



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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Urban Baboon Programme January 2022 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

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 96.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.9% 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 instances this month where they accessed bins and entered houses occasionally.
- The troop spent the majority of the month utilising roosting sites within Da Gama Park.
- On 25 January, while the Da Gama Troop was foraging near the Baskloof Nature Reserve, DG19 was chased by an adult male from the GOB Troop who was foraging nearby. This resulted in the Da Gama Troop moving away from the area and towards Winford Farm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is 3km of above-ground electricity line running through a section of the DG Troop's natural range. This line should be diverted underground to protect baboons and other wildlife from further electrocutions.
- Until such time regular greasing of the poles is recommended to prevent baboons from climbing them.
- 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 DG Troop spent 96.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.9% 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 Nature Reserve on several occasions.
- On 25 January, the GOB Troop was moving through the Baskloof Nature Reserve when they came across the Da Gama Troop. An adult male from the GOB Troop, chased DG19 away and the Da Gama Troop moved away from the area.
- Approximately a decade ago, this troop was rewilded to exclude all urban access and thus spent all of their time within the natural space. It is therefore a 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 mitigate against intrusions.
- Both skips at Kogelfontein should be kept locked to reduce this troop's access to human-derived foods.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 62.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 95.3% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved through Capri, Heron Park and Ocean View during the first week of the month.
- Access to bins took place in Capri and Ocean View.
- On 10 January, the troop managed to move over and onto Slangkop Mountain. While in this part of their ranging area, it is typical and unfortunate to note that they frequently enter the village of Kommetjie. While in Kommetjie, individuals spent time feeding from fruit trees, vegetable gardens on resident properties and waste from wheelie bins. Several occupied houses were accessed and on one occasion a male baboon grabbed food out of a member of the public's hand.

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.
- 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.
- 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 installation of a strategically placed baboon-proof electric fence in Kommetjie would discourage baboons from entering the village while in this section of their ranging area.
- 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 is recommended, particularly with children, in an attempt to reduce the level of human-baboon conflict along the urban edge.
- The alien invasive trees on Kommetjie Vineyard Estate are dense and overgrown. This vegetation should be removed as it obscures the troop's movements and allows them to enter the urban space undetected. It also poses a fire risk for the urban area.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 98.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 83.4% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop continued to increase their use of their sleep sites in the southern reaches of their ranging area during January.
- Two field rangers which were appointed to encourage SWB12 to remain in natural space, continued to monitor his movements and assist in the dispersal process to the best of their ability. Despite their appointment and an assisted translocation, 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. On several occasions, SWB12 and WF8 were seen fighting however SWB12 spent 12 nights, of which 11 were consecutive, roosting with his natal troop.
- On 23 January, a sub-adult male climbed an electricity pole near the entrance to Cape Point and was instantly killed by electrocution.

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 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.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 92.4% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 97.5% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Troop dynamics continue to be affected this month as both adult males in the troop were seen 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 Waterfall Barracks ladies flats roof and subsequently facilitates the troop's movement deeper into the urban space.
- On 31 January a juvenile baboon was killed by motor vehicle as it crossed the main road.

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 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 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.

2.6 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 for baboons.
- Continued community education would guide residents and business owners on proper baboon-proofing 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 98.1 % of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.9% of time out of the urban area.

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 94.7% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent majority of their time in Cecilia Forest and De Hel Nature Area during the month.

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)

- 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

- None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- No specific recommendations

3.4 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 99.6% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop was located roosting above The Range throughout most of the month.
- The troop crossed Orpen Road on three occasions.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop, however the tracking collar has proved valuable in monitoring the troop's movement and assisted the field team in preventing them from moving towards Orpen Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Removal of fruit from fruiting trees on Orpen Road would reduce the level of attraction to the area.

3.5 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The TK Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 97.3% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals accessed food from tables at the Tokai Picnic area on three occasions.
- Individuals visited Constantia Uitsig on four occasions.
- Individuals crossed Orpen Road and visited Cape Academy on six occasions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improving the electric fencing around the Tokai picnic to prevent baboons from gaining access.
- Removal of fruit from fruiting trees on Orpen Road would reduce the level of attraction to the area.

