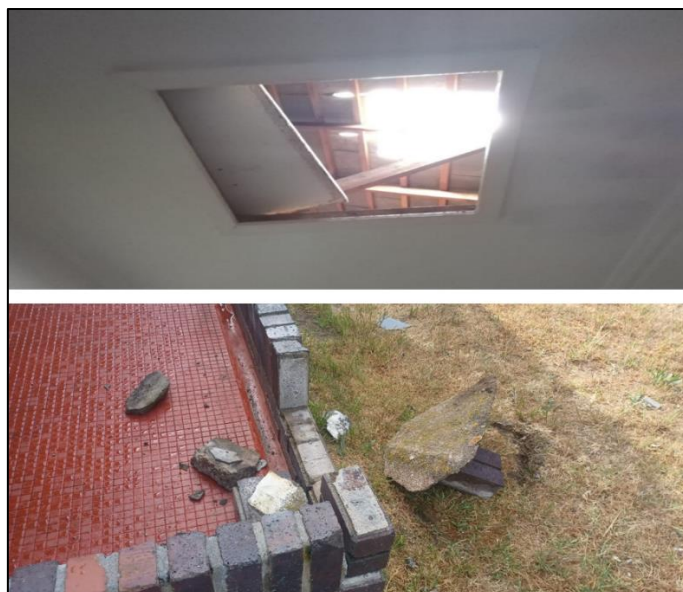


Figure 3. Baboon damage to two separate homes in Da Gama Park.

Alleged deliberate feeding of baboons by members of the public – Responded to reports of members of the public placing food out for the baboons (**Fig. 4**). It was not possible to gather evidence for prosecution in these cases. However, members of the public are reminded that feeding baboons is illegal under the Animal Keeping By-law, 2021 28. (2) *No person may deliberately or negligently feed any wild animal that is not in captivity, with the exclusion of bird feeders.* It is also a contravention of the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 19 of 1974: *No person shall, Hunt or feed baboons.* A fine of up to R40 000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or both such fine and imprisonment can be applied if sufficient evidence is gathered for prosecution in the case of deliberate feeding.



Figure 4. Food placed on the Waterfall path in Simon's Town (left) and near The Village Hub in Scarborough (right).

Black Marlin Restaurant, Miller's Point – Site visit to speak with the staff about baboon visits and the newly installed electric fence (**Fig. 5**). The fence will assist with mitigating conflict but access points were identified where the baboons can use existing infrastructure and vegetation to bypass the fence. These areas were documented and highlighted to the staff for mitigation.



Figure 5. Infrastructure that can potentially be used by baboons to jump the fence and enter The Black Marlin restaurant.

BUCO Hardware, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road – Site visit to assess baboon attractants and to speak to staff about baboons accessing the property (**Fig. 6**). The wall at the north-west side of the property enables baboons to move through to Imhoff's Gift and back with relative ease. Raising the fence here would alleviate the issue. This has been highlighted to both Imhoff's Gift and Heron Park residents for their consideration.

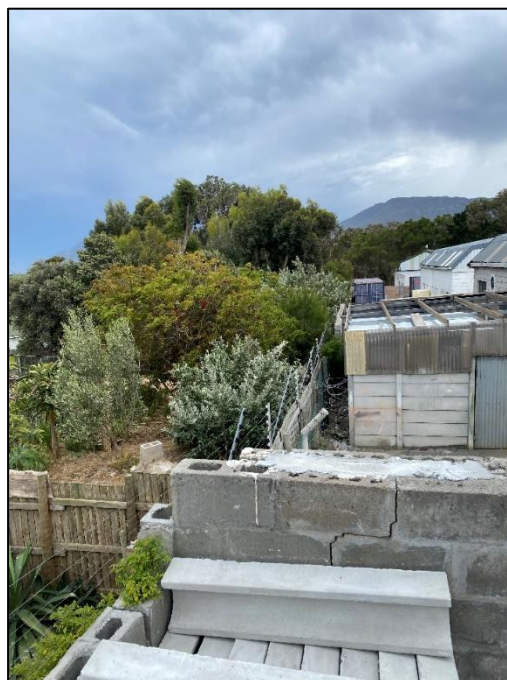


Figure 6. Vegetation and infrastructure along the Heron Park/Imhoff's Gift boundary which allows baboon movement between the properties.

