



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

November 2021 Monthly Report



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City of Cape Town

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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

AREA MANAGER – CATH SHUTTE

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The DG Troop spent 98.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 98.3% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and/or individuals moved through Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park on a few occasions this month.
- The troop increased the use of their natural ranging area this month.
- On 7 November, the troop managed to enter the village of Misty Cliffs. However, rangers were able to move them out swiftly and the troop did not return to Misty Cliffs again during November.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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 future electrocutions.
- Until electricity lines are diverted underground, regular greasing of the poles is recommended to prevent baboons climbing any electricity poles.
- 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.

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 100% of the time of the urban area.

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 increased its use of the CoGH roosting site. It is a general summer trend for the GOB Troop to spend more time inside the CoGH.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Though baboons have not been present in Scarborough for some time, residents of Scarborough should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.
- Owners of rental properties should alert their guests to the possibility of visits and advise on how to behave accordingly.
- Both skips at Kogelfontein should be kept locked to reduce this troop's access to human-derived foods.
- Placing a tracking collar on an individual in this troop would assist in monitoring their movements and assist in preventing the troop from entering the urban area where they have not been for several years.

2.3 PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR)

The PR Troop does not have dedicated staff with them as they do not enter urban areas. NCC has field rangers in place on Plateau Road for the purposes of keeping baboons off the road and to discourage passing motorists from feeding baboons.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent most of the month moving through the agricultural farms along Plateau Road from Klaasjagersberg (KJB) through to South Point Farm.
- The troop spent the majority of the month moving through the southern portion of their ranging area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As several baboons have been injured and killed on the power lines along Plateau Road, they should be diverted underground to prevent further electrocutions.
- Until electricity lines are diverted underground, regular greasing of the poles are recommended to prevent baboons climbing any electricity poles

2.4 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 92.5% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 93.4% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Access to bins took place in Capri and Ocean View.
- Waste collection was delayed in the suburbs of Capri, Sunnydale and Ocean View during the month, creating major waste management challenges and conflict with residents and baboons.
- A few occupied house raids took place in Capri this month.
- The troop dynamics continued to be affected this month as a younger male (SK12) continued to challenge SK10 (the current alpha male).
- On 24 November, SK12 was found in poor condition below the Ocean View Pines roosting site. The SPCA was alerted, and a wildlife veterinarian was called out to sedate and assess SK12. The SPCA held SK12 for observation, however his condition continued to deteriorate. He was humanely euthanised by the SPCA on 25 November 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Residents and business owners are advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- The installation of electric fencing aprons on the roofs of businesses within the Heron Park industrial area would discourage the baboons from utilizing them as a roosting site.
- The Peach Pip Farm Stall should place their bins in a baboon-proof enclosure to ensure that baboons are not able to access waste.
- Continued environmental education in Ocean View, particularly with children, is recommended to reduce the level of human-baboon conflict along the urban edge.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 99% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 60.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop increased their use of their Rocklands roosting site near Murdock Valley. However, the rangers were able to prevent them from entering Murdock Valley on most occasions.
- SWB12, a young adult male, began to show intent to disperse from his natal SWB Troop during the first week of November 2021. Over the following four weeks, SWB12 spent an increased amount of time in the urban areas of Murdock Valley, Froggy Farm and Simon's Town. An additional two field rangers were appointed to monitor SWB12 in an attempt to encourage him into the natural space. His dispersal process is being monitored closely.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Residents and business owners are advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- The troop often moves past the Black Marlin restaurant. An electric fence around the property would prevent baboons from accessing food at this facility.
- The Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club should continue to store all bins containing food waste inside the baboon-proof bin enclosure.
- The baboon-proofing of waste areas, windows and doors in facilities on South African Navy land 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 baboon access.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 92.3% 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

