



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

April 2022 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:
City of Cape Town

DATED:
30 April 2022

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

Making progress possible. Together.

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	SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)	4
2.4	SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)	5
2.5	WATERFALL TROOP (WF)	6
2.6	SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.....	8
3	NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION	9
3.1	CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)	9
3.2	CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)	9
3.3	MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)	10
3.4	MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)	10
3.4	TOKAI TROOP (TK).....	11
3.5	ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)	11
3.6	NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	12
4	MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY	13
4.1	OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN.....	13
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 (CCT) 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 97.9% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 91.6% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Da Gama Troop moved through Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month.
- The troop and/or individuals accessed bins in both Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen.
- The troop spent the majority of the month utilising roosting sites in the vicinity of Da Gama Park. TK55 has integrated into the Da Gama Troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION TAKEN
There is 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 further electrocutions.	NCC and members of the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch are engaging with CCT Electricity Department regarding short-term and long-term mitigation measures for electricity poles and power lines in baboon ranging areas.
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.	Site and residential visits were carried out in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month. Educational sessions were also carried out with the Da Gama Park crèche.
Waste collection in baboon-affected areas should be prioritised.	Meetings have been held with the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch, CCT Solid Waste Department & NCC to highlight such areas.

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) and into northern sections of their ranging area near Baskloof Nature Reserve on several occasions this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
Residents of Scarborough should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	NCC have left educational pamphlets at the local Scarborough restaurants, which are popular with residents.
Owners of rental properties should alert their guests to possible presence of baboons and proper conduct required to mitigate against intrusions.	Unknown.
Both skips at Kogelfontein should be kept locked to reduce this troop's access to human-derived foods.	Regular site visits are carried out of the Kogelfontein skips and addressed immediately if the skips are overfilled.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 93% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 72.5% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and/or individuals moved extensively throughout the low-lying area of the eastern portion of their ranging area. This led to an increase in conflicts within the urban area.
- While in the eastern section of their ranging area, the troop and/or individuals frequently moved into Ocean View, Capri and areas of Sunnysdale where they frequently accessed bins and entered houses.
- The access to waste in Ocean View, Capri and Sunnysdale continued to encourage the troop and/or individuals into the urban space.
- On 19 April 2022, young adult male SK13 moved away from the Slangkop Troop to Kommetjie where he has remained since. Field staff are currently monitoring his behaviour.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION TAKEN
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.	Regular site and residential visits are carried out in Capri, Sunnysdale, Ocean View and Imhoff's Gift. Site visits have been carried out with business owners at Heron Park & Fish Eagle Park. Educational pamphlets have been distributed in Ocean View, Capri, Sunnysdale, Heron Park, Fish Eagle Park and Kommetjie.
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.	To be actioned by the industrial park. Communication between NCC and the industrial park is ongoing.
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.	Communication with the Kommetjie community regarding the installation of a strategic baboon-proof fence along the Kommetjie firebreak is ongoing.
The Peach Pip Farm Stall should place their bins in a baboon-proof enclosure to ensure that baboons are not able to access waste.	Regular site visits and waste storage checks are carried out at the farm stall.
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.	Informal education with children takes place regularly. Formal educational visit to school to be actioned. A meeting was held with the area Councillor in an effort to engage with the community of Ocean View further.
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.	Ongoing communication is taking place between both the landowner and developer with regards to alien invasive species as well as baboon-proof perimeter electric fencing.
Waste collection in baboon-affected areas should be prioritised.	Meetings have been held with the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch, CCT Solid Waste Department & NCC to highlight such areas.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 80.2% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 95% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop mainly used their northern sleep sites which included the Simon's Quarry on three occasions.
- WF8, alpha male of the troop, showed an increase in assertive raiding behaviour this month. On several occasions, he entered occupied buildings and/homes, pulled a sliding door off its rail to gain access to a kitchen, twisted window frames, which broke window panes, to enter buildings. WF8 has also initiated movement of the troop further north towards and into Simon's Town.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
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.	Regular site and residential visits are carried out in Murdock Valley, Froggy Farm & Miller's Point. Pamphlets have been distributed and regular community feedback is carried out in the above areas.
The troop often moves past the Black Marlin restaurant. An electric fence around the property would prevent baboons from accessing food at this facility.	Recommendations have been given by both CCT officials and NCC to improve the baboon-proofing of the Black Marlin property.
The Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club should continue to store all bins containing food waste inside the baboon-proof bin enclosure.	Regular communication takes place between NCC and CCT Solid Waste Department as well as between NCC and the Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club regarding their 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.	Communication between NCC, CCT Biodiversity Management Branch and the SA Navy is ongoing and future meetings are being planned to address ongoing issues.
Waste collection in baboon-affected areas should be prioritised.	Meetings have been held with the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch, CCT Solid Waste Department & NCC to highlight such areas.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 90.3% 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

