



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme December 2021 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

31 December 2021

PREPARED BY:

Joselyn Mormile, Project Manager
NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
E • joselynm@ncc-group.co.za

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION	3
2.1	DA GAMA TROOP (DG)	3
2.2	GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)	4
2.3	PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR)	4
2.4	SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)	5
2.5	SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)	6
2.6	WATERFALL TROOP (WF)	7
2.7	SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	8
3	NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION	8
3.1	CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)	8
3.2	CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)	9
3.3	MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)	9
3.5	MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)	10
3.6	TOKAI TROOP (TK)	10
3.7	ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)	10
3.8	NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	11
4	MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY	12
4.1	OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN	12
4.2	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	14
4.3	HOTLINE REPORTS	20

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 95.2% 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

- The troop and/or individuals moved through Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park on a few occasions this month.
- The troop spent the majority of the month utilising roosting sites within Da Gama Park.
- Bins were accessed in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen this month.
- On 21 December, SWB12 (a dispersing male from the Smits Troop) was relocated and released within the general vicinity of the Da Gama Troop. Shortly following his release on the same day, SWB12 and the Da Gama Troop interacted vocally from a distance. However, the following day, baboon rangers were alerted via a hotline call that SWB12 had returned to his former ranging area in the Froggy Farm/Murdock Valley area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a 3km of 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 out 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 moved out of the CoGH and up through Baskloof on several occasions during December.
- They were seen moving through the Baskloof valley above Scarborough and Misty Cliffs but were encouraged to move back towards to CoGH.
- Approximately a decade ago, this troop was rewilded to exclude all urban access and thus spend all of their time within the natural space. Therefore, there is a serious concern that this troop may once again begin to visit the suburbs of Scarborough and Misty Cliffs given their recent movements.

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 possible presence of baboons and proper conduct required to help mitigate against intrusions.
- 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 approximately ten 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, poles should be greased every 3 months, conductor lines should be flagged and step-down transformers should be insulated to mitigate against electrocution.

2.4 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 93.7% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.1% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The dense stand of alien invasive vegetation on Kommetjie Vineyard Estate leads to extreme challenges for the Slangkop field ranger team attempting to prevent the baboons from crossing Kommetjie Road and entering Heron Park. The trees have grown extensively, and the density of the invasive stand means that the field rangers are unable to see the baboons as they move through the area. This results in the rangers having to hold the line on Kommetjie Road and try to encourage the troop back into the natural space.
- Access to bins took place in Capri and Ocean View, the majority being in Capri.
- Waste collection was delayed in the suburbs of Capri, Sunnysdale and Ocean View during the month, creating major waste management challenges and conflict with residents and baboons.
- A few unoccupied and occupied house raids took place in Capri this 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 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 in an attempt to reduce the level of human-baboon conflict along the urban edge.
- The alien invasive trees should be removed from Kommetjie Vineyard Estate as this also poses a fire risk to the urban area.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 98.4% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 86% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop increased their use of their sleep sites in the southern reaches of their ranging area during December.
- Despite the appointment of two specific field rangers, SWB12 continued to spend a considerable amount of time in the urban areas of Murdock Valley and Froggy Farm with an occasional visit to his natal troop. Following his last move away from the troop and back to the urban area, on 21 December, SWB12 was relocated and released within the general vicinity of the Da Gama Troop. However, the following day, we were alerted via a hotline call that SWB12 had returned to his former ranging area in the Froggy Farm/Murdock Valley area. The two field rangers that have been appointed to encourage SWB12 to remain in natural space continue to monitor his movements and dispersal process to the best of their ability.

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 88.9% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.4% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Troop dynamics were affected this month as both adult males in the troop were fighting with each other on several occasions.
- This resulted in the troop sleeping separately on several occasions
- Inadequate waste management at SA Naval facilities was once again a key factor attracting the troop to the urban area of Simon's Town. There was an increase in time spent on SA Navy property which facilitated the movement of the troop and/or individuals into Simon's Town.
- Poor waste management at the Waterfall Barracks continues to encourage the baboons to roost on the WF Barracks lady's flats roof and subsequently facilitates the troop's movement deeper into the urban space.
- Individual baboons moved through various SA Navy facilities on several occasions 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 bins 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 Constantia One Troop spent 98.4 % of time out of the urban area this month.