3.6 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 overlap of their ranging areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop due to overlap of their ranging areas.

3.7 NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The erection of strategically placed baboon-proof fences on Price Drive and wine farms would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranges.
- The availability of baboon-proof rubbish and recycle bins in baboon-impacted suburbs would minimize the troop's access to human-derived food waste.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.
- Fruiting trees should be removed, or fruit removed from the tree to reduce the level of attractants to the urban area.
- A community education plan would help educate residents and businesses on how to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants as well as how to respond when baboons enter the urban area.
- Contraception to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.
- Continued community education would guide residents and business owners on proper baboon-proofing 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.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops spent 94.8% of their time out of the urban space this month (**Fig. 1**). The Slangkop Troop spent a considerable amount of time in the urban area this month. This was due to it's movement to the northwest portion of it's ranging area bordering Kommetjie.

The topography here presents significant challenges to keep the this troop in natural space. In addition to the abundance of food rewards available in Kommetjie, the use of deterrents (legal and illegal) by residents in the area, disrupted troop movements, thereby interfering with the field staff's plans to move the troop back into the natural space. Individual time out of town this month was 97.3%. The increased amount of time in town for the Smitswinkel Bay Troop was largely attributed to the movements of the dispersing male SWB12 around the Murdock Valley area.

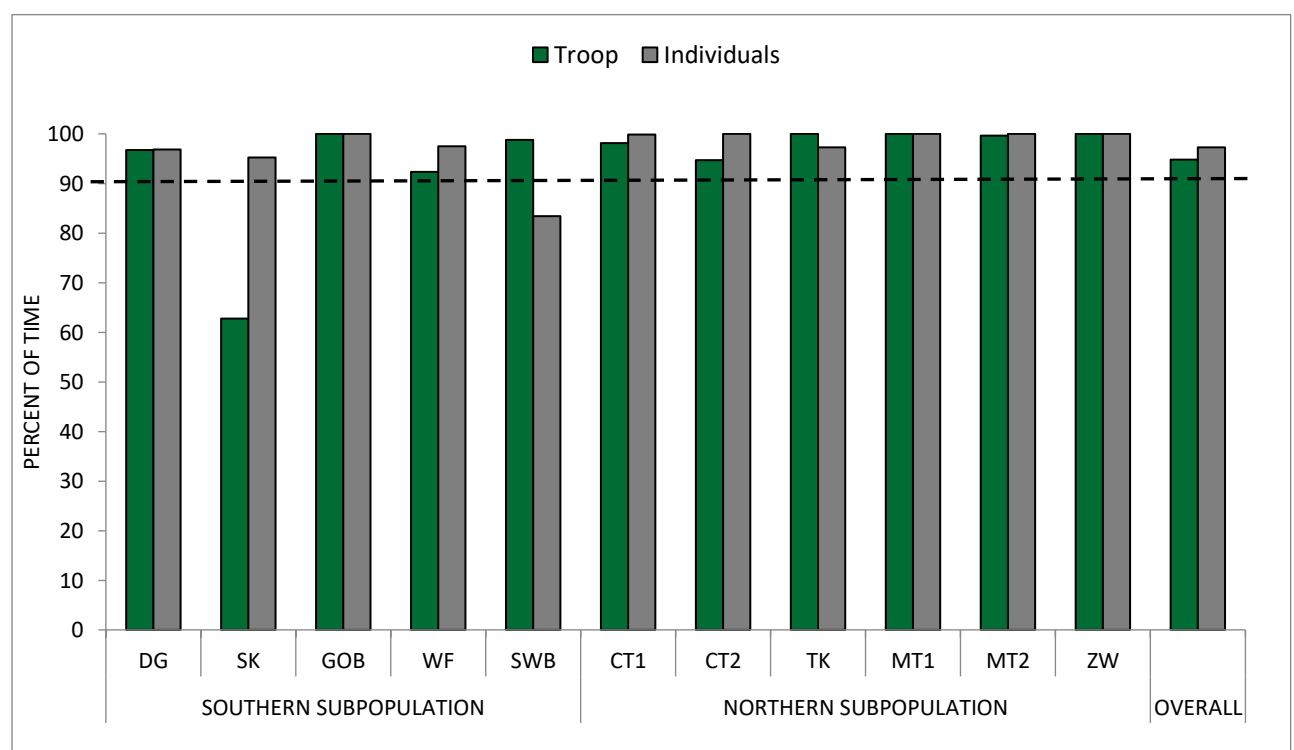


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of January. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of 10.7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