Camel Rock Restaurant, Scarborough – Engaged with the restaurant manager about recent baboon interactions and discussed possible ways to mitigate conflict. The restaurant has a dedicated baboon-proof bin housing area which was secure at the time of the visit.

Cape Academy, Firgrove – Waste was stored securely throughout the property. The City has removed the public bins that were serving as baboon attractants outside the academy (**Fig. 7**). This will assist with preventing baboon incursions at Cape Academy and along Firgrove Way.



Figure 7. Non baboon-proof public bins have been removed from outside Cape Academy.

Cape Research Centre, Tokai – Site inspection to check for waste compliance, all was in order.

Chrysalis Academy, Tokai – Waste was stored securely throughout the main property. However, waste from the film shoot is still problematic and baboons have gained access to an open skip on the property (**Fig. 8**). It was recommended that the open skip is replaced with a skip with a lid to prevent it serving as a baboon attractant.



Figure 8. Open skip at Chrysalis Academy.



Figure 9. Baboon-proof bin housing at Deep South Distillery.

Deep South Distillery, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road – Visit to check for waste attractants. All waste was stored secured in a baboon proof bin housing area (**Fig. 9**).

Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai – Site visit to ascertain if modifications had been made to the bin cage to improve baboon proofing. No modifications were made during the reporting period (**Fig. 10**). This has been highlighted to the landlord for further action.



Figure 10. Bin cage at Forest Glade Retail Centre that requires modification.

Kogelfontein, Red Hill – Site visit to assess waste management. Dumping is often an issue at the property however the area was clean and tidy at the time of the visits. SANParks and NCC will continue to monitor the situation.

Kommetjie Recycling Area, Kommetjie – Inspection of the recycling area to look for waste-based attractants. The recycling area was filled over capacity, but no obvious food waste was noted.

Lluvia Nutrition, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road – Visit to speak with the manager about recent baboon incursions and visits to the factory. Additional baboon-proofing options were discussed to mitigate human-baboon conflict at the property. Advice was also provided to the manager on the appropriate reactive behaviour which staff can employ to encourage baboons to leave the premises.

Miller's Point Picnic Site and Slipway, Miller's Point – Site visit to check for waste-based attractants. The picnic site was extremely busy for much of November due to a snoek run. However, the public bins were emptied regularly, and the area was kept relatively neat and tidy over the reporting period.

Miller's Point Ski-Boat Club, Miller's Point – Despite the increased activity surrounding the snoek run the club facilities remained neat and tidy. No significant baboon attractants were noted. The

discarding of fish entrails in the car parks around Millers Point remains an issue. Coastal Management are aware of the issue.

SA Navy Property, Job Maseko, Simon's Town – Visit to check for baboon attractants. Waste management at Job Maseko has been inconsistent during the reporting period. Baboons gained access to bins which were left outside at the beginning of the month. The situation has however improved again with the assistance of the Navy Executive Officer who is responsible for discipline at the barracks. The bins are now being stored inside and educational signage has been provided to prevent dumping of waste by staff (**Fig. 11**).



Figure 11. Educational signage placed at Job Maseko to help address waste management issues.

SA Navy Property, SANAD, Simon's Town – Site visit to assess baboon attractants. All waste was secured at the time of the visit.

SA Navy Property, Signal School, Simon's Town – Site assessment of waste management. Several bins were accessed by the baboons during the reporting period along with food that was being prepared for a braai. Staff were requested to secure the bins to prevent baboons from accessing the waste. Staff were also reminded to remain cognisant of the fact that baboons will take unattended food items and that this will encourage them to return to look for similar opportunities in future, elevating human-baboon conflict at the school.

SA Navy Property, Waterfall Barracks, Simon's Town – Most food waste and bins were stored securely at the times of the visits. However, the recycling area was not fully secured, which led to a baboon becoming trapped in the door on the 27th of November. The baboon was released and recovered. The barracks staff were requested to attend to the issue to prevent a similar incident occurring in the future. Access to buildings at the barracks due to a lack of baboon-proofing remains

a significant issue (**Fig. 12**). This has been communicated to the Navy. A lack of Navy funding to address the matter remains a challenge.