- Inadequate waste management was once again a key factor attracting the troop to the urban area of Simon's Town. There was an increase in access to bins during November. On a number of occasions, waste collection was delayed in the Simon's Town area, creating issues on the main road and Runciman Drive. Baboons accessed overflowing public bins and blue bags left on the main road. Other problem areas included Waterfall Barracks, Military Police and Signal School.
- Poor waste management at the Waterfall Barracks continues to encourage the baboons to roost on the WF Barracks lady's flats roof and facilitates the troop's movement deeper into the urban space.
- Individual baboons moved through various SA Navy facilities during the month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Residents and business owners are advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- The baboon-proofing of waste areas, windows and doors in facilities on South African Navy land 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 baboon access.
- A baboon-proof security gate to eliminate baboon access to What's Your Flava shop would reduce the availability of human-derived food rewards, which encourage baboons to the area.
- Baboon awareness traffic signs should be installed along Simon's Town Main Road to alert motorists to the possible presence of baboons crossing the road.
- Speed bumps should be built at specific points on Simon's Town Main Road to slow motorists down should baboons be crossing the road.
- The more frequent removal of waste from public bins would prevent overflowing and dumping of waste next to the bins. This would reduce baboon access to the waste and their attraction to the area.

2.7 SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strategically placed baboon-proof fences would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranging areas.

- The provision of baboon-proof street-side by the City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department's Cleansing Division as well as recycling bins in affected suburbs would minimize access to human-derived food waste.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed where possible.
- Planting of fruiting trees should be discouraged and/or managed by timeously removing fruit to reduce the attractiveness of the area to baboons.
- Continued community education would guide residents and business owners on proper baboon-proof techniques for their properties and reduction of attractants.
- Due to increased snare activity on the Cape Peninsula, it is important for members of the public to report incidents to the Baboon Hotline.
- Residents should be educated on the illegalities of using pellet guns within the urban area, as well as the suffering that is inflicted on baboons which are shot. The public are encouraged to report pellet gun use to SAPS, Law Enforcement, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.
- Regular waste management inspections by the City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department By-law Division would help address baboon-waste related issues.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 98.8 % of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop entered the urban area on one occasion during the month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation and maintenance of baboon-proof electric fencing around wine farms and at the top of Price Drive would reduce baboon incursions into the wine farms and surrounding areas.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT2 Troop spent 99.8% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent majority of their time in Cecilia Forest during the month.
- The collar has continued to prove valuable to assist staff to locate the troop when they have lost sight of them and assisted in preventing urban incursions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Signage erected along Constantia Main Road, Rhodes Drive and Southern Cross Drive would assist in alerting motorists to the presence of baboons along the roads.
- Signage erected in the northern portion of the Table Mountain National Park would assist in alerting recreational users to the presence of baboons in the area. Baboon-proofing of bins and facilities in this area would assist in preventing baboons from gaining access to human derived food.

3.3 MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- No specific recommendations

3.5 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 99.9% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The MT2 Troop was located roosting above The Range the whole month of November.
- The MT2 Troop crossed Orpen Road on one occasion during November but no raids were witnessed.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Placing a tracking collar on an individual in this troop would assist in monitoring their movements and assist in preventing the troop from entering the urban area.

3.6 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Baboons remained in the natural area for the duration of the month.
- One incident was reported of an adult male accessing food from tables at the Tokai picnic site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- No specific recommendations for November.

3.7 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop remained in the natural area for the duration of the month.
- Same factors as for the Tokai Troop due to their ranging areas covering the same locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop due to their ranging covering the same hotspots.

3.8 NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The erection of strategically placed baboon-proof fences on Price Drive and the wine farms would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranges.
- The provision of suitable baboon-proof street-side bins by Solid Waste Department's Cleansing Division as well as recycling bins would minimize access to human-derived food waste.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.
- Planting of fruiting trees should be discouraged and managed by timeously removing fruit to reduce the areas attractiveness.
- Continued community education would guide residents and businesses on how to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants as well as how to respond when baboons enter the urban area.
- Due to increased snare activity on the Cape Peninsula, it is important for members of the public to report incidents to the Baboon Hotline.
- Residents should be educated on the illegalities of using pellet guns within the urban area as well as the suffering that is inflicted on baboons which are shot. The public are encouraged to report pellet gun use to SAPS, law enforcement, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.
- Contraception to slow population growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.
- Delays in waste collection has created major challenges. It is essential that the servicing of private and public bins is timeously carried out by the City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department's Collections and Cleansing divisions respectively.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 98.3% of time out of the urban space this month (**Fig. 1**). The Waterfall and Slangkop Troops were significantly impacted by waste management issues in adjacent suburbs this month which attracted them to the urban space. Overall individuals from troops spent 95.2% of time out of the urban space this month. SWB12, a dispersing male from the Smitswinkel Bay Troop spent a considerable amount of time in the urban space. The time out of town figure for SWB individuals is likely an underestimate of the amount of time SWB12 spent in town as the specific SWB12-assigned field rangers struggled to track him continuously.