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, Kommetjie, Ocean View, Murdock Valley, Froggy Farm, Simon's Town and Tokai:

- Engaged with residents who had experienced raiding events to advise them on how to mitigate the likelihood of future incursions.
- Spoke to residents about the impact of food provisioning on baboon troop dynamics, and the knock-on effect it could have on the natural fynbos environment. This was to explain why we do not endorse provisioning as a sustainable management approach.
- Discussed the potential advantages of baboon-proof electric fences for both Kommetjie and Simon's Town with individual residents. We will continue to try and promote this to the wider communities.
- Spoke to residents about the potential future role of contraception to slow troop growth of specific baboon troops.
- Advised residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour when faced with a baboon on their property.
- Engaged with residents about the challenges of managing baboons in the urban environment and discussed how community members can assist. This included but was not limited to calling the hotline, baboon-proofing their properties, allowing rangers' access to their properties if they feel comfortable to do so, and joining local WhatsApp Baboon sighting groups, which can serve as an early warning when baboons are in the area.
- Advised residents of the need to remove or secure fruit trees and vegetable gardens in baboon affected areas.
- Engaged with residents to try to dispel misunderstandings pertaining to bear banger and paintball marker use and how hotline data is used.
- Advised residents on how to mitigate damage to their properties by modifying or strengthening existing infrastructure.
- Communicated the importance of bin and food security in baboon ranging areas.

Alleged pellet gun, paintball marker and catapult use by members of the public:

Responded to reports of pellet guns, paintball markers and catapults being used against baboons. Residents were advised of the legal ramifications 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 have been filed with CapeNature. Further evidence will be gathered for prosecution when possible.

Alleged intentional feeding of baboons by members of the public:

Visited private homes to follow up on reports of members of the public feeding baboons. Residents were advised of the legislation applicable to feeding baboons in a built-up area or public place and the applicable penalties in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974. They were also made aware that deliberately feeding baboons is a direct contravention of the City of Cape Town's Animal Keeping By-law of 2021. Our staff will monitor these properties to ensure that feeding does not continue. Evidence will be gathered for prosecution wherever possible.

Baboon and Dog Altercations:

NCC met with residents whose dog had been injured in a confrontation with a baboon. This visit was to discuss the events that led up to the altercation and measures that could be taken to mitigate against future encounters.

Cape Research Centre, Tokai:

The broken skip has been replaced and now has a secure latching system. It was being used properly at the time of the visit (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. New Skip at Cape Research Centre

Simon's Town Superette, Main Road, Simon's Town:

Discussed recent opportunistic raids by baboons with staff and suggested mitigation measures. Misunderstandings surrounding the role of independent community volunteers were also addressed.

Eagles' Nest Tasting Room, Constantia:

Visit to assess and advise on baboon-proofing. Recent baboon incursions were discussed with the management staff. Waste was stored securely throughout the area and a management protocol is in place, for occasions when the baboons visit the property.

Chrysalis Academy, Tokai:

Food and waste attractants were stored securely throughout the property.

Cape Academy, Constantia:

Assessment of baboon attractants on the property. General compliance with waste was in order, however grape vines were discovered growing on the fence. Baboons had accessed these, grounds staff advised who plan to remove them.



Figure 3. Bin Enclosure at Forest Glade Retail Centre

Forest Glade, Retail Centre, Tokai:

Inspection to check that waste was being stored within the dedicated baboon-proof bin cage. The cage was open at the time of the visit, but rectified by the staff. (**Fig. 3**).