- 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 splitting and moving in fragmented groups.
- Inadequate waste management at SA Naval facilities continues to be a key factor attracting the troop to the urban area of Simon's Town. This month 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 roof of the Waterfall Barracks ladies' flats, and subsequently facilitates the troop's movement deeper into the urban space.

- There are several SA Navy facilities within the suburb of Simon's Town. These naval facilities act as human-derived feeding hubs for the troop. These hubs are dispersed across the built area and facilitate baboon movement through the urban space.
- WF9 continued to show assertive behaviour towards people this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
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.	Regular site and residential visits are carried out in Simon's Town. Educational pamphlets have been distributed to residential addresses as well as businesses on Simon's Town Main Road. Regular community feedback is carried out in the Simon's Town area.
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.	Communication between NCC, CCT Biodiversity Management Branch and the SA Navy is ongoing and future meetings are being planned to address ongoing issues.
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.	Numerous attempts have been made to engage with the shop owner in this regard. The shop owner declines to assist with installing a security gate on the door.
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.	Communication between NCC, CCT Biodiversity Management Branch and the CCT Transport Directorate is ongoing.
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.	Communication between NCC, CCT Biodiversity Management Branch and CCT Cleansing Division are ongoing and future meetings are being planned to address this recommendation.
Waste collection in baboon-affected areas should be prioritised.	Meetings have been held with the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch, CCT Solid Waste Department & NCC to highlight such areas.

2.6 SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
Strategically placed baboon-proof fences would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranging areas.	Continued community engagement takes place in all baboon-affected areas and strategic fences are spoken about at length with local residents.
The provision of baboon-proof street-side bins by the CCT Solid Waste Department's Cleansing Division, as well as recycling bins in affected suburbs would minimize access to human-derived food waste.	Communication is ongoing with the CCT Cleansing & Biodiversity Management Branch.
Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed where possible.	Residential visits are carried out at "point source" properties and owners are assisted where possible with mitigation measures for reducing access to vegetable gardens by baboons.
Planting of fruiting trees should be discouraged and/or managed by timeously removing fruit to reduce the attractiveness of the area for baboons.	Residential visits are carried out at "point source" properties and owners are assisted where possible with mitigation measures for reducing access to fruit trees by baboons, such as picking off the fruit or removing the tree.
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.
Residents should be educated on the illegality 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.	Communities are routinely educated on how to proceed if such incidents are witnessed. Information in this regard has been shared with community representatives who in turn share it with the greater community.
Regular waste management inspections by the CCT Solid Waste Department By-law Division would help address baboon-waste related issues.	NCC monitors waste collection in baboon-affected suburbs closely. If waste collection is delayed in any suburb, NCC informs the CCT Solid Waste Department to alert them.
Waste collection in baboon-affected areas should be prioritised.	Meetings have been held with the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch, CCT Solid Waste Department & NCC to highlight such areas.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 82.5 % of the time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 100% of the time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop entered the urban area from farm properties on several occasions this month. On several of these occasions, the field team was unable to move the troop back through the farm properties towards the natural space, resulting the troop spending most of the day in the urban space on these days. Without access through the farm property, the field team had to encourage the troop through the urban space alongside the farms until they reached the natural space.
- CT1 spent most of the month above Klein Constantia and Groot Constantia.
- On 13 April, a collar was placed on an adult female to assist in monitoring the troop's movements and assist in preventing urban incursions.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
An agreement and strategic plan between NCC and the farm properties on how to manage the movements of the CT1 Troop would allow for more efficient operations.	A request was made to CapeNature for assistance in facilitating an agreement and operational strategy between farm properties and NCC but awaits actioning.
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.	To be actioned. The benefits of a strategic baboon-proof fence along the top of Price Drive has been discussed at length with local residents.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