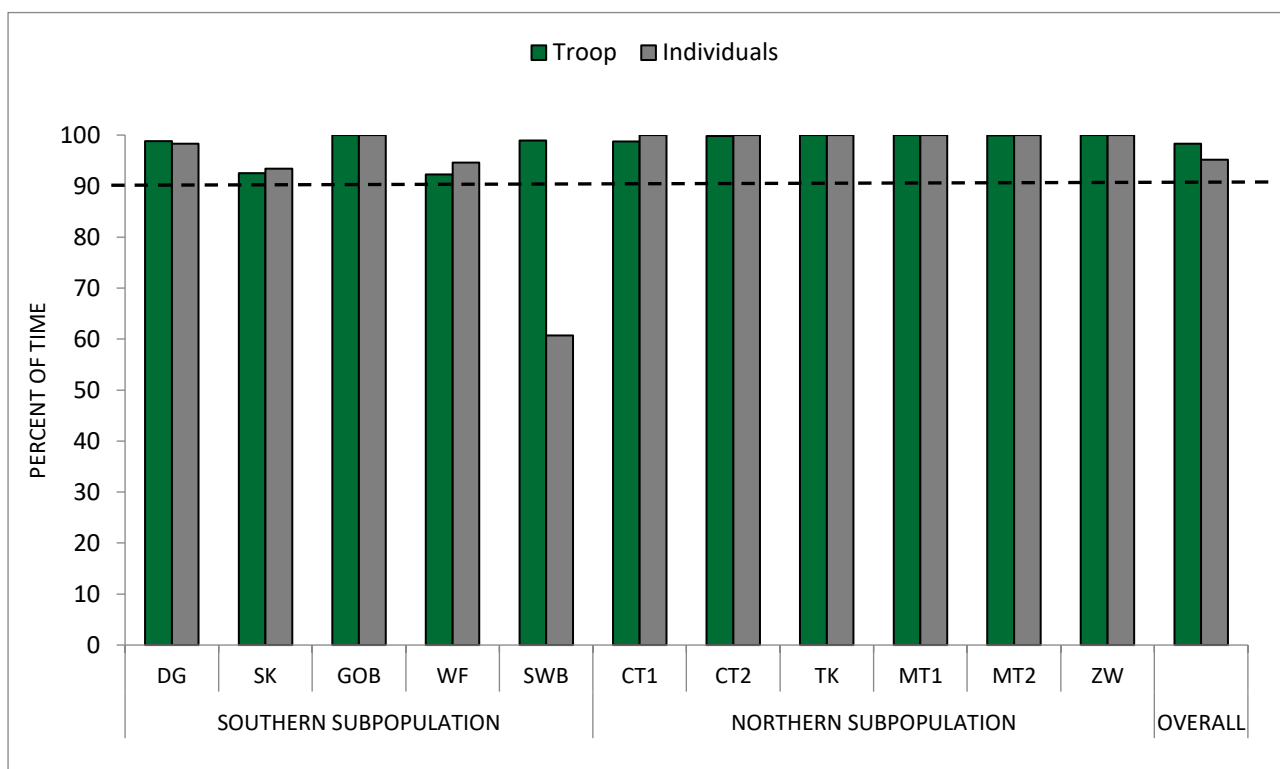


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of November. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. For uniformity, the percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider. This calculation is based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per 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 Capri, Murdoch Valley and Simon's Town:** Met with residents to discuss their current concerns and to provide advice on baboon-proofing and baboon behaviour.
 - Communicated appropriate reactive behaviour to residents whose properties had been visited by baboons.
 - Spoke to individual Simon's Town residents about the potential benefit of a strategically placed baboon-proof electric fence to prevent baboon incursions into the residential and main business areas.
 - Provided advice to residents on how to mitigate damage to property by baboons.