Figure 4. Overfilled skip at Kogelfontein

Kogelfontein Skips, Scarborough:

Site visit to assess skip use and condition. One skip was overfilled and open. The matter has been escalated to the section ranger (**Fig. 4**).

SA Navy West Yard, Simon's Town:

Site visit to assess baboon attractants. These issues were subsequently communicated to the Navy for their action.

Ski Boat Club, Simon's Town:

Visit carried out to check waste compliance. All was in order.

Stuart Steel Works, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road:

Visit to discuss progress pertaining to the erection of an electric fence between Heron Park and Imhoff's Gift to prevent baboons from crossing between the two complexes. The business owners need to move containers in order for the electric fence to be completed. We will continue to follow up on this matter.

**Brooklands Waste Water Treatment Plant,
Simon's Town:**

Visit to assess damage caused by baboons to the glass roof of the walkway. Advice was given regarding modifications that can be made to mitigate against future damage. Training for staff in baboon behaviour and ecology was recommended (**Fig. 5**).

Figure 5. Glass walkway at Brooklands WTP



Rocklands Centre, Murdock Valley South – Advice on additional baboon-proofing measures was offered following baboon damage to a sliding door. The staff have implemented the advice given to them and no further damage to the door has been sustained in the reporting period (**Fig. 6**).

Figure 6. Damage to sliding door at Rocklands Centre

Miller's Point Picnic Site, Miller's Point – Visit to check that waste compliance was in order. New signage has been provided by residents and baboon interest groups encouraging visitors to take their waste home with them (**Fig. 7**).



Figure 7. New signage at Miller's Point

Stakeholder Liaison:

Meetings held with individual community volunteers to discuss current challenges and potential solutions for their areas.

- Ongoing engagement with the Simon's Town Environmental Health Sub-Committee to discuss baboon management within the Simon's Town area. Additional areas for collaboration were identified and recent progress by both parties was discussed.
- Continued engagement with CoCT Solid Waste Department to discuss progress with the baboon-proof bin tender.
- Collaboration with the CoCT Cleansing Department to address illegal dumping in baboon ranging areas (**Fig. 8**).



Figure 8. Illegal dumping which was subsequently cleared by the City's Cleansing Department

Education Initiatives:



Smits Adventure Camp:

Interactive educational talk for children attending the holiday camp. 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. 9**).

Figure 9. Smits Adventure Camp



Girl Guides - Cape West Regional Ranger Camp:

An interactive talk on baboon behaviour, ecology and human-baboon conflict was presented to a group of Girl Guides and their leaders at Miller's Point Camp Site.

The girls attended from different ranger crews in the greater Cape Town area (**Fig. 10**).

Figure 10. NCC meets with the Girl Guides

Capri Education Evening: An educational evening for the residents of Capri was arranged for 26 January. Unfortunately, only 2 RSVPs were received, and the event was cancelled.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 492 hotline calls during the month of January. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (464), followed by general enquiries (24) and reports of injured baboons (4) (**Fig. 11**).