In the Terms of Reference for Tender S/2019/20 issued by the City of Cape Town (CCT) which inter alia included Constantia Troop CT2, the tender specifications were prepared based on the location of CT2 south of Constantia Nek. At the time, both CT1 and CT2 troops spent most of their time outside of urban areas. CT2 has subsequently moved its range to include the area north of Constantia Main Road and above and below Rhodes Drive. The population is growing and both the Constantia troops have limited access to undeveloped low-lying land on which to forage, causing both troops to laterally shift their areas of use. The new range areas north of Constantia Main Road present

challenges in both locating and managing the CT2 Troop. As the area was not envisaged in the original tender and the existing rangers could not cover both north and south of Constantia Nek, the appointment of additional rangers for the area north of Constantia Nek had to be funded out of the contingency budget for the contract. However, the difficult terrain and size of the area are a significant constraint to the effectiveness of the service provider. In addition, the City has no mandate to follow the troops into TMNP or private property north of Constantia Main Road. Predicting where the troop will reappear as they leave the TMNP and preventing them from entering the urban area is a serious challenge. The City still has field teams monitoring the northern troops south of Constantia Main Road and this service will continue until the end of the tender.

3.3 MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- None

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

- No specific recommendations.

3.4 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 98.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop was located sleeping above The Range for the majority of the month.
- The troop was on Orpen Road on three occasions during month and entered Constantia Uitsig on one occasion.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.
- The collar has proved valuable in monitoring the troop's movements to assist preventing them from moving towards Orpen Road by sending out an early alert system when the baboons pass a certain point.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
Removal of fruit from fruiting trees on Orpen Road would reduce the level of attraction to the area.	A request has been submitted to CCT's Recreation and Parks Department but this still awaits actioning.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The TK Troop spent 100% of the time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 99.2% of the time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- An individual baboon accessed food from a vehicle in the Tokai picnic.
- There were four occasions of individual baboons entering the urban area around Tokai.
- Fruiting trees along Orpen Road continue to be an attractant for the baboons.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
Improving the electric fencing around the Tokai picnic to prevent baboons from gaining access.	This request has been submitted to TMNP but still awaits actioning.
Removal of fruit from fruiting trees on Orpen Road would reduce the level of attraction to the area.	A request has been submitted to CCT's Recreation and Parks Department but still awaits actioning.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- There were two incidents of baboons accessing food off tables at the Tokai picnic this month.
- Same factors as for the Tokai Troop due to their overlapping ranging areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

- Same recommendations as for the Tokai Troop due to overlapping ranging areas.

3.6 NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
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.	Continued community engagement takes place in all baboon-affected areas and strategic baboon-proof fences are spoken about at length with local residents. Price Drive residents, in particular, have been engaged with in this regard.
The availability of baboon-proof rubbish and recycle bins in baboon-impacted suburbs would minimize the troop's access to human-derived food waste.	Communication is ongoing with the CCT Solid Waste & Biodiversity Management Branch.
Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.	Residential visits are carried out at "point source" properties and owners are assisted where possible with mitigation measures for reducing access to vegetable gardens by baboons.
Fruiting trees should be removed, or fruit removed from the tree to reduce the level of attractants to the urban area.	Residential visits are carried out at "point source" properties and owners are assisted where possible with mitigation measures for reducing access to fruit trees by baboons, such as picking the fruit or removing the tree. NCC awaits feedback regarding the removal of fruit from trees along Orpen Road.
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.	Residential visits and community engagement is carried out in all baboon affected communities to educate homeowners on how to minimize attractants and implement baboon-proofing measures.
Contraception to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.	CapeNature and SANParks, the relevant mandated authorities for such action, have been informed of this recommendation.
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.
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.	Communities are routinely educated on how to proceed if such incidents are witnessed. Information in this regard has been shared with community representatives who in turn share it with the greater community.
Regular waste management inspections by the CCT Solid Waste Department By-law Division would help address baboon-waste related issues.	NCC monitors waste collection in baboon-affected suburbs closely. If waste collection is delayed in any suburb, NCC informs the CCT Solid Waste Department to alert them.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 94.3% of the time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The SWB Troop and CT1 Troop did not reach 90% this month. The SWB Troop spent a considerable amount of time in the suburbs of Murdock Valley and Froggy Farm. This movement was largely initiated by the movement of alpha male WF8 into the northern portions of the troop's ranging area. The CT1 Troop spent a considerable amount of time in the urban areas surrounding the wine farms due to the shifts in the operational strategy of wine farm baboon rangers. Overall individual baboon time out of town was 95.5% this month. The reduced time out of town for the SK Troop was linked to the dispersing movement of young adult male SK13 away from the troop.