Figure 12. Baboons accessing rooms at Waterfall Barracks.

SA Navy Property, West Yard, Simon's Town – A site walk around was arranged with SA Navy staff to identify and discuss attractants at the property and how various role players can collaborate to reduce baboon access to waste and food rewards at West Yard (**Fig. 13**). Various priority points of action were agreed upon and ways to mitigate the current attractants with the materials and resources currently at hand were identified for further action.



Figure 13. One of the areas identified at West Yard that can be modified to serve as a bin enclosure.

Stuart Steelworks, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road – Site visit to discuss recent baboon activity with the owner. Structures that were previously used by the baboons to cross over to Imhoff's Gift have been removed from some neighbouring properties, but points of access still remain. This issue is being discussed by Heron Park management and Imhoff's Gift Management with the aim of finding solutions to the issue.

The Range, Tokai – All waste was stored securely throughout the property and no significant baboon attractants were noted.

The Village Hub, Scarborough – Site visit to speak to the staff about recent baboon and activity and ways to mitigate conflict. The doors and windows are often left open when the restaurant and shop staff are aware that baboons are on the roof or in the immediate area (**Fig. 14**). NCC has highlighted this issue to the staff on numerous occasions, but compliance is poor.



Figure 14. Female baboon resting on the roof at The Village Hub

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

A meeting was facilitated between the City's Solid Waste Law Enforcement Division, Navy Personnel, Urban Baboon Programme representatives and the Simon's Town Civic Association to discuss ways in which the parties can collaborate to educate, advise and ensure good waste management on Naval properties. This will reduce baboon access to attractants and their motivation to enter the urban area. The meeting was well received by all parties and assisted in opening new channels of communication. Points for immediate collaboration and action were identified and a follow up meeting will be held in the new year.

Continued liaison with the City's Solid Waste Department through the City's Biodiversity Management Branch. A change-over of the domestic refuse collection and recycling service provider continued to impact baboon management throughout the month of November. Collection was often delayed which created an extended window of time in which the baboons could gain access to road-side bins (**Fig. 15**). This subsequently made it difficult for the rangers to encourage the baboons out of the urban space.



Figure 15. Bin which was overturned by baboons when waste collection was delayed.

Ongoing collaboration with the Cape of Good Hope SPCA with regards to baboon welfare matters and alleged contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 by members of the public.

Meetings with individual Scarborough residents to discuss the presence of 3 adult females, one juvenile and one infant baboon in the village. Several options were explored and deliberated such as the deployment of community funded rangers and the possibility of the baboons being relocated.

Ongoing dialogue with the City's Cleansing Department and Simon's Town residents with regards to public waste bins on Simon's Town Main Road (**Fig. 16**). These are frequently accessed by the Waterfall troop. An alternative design should be considered.



Figure 16. Baboons accessing waste on Simon's Town Main Road.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Electronic Distribution of Educational Materials – Educational infographics and detailed brochures were disseminated via local WhatsApp and social media groups. A special focus was made on sharing information for tourists, which AirBnB and hotel owners can make available to their guests over the upcoming holiday season. It is hoped that this will help to reduce human-baboon conflict over the Christmas period.

Engagement with the Jungle Theatre Company – Discussed potential for future collaboration with the Jungle Theatre Company on their production Hoerikwaggo which details the journey of two baboons across Cape Town. The Urban Baboon Programme hopes to assist by providing educational activities and materials to the children who attend the show, to foster a greater understanding of Cape Chacma baboons and their role in the local ecosystem.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 287 hotline calls during the month of November. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (273), followed by reports of injured baboons (8) and general enquiries (6) (**Fig. 17**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Simon's Town in response to the presence of the WF & SWB troops (**Fig. 18**). The second highest number of calls were received from Kommetjie in response to the movement of an individual female baboon who moved around the village.