- **Alleged pellet gun and paintball marker use by members of the public:** Followed up on reports of pellet gun and paintball marker use on baboons. Residents were advised of the illegality and consequences of such actions. They were also provided with an educational letter from CapeNature, which details the applicable sections of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974. Where available, photo and video evidence and witness affidavits were filed with CapeNature.
- **Baboon-dog altercations:** Visits to residents whose dogs had been injured in altercations with baboons. These visits were done to ascertain the events that led up to the altercation and to provide tips where possible to reduce the chance of future incidents.
- **SANParks Picnic and Research Centre, Tokai:** Investigated presence of attractants in skips and picnic site bins. None were identified.
- **Kommetjie business owners:** General walk around to discuss attractants with several business owners. Recommendations were made to prevent baboons from accessing waste attractants.
- **Kommetjie recycling collection point:** The recycling was stored neatly, and no food attractants were present on the day of the visit.
- **Cape Research Centre, Tokai:** Checked the skip to ascertain if it was being used correctly. The skip lid was open and overfilled. The skips closure latch has also rusted off. The SANParks section ranger was notified and will address this (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. Skip at Cape Research Centre



Figure 3. Waste stored securely at Forest Glade Retail Centre

- **Forest Glade Residential Complex, Tokai:** Performed a spot check on the usage of the bin cage. All was found to be in order.
- **Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai:** Performed a spot check on bin cage usage. All was in order. Engaged with the manager of one of the restaurants to discuss his experiences with baboons and the mitigation they have put in place to prevent conflict (**Fig. 3**).

- **Cape Academy, Constantia:** Meeting with the principal to discuss removal of fruiting trees and how the school would be impacted if specific non-baboon proof city bins were removed outside the academy. If the bin removal is approved, the academy will counteract the effect of this by placing their own baboon proof bins and signage at the new student exit. It was noted that baboon-proofing and waste compliance at the school is currently very good, and we thanked the academy for their continued efforts (**Fig. 4**).

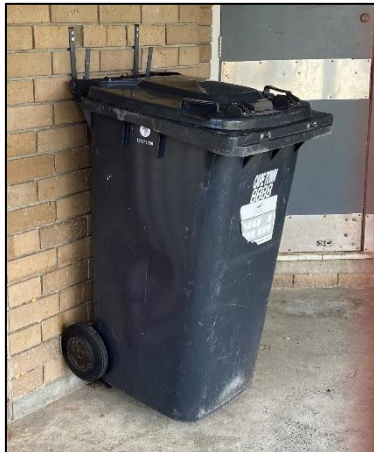


Figure 4. Cape Academy - Bin stored on hooks to help to prevent baboons from accessing waste.



Figure 5. Secure storage of waste at Chrysalis Academy

- **Chrysalis Academy, Tokai:** Walked around the property to check for food and waste-based attractants. Waste was stored securely throughout the property (**Fig. 5**).
- **Ski Boat Club, Simon's Town:** Site visit carried out following baboon raids on unsecured waste bags. An influx of fishermen for the snoek run lead to the current rubbish bins being insufficient to hold the amount of waste generated.
We will revisit the business to ensure that sufficient secure storage space is available for waste (including recycling) during busy periods (**Fig. 6**).
- **Kogelfontein Skip, Scarborough:** Site visit carried out to assess the cleanliness of the skips – both skips were closed but the lids are bent which could allow access for smaller baboons. This was reported to the section ranger (**Fig. 7**).



Figure 6. Waste accessed by baboons at Miller's Point.



Figure 7. Damaged Skip at Kogelfontein.

- **In2Foods Compass Bakery, Kommetjie Road:** Site visit at In2Foods Compass Bakery to assess waste area. The area was clean, and both the recycling cage and skip were closed.
- **Main Road Simon's Town:** Walk around with local volunteers to address the presence of attractants. The NCC Community Conservation Manager also independently engaged with business owners to discuss their challenges and experiences related to the increased presence of baboons in town. Instructions on how to order a new bin were provided to businesses who required them (**Fig. 8**).



Figure 8. Baboon gaining access to waste on Simon's Town Main Road.

- **Stuart Steel Works, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road:** Visit to discuss progress pertaining to the erection of an electric fence between Heron Park and Imhoff Gift to prevent baboons from crossing between the two complexes. Progress has stalled due to the need to remove containers prior to the fence being built. A follow up visit will be carried out in December.
- **Unit 10, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road:** Visit to the unit to discuss the possibility of a bin cage to prevent baboons from accessing food waste attractants. A business owner informed NCC that a cage is already being arranged and this will be an initiative that will be rolled out across Heron Park.