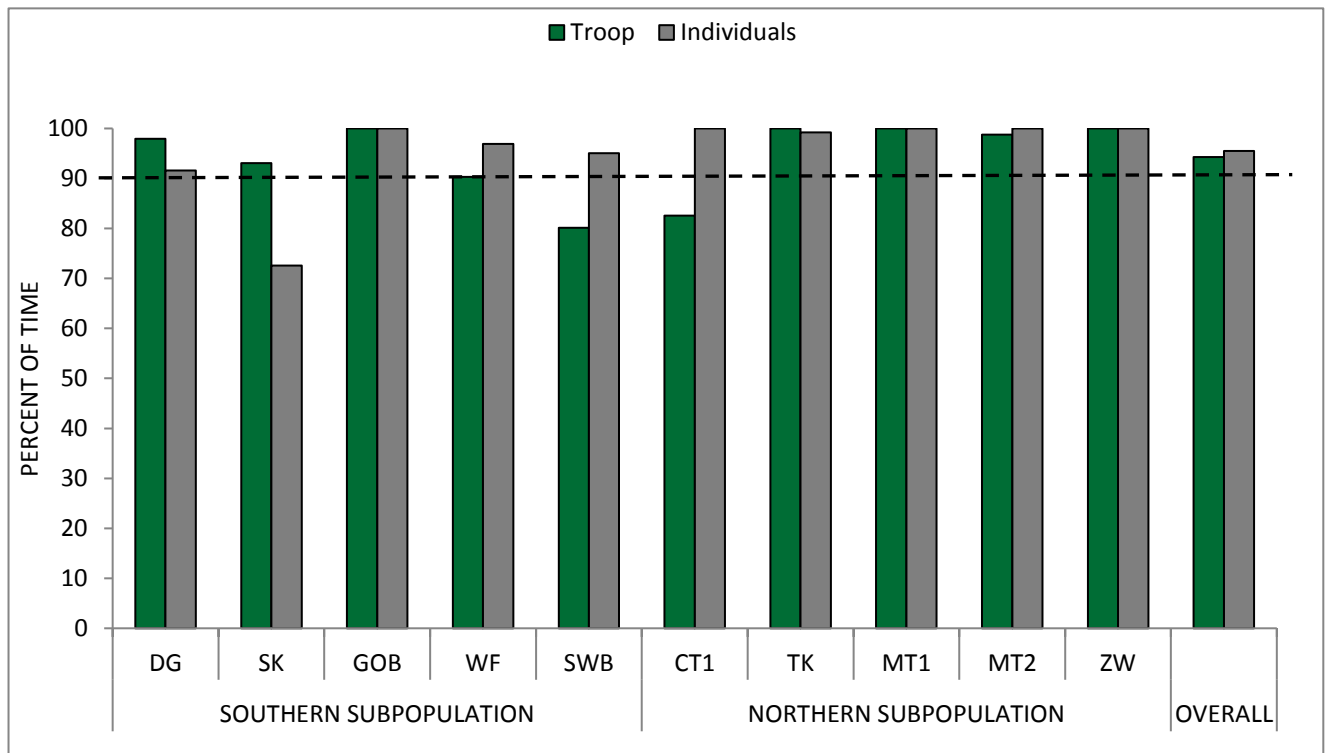


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of April. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of 10.7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

Private Properties

Private properties in Constantia, Murdock Valley, Kommetjie, Da Gama Park, Ocean View, Welcome Glen and Simon's Town

- Engaged with residents who had experienced baboon-related property damage and/or raiding events (**Fig. 2**). Advised on ways to mitigate the likelihood of future conflicts.
- Discussed the potential advantages of strategically placed baboon-proof electric fences for Simon's Town.
- Spoke to individual residents and business owners in Kommetjie about the presence of a dispersing male baboon and offered tips to prevent opportunistic raiding.
- Engaged with farms and large residential estates who would like to use paintball markers to deter baboons from their properties. These individuals were referred to CapeNature for further advice and permitting applications.
- Provided advice to residents who were considering the installation of electric fencing around their individual properties. Design and factors affecting the success of residential electric fencing, such as proximity to neighbouring structures and vegetation that may assist the baboons in clearing the fence were discussed.
- Engaged with residents about current troop dynamics, how these dynamics influence the frequency of urban incursions and how management techniques are adapted to mitigate this as far as possible.