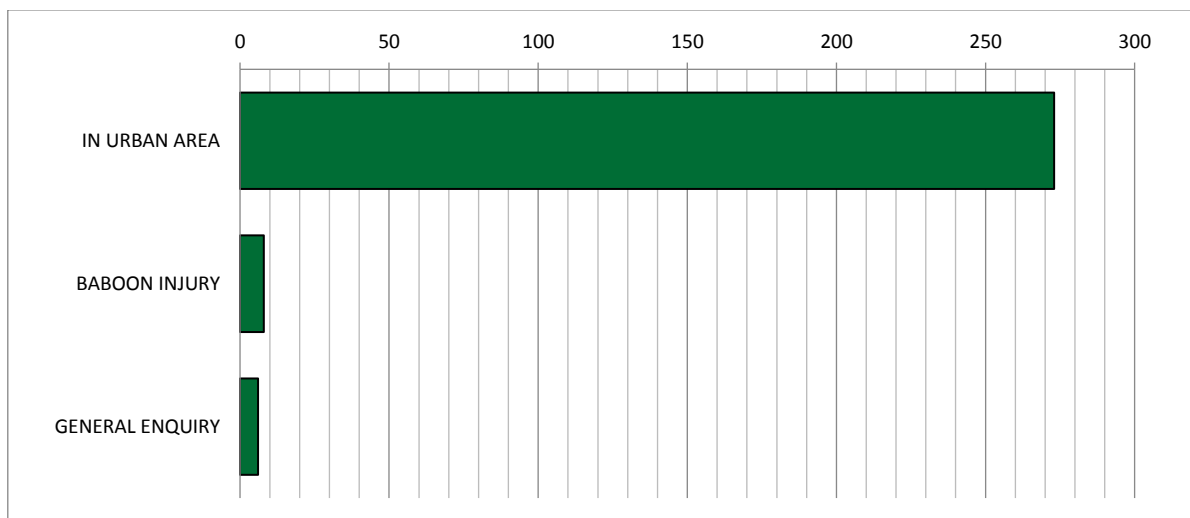


Figure 17. The number of hotline calls by type in November 2022.

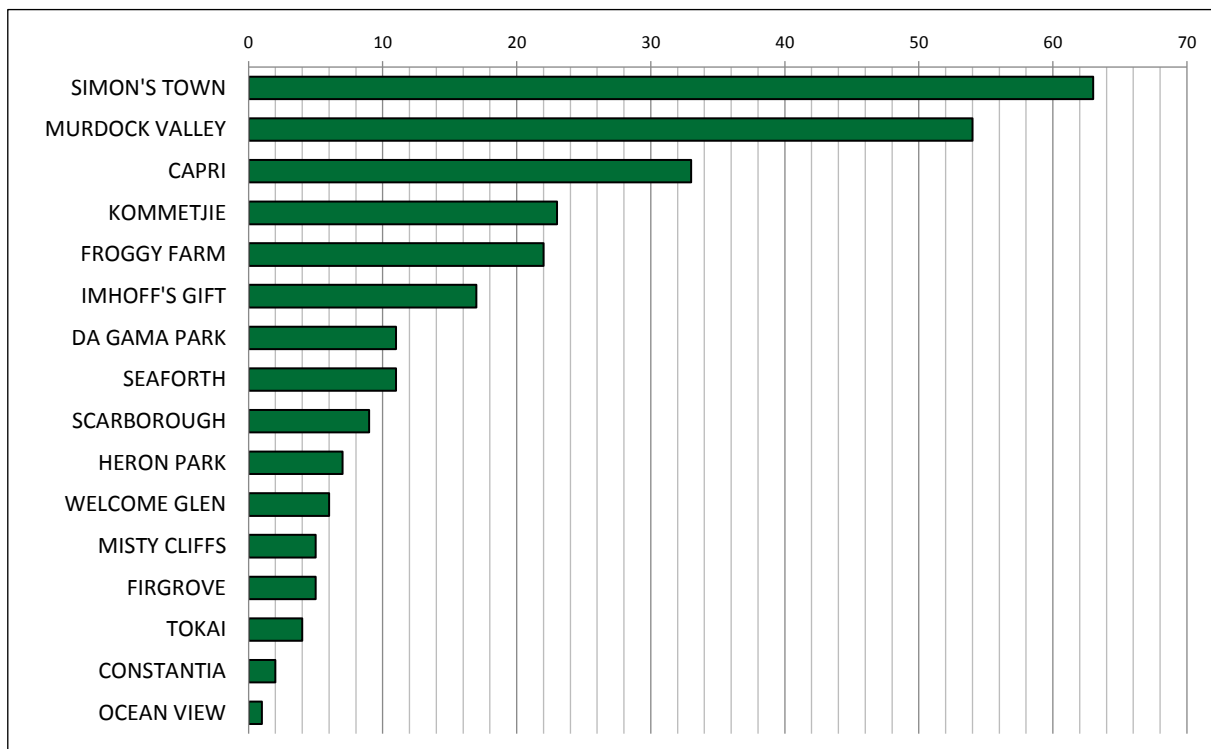


Figure 18. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in November 2022.