The steel shortage has delayed manufacture of the cages, but NCC were invited to check in again in December for a progress update. The businesses will continue to baboon proof their bins as far as possible in the meantime.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- Met with individual community volunteers to facilitate open dialogue. Local challenges and solutions were discussed, and points for future collaboration were identified.
- A meeting was held with residents of Froggy Farm to discuss a potential noise aversion baboon deterrent system which they have installed. The residents will provide regular feedback on its efficacy.
- The Simon's Town Civic Association and Simon's Town Business Association have established an Environmental Health Sub-Committee to support environmental initiatives and improve waste management within the Simon's Town Area.
 - NCC attended the first meeting of the Environmental Health Sub-Committee and were encouraged by the mitigation measures that were discussed, and the willingness of all stakeholders to work together collaboratively. NCC will be involved with this initiative on an ongoing basis.
- Continued engagement with City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department regarding late waste collection. The City of Cape Town is liaising with the waste service provider to improve service delivery for residents and mitigate the opportunities for baboons to raid.
- Engagement with the City of Cape Town's Electricity Department to grease poles to prevent baboons climbing them and to assess other potential problem areas.

Education Initiatives:

Electronic Educational Material: Posted digital education infographic on social media detailing the dispersal process for male baboons and how this can be influenced by attractants within the urban

landscape. The infographic shares tips on how to minimize visits and raiding by baboons during this process.

Leaflet Distribution: Distributed the educational leaflet 'Baboons a Lifestyle Choice' to all households in Murdock Valley North and Froggy Farm (approx. 220 households). Directly engaged with individual residents on the presence of a dispersing male in the area and encouraged them to baboon-proof their properties and call the hotline if they see baboons in the urban space.

Meeting with individuals from Da Gama and Ocean View: Discussed opportunities for future environmental education programmes in these areas.

Happy Valley Home: Visit to plan content for future educational talks.

Cape Academy: Potential educational talks for the students in the new school year were discussed.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 350 hotline calls during the month of November.

The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (340), followed by general enquiries (5) and reports of injured baboons (5) (**Fig. 9**).