Figure 2. Baboon damage to exterior cabling and garage doors in Da Gama Park. Mitigation advice was provided.

Baboon and dog altercations – Visit to a resident whose dog had been injured in an altercation with baboons on their property. The visit was to ascertain the events that led to the altercation and to provide advice reducing the chance of future conflict.

Residents with dogs previously involved in altercations with baboons outside of their property, were reminded of their obligations under the Animal Keeping By-Law 2021 section 14(1). This by-law states that “a person who keeps any animal must ensure that it is kept under proper and effective control when it leaves the premises where it is kept and that it does not endanger any person, animal or property when it leaves the premises”. These events were also followed up by law enforcement.

Alleged paintball marker, pellet gun and catapult use by members of the public – Visited private homes to follow-up on reports of members of the public using paintball markers, pellet guns and catapults against baboons. Residents were advised of the legal ramifications of such actions. Where appropriate, they were also provided with an educational letter from CapeNature, which details the applicable sections of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974. Photo and video evidence and witness affidavits were filed with CapeNature where available. Evidence was gathered for prosecution wherever possible.

Kom Chow, Kommetjie – Site visit to check on waste attractants. These were stored securely in the allocated bin bay.

Ski Boat Club, Miller’s Point – Site visit carried out to check waste compliance. No significant issues were noted.

Miller’s Point Picnic Site, Miller’s Point – Site visit to check for the presence of baboon attractants. All was in order. New bins have been placed at both the picnic area and the slipway (**Fig. 3**).

Kogelfontein Skips, Scarborough – Site visits to assess skip use. The skips are often overfilled which leads to baboons accessing the waste (**Fig. 4**). This matter has been escalated to the SANPARKS section ranger. The situation is exacerbated by regular illegal dumping by residents.

Kommetjie Recycling Area, Kommetjie – All waste was stored neatly and no food attractants were found at the time of the visit.



Figure 3. Placement of new bins at Miller's Point picnic area



Figure 4. Overfilled skip at Kogelfontein that was subsequently accessed by baboons



Figure 5. Unsecured food waste at Waterfall Barracks

SA Navy Property, Waterfall Barracks, Simons Town – Regular visits are undertaken to assess waste attractants at the property (**Fig. 5**). Sub-optimal waste storage and lack of baboon-proofing remains a significant issue. One of the residential buildings is in an extreme state of disrepair and is attracting baboons and creating a public health risk. The baboons access waste from the refuse room (**Fig. 6**) and subsequently sleep in the roof and top floor of the building, which has become a regular part of the troop's routine now. These issues have been reported to the Navy and other relevant authorities.

SA Navy Property, Kronseil Court and Bluefin Flats, Da Gama Park – All refuse bins were stored securely in the designated baboon-proof bin rooms.



Figure 6. Raided waste room at the ladies' flats in Waterfall Barracks

Stakeholder Liaison

- Extensive engagement with Constantia residents who live in the current ranging area of the CT2 Troop. Residents were advised that field rangers would no longer be monitoring the troop after 15 April. Additional baboon-proofing advice was provided with the aim of mitigating future raiding incidents.
- Meetings held with individual community representatives in baboon-affected suburbs to discuss current challenges and solutions for their respective areas.
- Liaised with the CCT Solid Waste Department to reduce baboon access to waste-based attractants. A significant amount of waste that is left on the streets after the bins have been collected is then dispersed further by baboons (**Fig. 7**). This makes it challenging for the field rangers to move the baboons out of the urban space since there are always sources of rubbish on the streets which keep the baboons in the area. Solid Waste Department's, Collections Division has confirmed that the collections service provider is required to clean-up any spilt waste coming out of the 240L wheelie bins or waste in close proximity to them. CCT Solid Waste Department will liaise with its service provider about this issue.



Figure 7. Waste left behind following refuse collection in Da Gama Park



Figure 8. New double 240L bins at Miller's Point slipway



Figure 9. NCC staff helping at the Westlake community clean-up

- Meetings were held with the CCT Solid Waste Department to discuss late waste collection and the impact that this has on baboon behaviour and management. The Solid Waste Department is also open to exploring the process of revising the collection schedule to optimise service to baboon-affected areas. Areas for prioritisation will be identified and discussed.
- Ongoing discussions with the CCT Cleansing Division to optimise waste management in baboon-affected areas. The new bins that are in the process of being trialled in Simon's Town and at Millers Point will be monitored closely to ensure that they are baboon-proof (Fig. 8).