- Individuals spent 99.8% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop entered the urban area on three occasions 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 vineyards and surrounding areas.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT2 Troop spent 96.8% 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 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 99.6% 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 during the whole month of December.
- The MT2 Troop crossed Orpen Road on one occasion.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.
- On 13 December a collar was placed on the alpha male of the troop. The collar will provide valuable insights on the troop's movements and assist the field rangers in keeping the troop out of the urban area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The removal of fruit from trees along Orpen Road would reduce the level of attraction to this 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 99.7% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Baboons remained in the natural area for the duration of the month.
- Staff witnessed six incidents of adult males accessing food from tables at the Tokai picnic site. This is the result of a high number of visitors using the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improving the electric fencing around this site would aid in preventing baboons from accessing human-derived foods.

3.7 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Staff witnessed one incident of an adult female accessing food from tables at the Tokai picnic site.
- Individual baboons visited Constantia Uitsig once this 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 sub-population 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 97.3% of time out of the urban space this month (**Fig. 1**). The Waterfall Troop was the only troop that did not reach a minimum of 90% of time out of town.

This was due to fighting between the adult males of the troop and subsequent troop splintering as well as continued issues with access to human-derived foods on SA Navy property. Individual time out of town this month was 97.5%. The increased amount of time in town for the Smitswinkel Bay Troop are largely attributed to the movements of the dispersing male SWB12 around the Murdock Valley area.

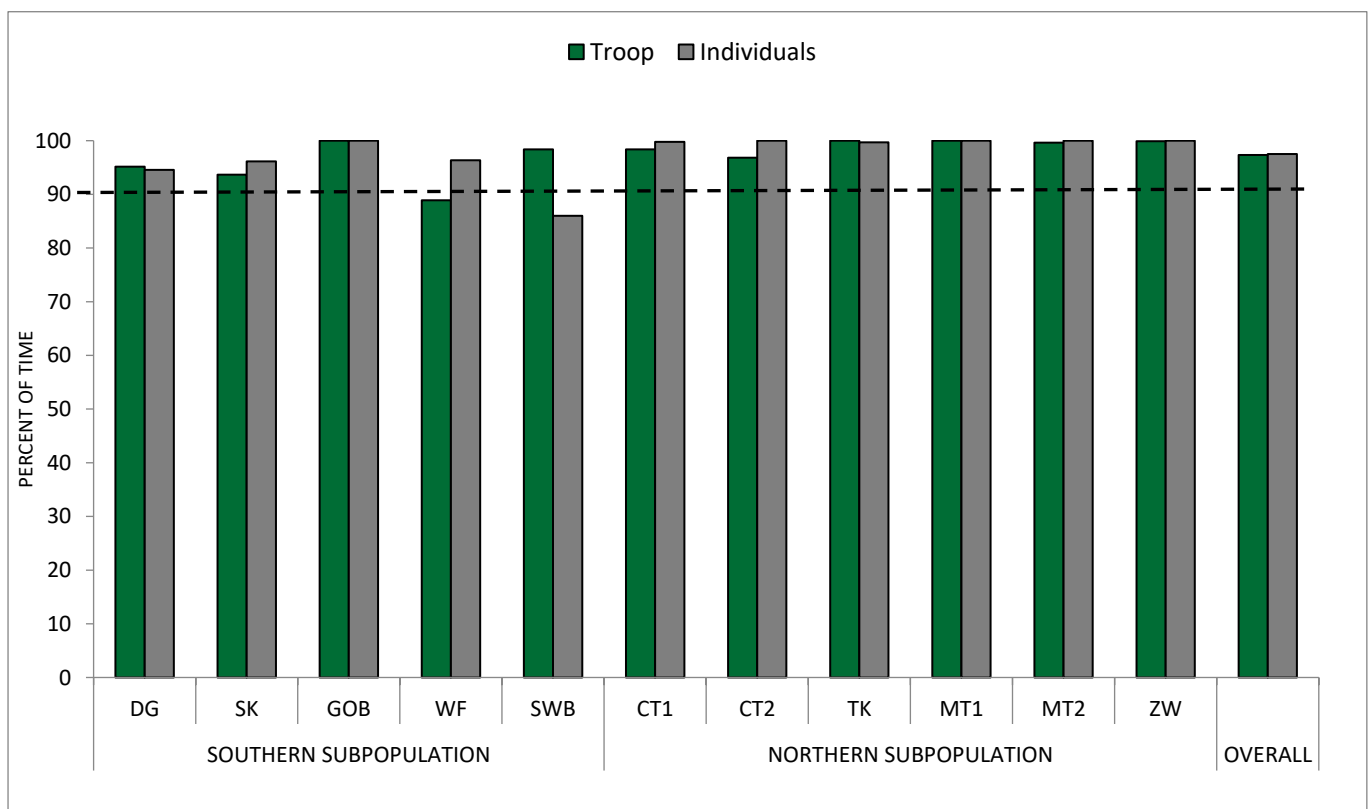


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of December. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. For uniformity, the percent