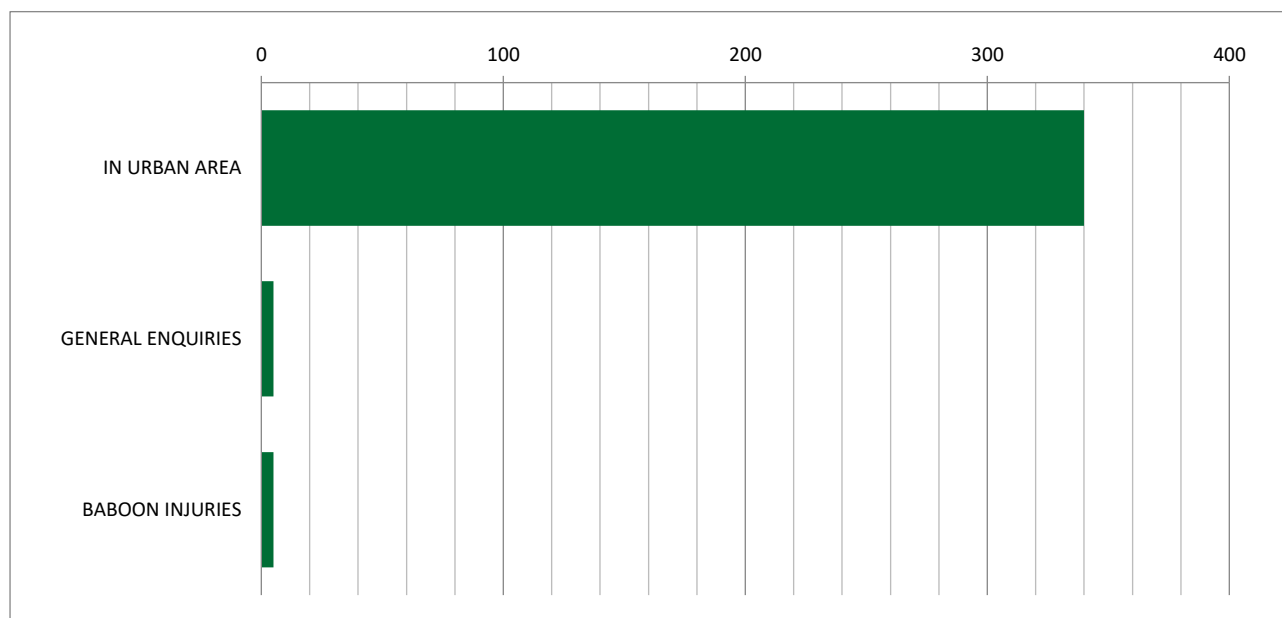


Figure 9. The number of hotline calls by type in November 2021.

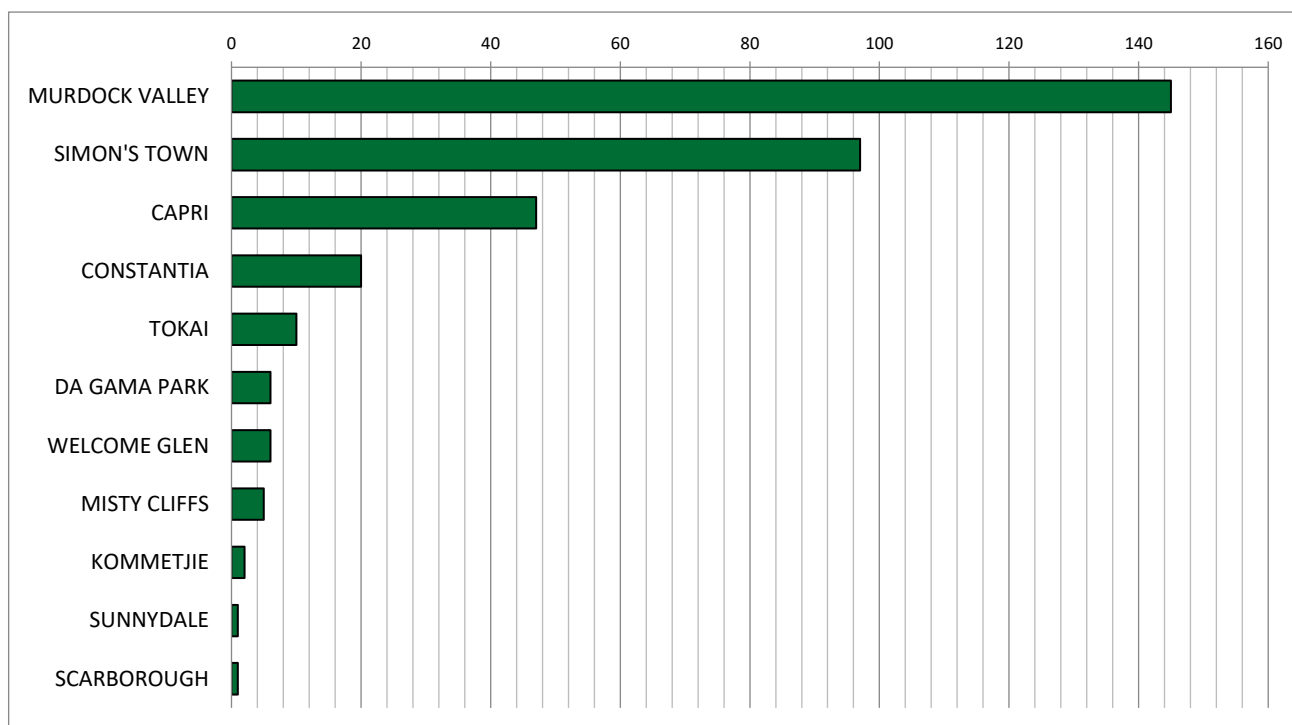


Figure 10. The number of calls reporting baboon presence in the urban space by suburb in November 2021.

The highest number of calls to the hotline this month came from Murdock Valley (**Fig. 10**). These calls focused on the movements of the dispersing male baboon, SWB12, in and around the suburb.

The second highest number of calls came from Simon's Town due to the presence of the Waterfall Troop. Even though baboons very rarely visit Misty Cliffs, we received a few calls from this area as a result of a visit from the Da Gama Troop this month.