- The presence of non-baboon-proof green bins in baboon-affected areas such as Constantia Nek was highlighted so that the Cleansing Department can action their removal and replacement with a more suitably designed bin.
- NCC staff engaged in a Westlake community clean-up initiative in collaboration with Councillor Carolynn Franklin, Alderman Grant Twigg, Westlake residents, expanded public works (EPWP) employees and law enforcement (**Fig. 9**). The clean-up focussed on the wetland between Lynx Way and Westlake Primary School as part of the Keep Cape Town Clean Campaign.

Education Initiatives:

- **Happy Valley Home, Simon's Town:** Provided an educational talk to residents and staff members on baboon behaviour and ecology, and the history and dynamics of the Waterfall Troop. Residents were also coached on the need to maintain good baboon-proofing practices at the home and the appropriate reactive behaviour when the baboons move through the property. The talk was followed by an open question and answer session.
- **Sailors Kids Educare, Da Gama Park:** Interactive educational talk (**Fig. 10**). The children learned about baboon behaviour, troop dynamics, diet and the reasons why baboons visit town. The learners were also taught how to stay safe around baboons.
- **Distribution of Educational Material:** Distributed the 'Dispersing Male Baboons' educational flyer to homes and businesses in Kommetjie which provides information to residents about the dispersing male in the area. The infographic explains the dispersal process and how this can be influenced by attractants within the urban landscape. It also provides practical tips on how to minimise conflict with baboons. This flyer was also distributed electronically via Kommetjie WhatsApp groups.
- **Tourist Education:** Continued opportunistic engagement with tourists to provide advice on responsible tourism in baboon home ranges. Engagement with tourists who were spotted feeding the baboons a bag of chips. The illegality of this was explained to them in-terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974 and the City of Cape Town's Animal Keeping By-law of 2021. The potential consequences of feeding on baboon behaviour were also explained to them.



Figure 10. Environmental education session at Sailors Kids Educare

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 436 hotline calls during the month of April. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (423), followed by general enquiries (11) and reports of injured baboons (2) (**Fig. 11**).

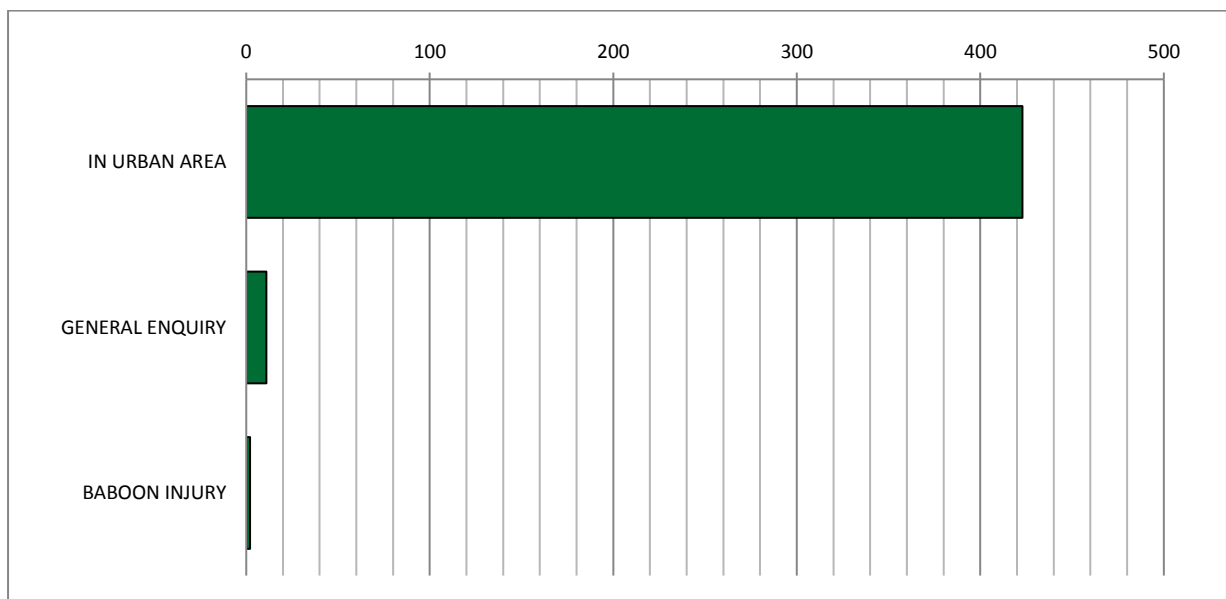


Figure 11. The number of hotline calls by type in April 2022.