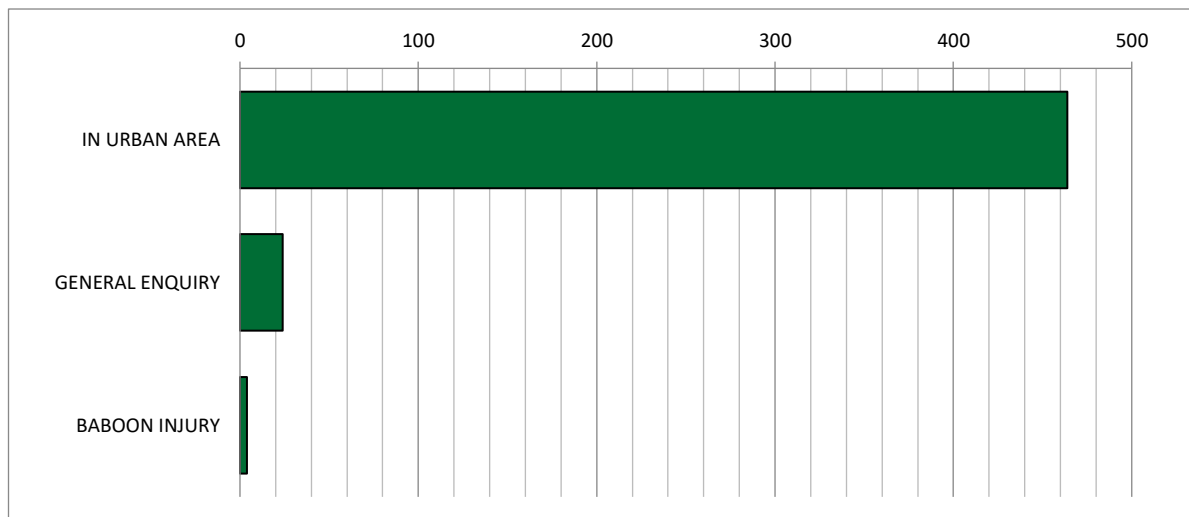


Figure 11. The number of hotline calls in January 2022.

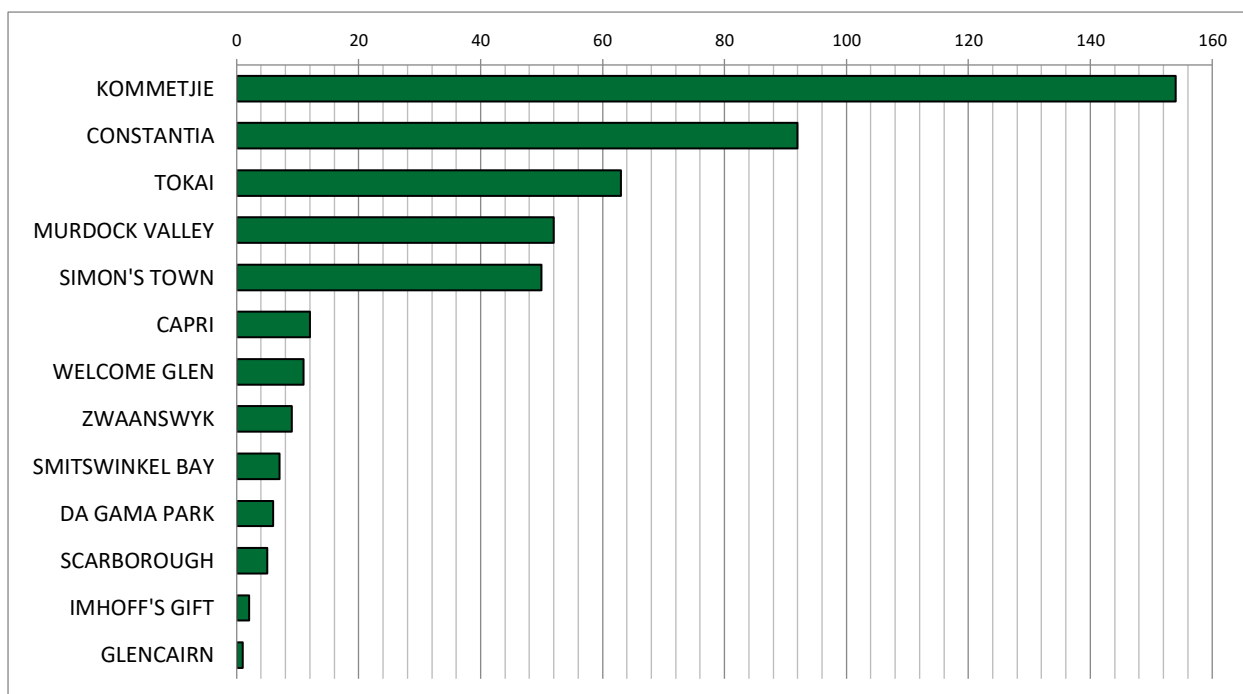


Figure 12. The number of calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in January 2022.

The highest number of hotline calls this month came from Kommetjie regarding the presence of the Slangkop Troop (**Fig. 12**). The number of calls from this area should reduce greatly following the movement of the troop back to the southeast portion of their ranging area.

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 the Tokai area and focused presence of baboons along Orpen Road.