of time out of town is calculated using the same method 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 Welcome Glen, Capri, Ocean View, Murdock Valley, Constantia and Simon's Town**
 - Advised residents with regards to baboon-proofing their homes and how to mitigate damage to their properties when baboons visit (**Fig 2**). Communicated with 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.
 - Discussed current troop dynamics, how these dynamics can influence the frequency of urban incursions and how management techniques are adapted to mitigate against this.
 - Spoke with residents about specific challenges in their areas and how to work together to address these.
 - Discussed the potential future role of contraception to reduce the high birth rate and rapid growth of specific baboon troops.
 - Visited residents of key properties to request access for rangers to facilitate management of the baboons when they enter the urban area.



Figure 2. Example of a well-secured vegetable garden in Welcome Glen

- **Alleged pellet gun and paintball marker use by members of the public**- Followed up on reports of pellet gun and paintball marker use against baboons. Residents were advised about the illegality and consequences of such actions. They were also provided with an educational letter from CapeNature detailing the applicable sections of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974 deeming use of pellet guns illegal. When possible, photos, video evidence and witness affidavits have been filed with CapeNature.
- **Alleged deliberate feeding of baboons by members of the public** – Followed up on reports of members of the public feeding baboons. Residents were advised of the legislation applicable to feeding baboons in built-up areas and public place. The applicable penalties were explained.
- **Baboon and Dog Altercations** – Followed-up with a resident whose dogs had been involved in an altercation with baboons. Advice was provided to reduce the chance of future incidents.
- **SANParks Picnic Site, Tokai** - Inspection to identify baboon attractants, which yielded none. All bins and skips were found to be secure (**Fig 3**).
- **Kommetjie Recycling Collection Point** – No food attractants or unwashed food containers were present on the day of the visit. Recycling waste, however, was not secured (**Fig 4**).



Figure 3. Secure waste at SANParks Tokai Picnic Site



Figure 4. Kommetjie Recycling Point

- **Cape Research Centre, Tokai** - Skip inspection to ascertain proper use. The lid was open and a significant amount of litter found around the skip. The SANParks section ranger to be notified (**Fig. 5**).



Figure 5. Cape Research Centre Skip

- **What's Your Flava, Main Road, Simon's Town** - Spoke to the staff/owner about baboon incursions and suggested that the installation of a remote-controlled electronic door lock on their security gate (such as a CISA lock) would reduce incidents.
- **Chrysalis Academy, Tokai** - Site visit to check on food and waste security. All was found to be in order.
- **Cape Boat & Ski Boat Club, Simon's Town** - Waste compliance inspection, revealed, all was in order.
- **Kogelfontein Skips, Scarborough** - Site visit carried out to assess waste attractants. The skips were over-filled, and the lids bent. Escalated to the SANPARKS section ranger to understand the and if the broken skips can be repaired or replaced (**Fig. 6**).
- **In2Foods Compass Bakery, Kommetjie Road** - Site visit at In2Foods Compass Bakery to assess compliance. The waste area was clean, and the recycling cage and skip were closed. Employees were observed eating outside of the designated area. In2Foods management will be approached to speak to their employees about the importance of only eating in the dining areas (**Fig. 7**).



Figure 6. Overfilled and damaged skips at Kogelfontein



Figure 7. Secure food waste at In2Foods

- **Main Road, Simon's Town** – A general walk around was carried out to identify issues ahead of waste collection. Several issues were identified, and the Community Conservation Manager engaged with individual business owners to encourage compliance with proper waste disposal practices.
- **Signal School, Simon's Town** – Visit to check on waste compliance. All bins were secured in the baboon-proof bin cage (**Fig. 8**).
- **Stuart Steel Works, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road** – Follow-up 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. The business was closed but the fence has not been completed. The Community Conservation Manager will follow-up when the business re-opens after the festive period.
- **Unit 10, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road** – Visit to ascertain if progress has been made with regards to the fabrication of a bin cage, to further prevent baboons from accessing food waste attractants.
- **The Peach Pip Farmstall– Kommetjie Road** - Waste was observed to not being stored securely. Waste was moved to the bin cage upon NCC's request (**Fig. 9**).