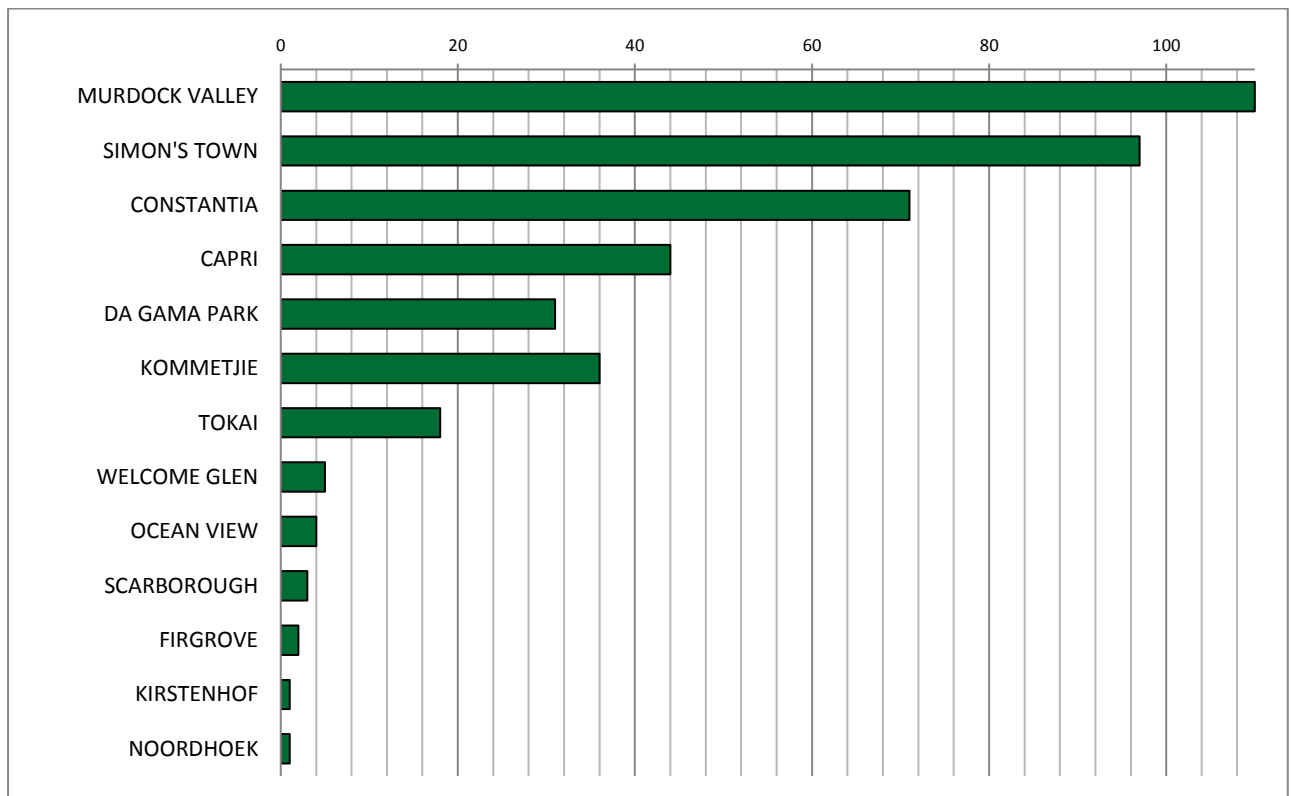


Figure 12. The number of calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in April 2022.

The highest number of hotline calls regarding baboons in the urban area originated from Murdock Valley where the Smitswinkel Bay Troop spent a considerable amount of time this month largely in response to the troop following alpha male WF8 to this area (**Fig 12**). The second highest number of calls came from Simon's Town where the Waterfall Troop spent time moving between SA Navy properties and the urban area. The third highest number of calls came from the Constantia area and focused on the presence of the CT1 and CT2 troops. Residents living in areas immediately adjacent to the wine farms had an increased presence of baboons from the CT1 Troop this month as a result of a change in operational strategy on the wine farms. Additionally, as of mid-April, the CT2 Troop which moves through the northern Constantia area, no longer has appointed field rangers to reduce the amount of time the troop spends in these urban areas.