4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

4.4.1 Troop Specific Recommendations & Actions

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
DG	There is a 3km above ground electricity line running through a section of the DG Troop's natural ranging area. This line should be diverted underground to protect baboons and other wildlife from further electrocutions.	NCC and members of the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch are engaging with CCT Electricity Department regarding short-term mitigation measures for electricity poles and power lines in baboon ranging areas while long-term measures are put in place.	Ongoing engagement.
DG	The alien invasive vegetation surrounding Da Gama Park is extensive, dense and overgrown. This vegetation should be removed as it obscures the troop's movements and allows them to enter the urban area undetected. It also poses a fire risk to the built-up area.	SANParks began clearing vegetation on 16 September 2022.	Continued clearing.
GOB	Residents of Scarborough should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
GOB	Owners of rental properties should alert their guest to the possible presence of baboons and proper conduct required to mitigate against conflicts.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
GOB	Both skips at Kogelfontein should be kept locked to reduce this troop's access to human-derived foods.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
SK	Though baboons do not move through Kommetjie often, residents of Kommetjie should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing community engagement.
SK	The installation of electric fencing aprons on the roofs of businesses within the Heron Park industrial area and baboon-proof bin storage would reduce the amount of time the troop spends in this area.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing community engagement.
SK	Continued environmental education in Ocean View particularly with children, is recommended in an attempt to reduce the level of human-baboon conflict along the urban edge.	None this month.	Ongoing community engagement.
SWB	The Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club should continue to store all bins inside the baboon-proof enclosure.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.
SWB/WF	The baboon-proofing of waste areas, windows and doors in facilities of SA Navy property would reduce access to human-derived foods and assist baboon management. Alternatively, an initiative to keep doors and windows closed when baboons are in the area would reduce access.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing monitoring, reporting & engagement.
TK/ZW	Forest Glade Centre should improve their bin cage to improve waste management & reduce attractants to baboons.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Alterations by owner.
CT1/MT1/MT2/TK/ZW	The Constantia wine farms and the UBP should collaborate on management strategies as per the CapeNature permit agreement.	Ongoing engagement with CapeNature & relevant wine farms.	Ongoing engagement.
MT1/MT2/TK/ZW	Removal and/or baboon-proof replacement of green public bins on Firgrove Way would reduce attractants to the urban area.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Bins have been removed.
MT1/MT2/TK/ZW	Cape Academy should consider removing fruiting trees from their property to reduce attractants on their property.	None this month.	Additional removal of fruit trees where necessary.

4.4.2. Recommendations & Actions for all Baboon Impacted Areas

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
Residents are advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
Planting of fruiting trees should be discouraged and/or managed by timeously removing fruit to reduce the attractiveness of the area for baboons.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
Residents should be aware that the use of pellet guns in urban areas is illegal and be informed about the suffering that is inflicted on baboons who are shot. The public is encouraged to report pellet gun use to SAPS, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
Due to increased snare activity on the Cape Peninsula, it is important for members of the public to report incidents to the Baboon Hotline.	A request that the public alert the Baboon Hotline to the presence of snares is made in each monthly report.	Ongoing alerts in monthly reports & community engagement.
The erection of strategically placed baboon-proof fences would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranges.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
The availability of baboon-proof rubbish and recycle bins in baboon-impacted suburbs would minimize baboon access to human-derived foods.	Communication is ongoing with the CCT Solid Waste Department & Biodiversity Management Branch.	Ongoing communications.
Regular waste management inspections by the City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department By-law Division would help address waste related issues.	NCC closely monitors waste collection in baboon-affected suburbs. If waste collection is delayed in any suburb, NCC informs CCT's Biodiversity Management Branch who in turn alerts the CCT Solid Waste Department.	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.