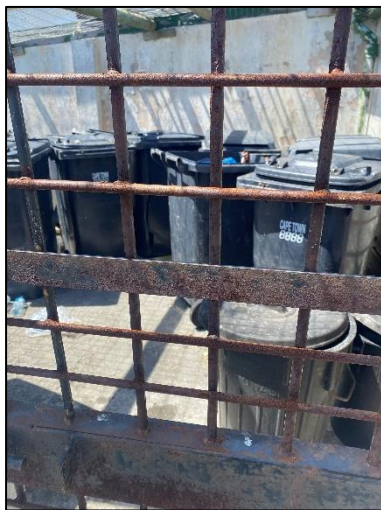


Figure 8. Bin cage at Signal School



Figure 9. Unsecured waste at The Peach Pip Farmstall

- **Rocklands Farm, Murdock Valley South** – Damage inspection as a result of baboon visits. Follow-up with staff about recent baboon visits.
- **Millers Resort, Miller's Point** – Waste compliance check-up at the campsite. All was found to be in order. A security guard was provided with the hotline number and encouraged to report if the baboons enter the area.

- **Cole Point Car Park, Simon's Town** – Several bins at Cole Point car park were found not to have lids and require replacement. This has been highlighted with the relevant businesses (Fig. 10).



Figure 10. Cole Point car park, bins that require replacing

Stakeholder Liaison:

- Liaised with individual community volunteers to discuss local challenges, solutions and identify points for future collaboration.
- Ongoing engagement with the Simon's Town Environmental Health Sub-Committee to support environmental initiatives and improve waste management in the Simon's Town area.



Figure 11. Bags removed from baboon-proof bins prior to collection

- Continued engagement with CoCT Solid Waste Department regarding waste collection. The City is liaising with the waste removal service provider to improve service delivery for residents and to reduce the opportunities for baboons to gain access to waste. The City's

Research and Development team is also currently working on a solution for securing household waste where standard baboon-proof bins cannot be used. This applies to particularly steep and narrow streets which the refuse truck is unable to access.

- The City Cleansing Department will ensure that bags are not removed from baboon-proof bins unless the waste collection vehicle is available to collect the bags immediately. This will mitigate the baboon access to waste (**Fig. 11**).
- Attended a meeting with Murdock Valley environmental group ‘Baboons of the Deep’. Discussed new issues arising in the area and ways in which residents and authorities can better work together, thereby preventing human-baboon conflicts.
- Advised a new resident to the area, upon their request, about mitigation measures which could be taken into consideration with regards to the renovation of their home. Requests such as this are encouraged.

Education Initiatives:

- **Holiday properties** - Visited holiday homes where baboon-proofing problems had been previously identified, to speak with the guests. Educational material was left at the properties for future visitors to read.
- **Meeting with citizen scientists** - Discussed opportunities for future environmental education programmes in the Tokai and Constantia areas.
- **Smits Adventure Camp:** An interactive educational talk for children attending the holiday camp was delivered. Baboon ecology and behaviour were discussed as well as ways in which children living in baboon ranging areas can help to prevent conflicts with baboons (**Fig. 12**).



Figure 12. Educational talk with children at Smits Adventure Camp

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 314 hotline calls during the month of December.

The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (282), followed by general enquiries (30) and reports of injured baboons (2) (**Fig. 13**).

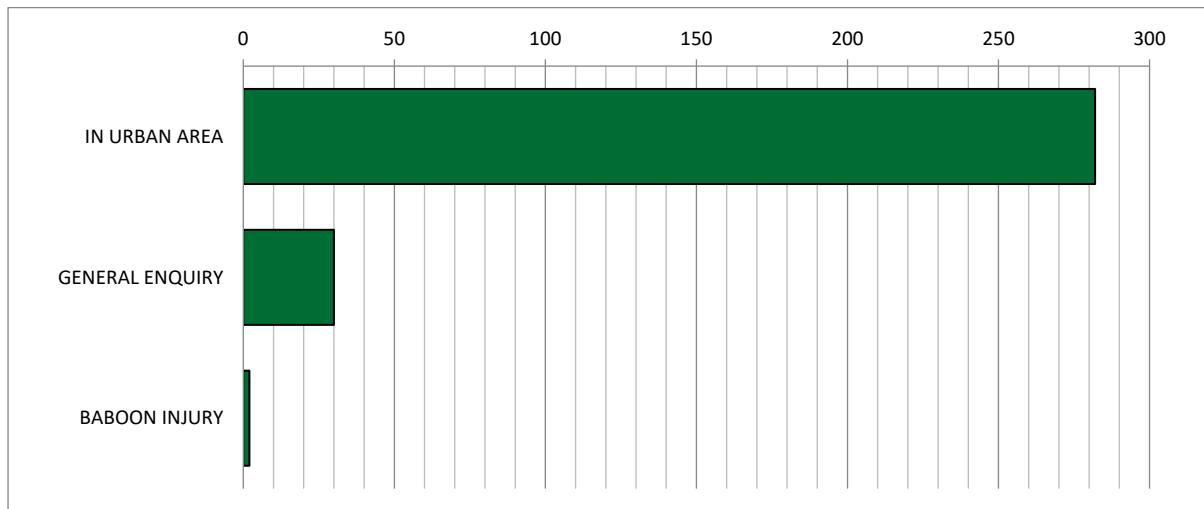


Figure 13. The number of hotline calls by type in December 2021.

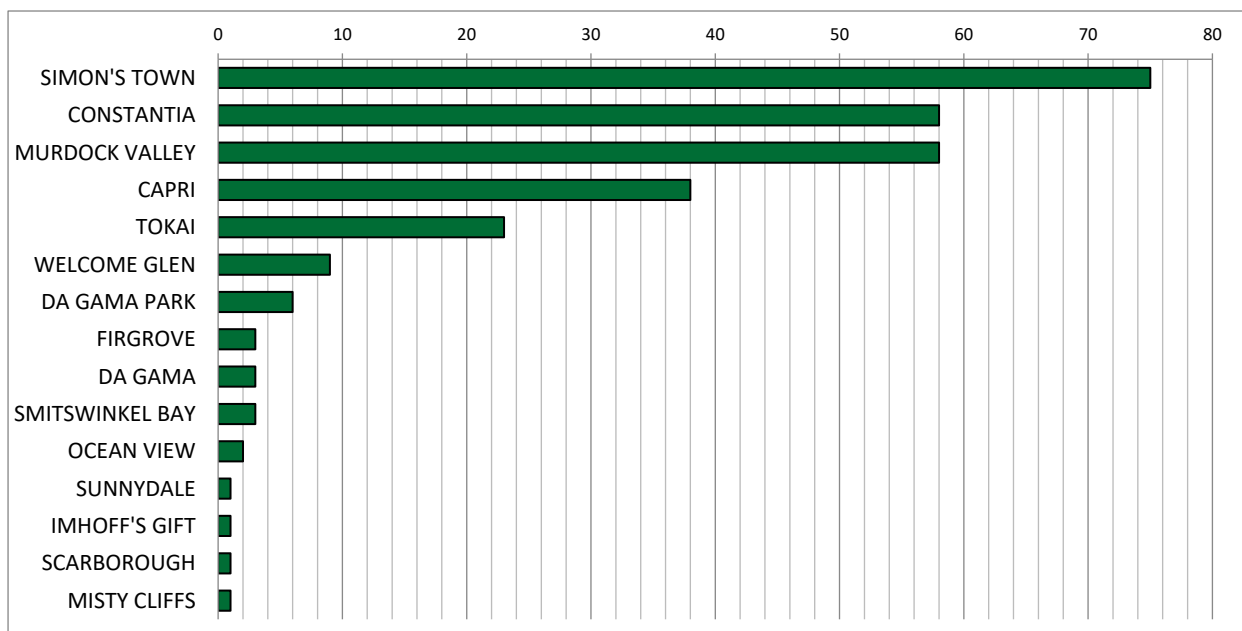


Figure 14. The number of calls reporting baboon presence in the urban space by suburb in December 2021.

The highest number of 'hotline calls' this month came from Simon's Town regarding the presence of the Waterfall Troop (**Fig. 14**).

The second highest number of calls came from Constantia where the CT2 Troop spent more time in the urban space this month compared to last month.

The third highest number of calls came from Murdock Valley and focused on the consistent presence of dispersing male SWB12.
