

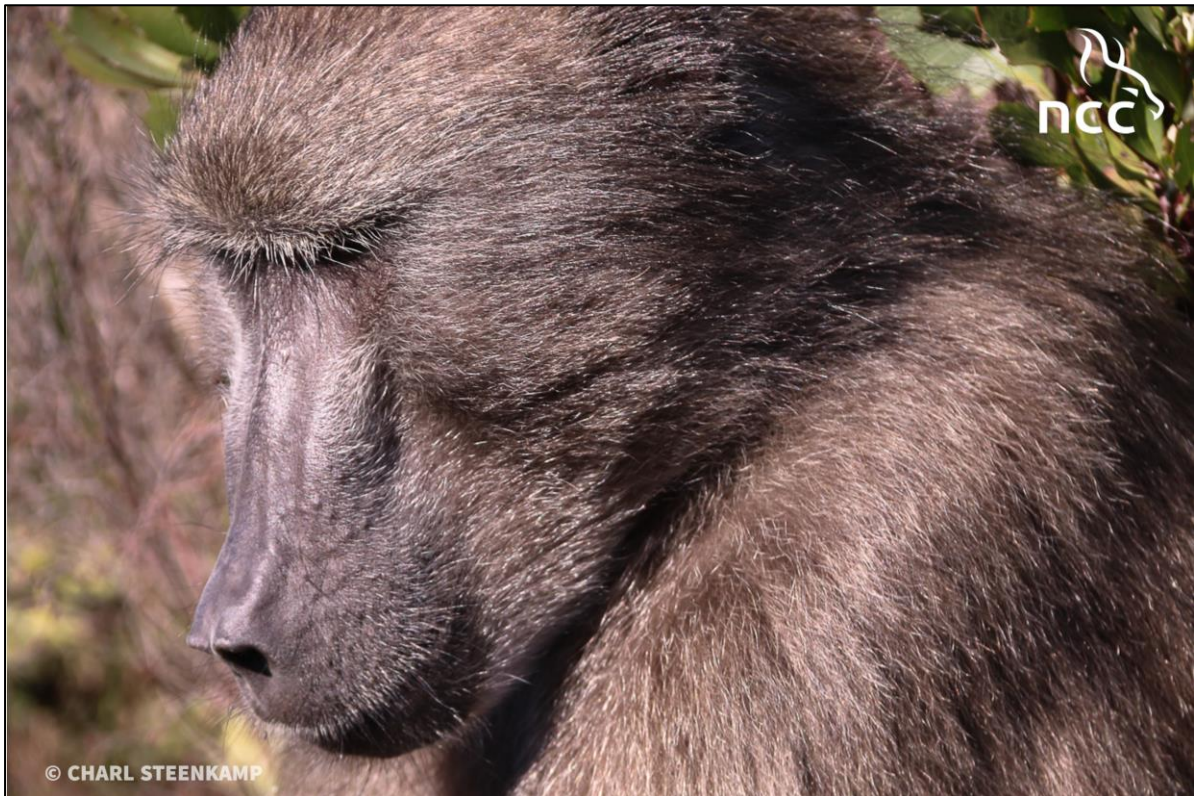


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

July 2022 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:
City of Cape Town

DATED:
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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

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 89.8% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved through the residential area in both Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen where they accessed bins on several occasions.
- The troop spent most of the month utilising roosting sites in Da Gama Park.

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 99.9% 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 to the northern sections of their ranging area near the Baskloof Nature Reserve on multiple occasions during the month.
- After moving through the northern sections of their ranging area, the troop gained access to the mountainside above Scarborough on one occasion. Following this, they roosted for the evening on the mountain to the west of Scarborough. One individual entered the urban area on one known occasion.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 83.2% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 86.1% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and individuals largely moved throughout the northern low-lying areas of their range.
- While in the northern section of their ranging area, individuals frequently moved into Heron Park and Imhoff's Gift. While there are an increased number of cases of individuals in the urban space, there were relatively few cases of home and bin raiding recorded.
- Accessible waste from properties in Capri, De Oude Weg, Heron Park and Ocean View continued to encourage the troop and/or individuals into the urban space.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 92.0% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 98.2% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- WF8 has continued to move north towards and into Simon's Town, encouraging the movement of the troop in this direction. As a result, the troop spent time in Simon's Town and Seaforth where WF8 and individuals accessed occupied houses and roosted occasionally at the Simon's Town quarry.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 88.8% 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

- Inadequate waste management at SA Naval facilities continues to be a key factor attracting the troop to the urban area of Simon's Town. The time spent on SA Navy property remains high 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 ladies' flats roof 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 act as human-derived feeding hubs within the built area. These hubs are dispersed across the urban area, facilitating easy baboon movement between the Naval facilities and the urban space.
- WF9 continued to lead the troop and/or a group of individuals into the urban space and to challenge the ranger team.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 84.2% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent an increased time in town compared to the previous month. This was largely due to the troop hiding on properties on Belair Drive where the staff cannot gain access.

3.2 MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop has been spending more time around Porter Estate and areas south of Buitenverwachting. The troop roosted above Porter Estate on a few occasions this month.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 96.8% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.9% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted above The Range for the entire month.
- The troop crossed Orpen Road and went to the Cape Academy on many occasions.
- There are no field rangers allocated 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 deeper into the urban space.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The TK Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 96.3% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals accessed food from tables at the Tokai Picnic area on three occasions this month.
- Forest Glade Centre was visited by baboons on numerous occasions. Bins were accessed at the centre due to the bin storage cage being unlocked on a few occasions.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Same factors as for the Tokai Troop due to overlap of their ranging areas.
- Individuals accessed food from tables at the Tokai Picnic area on one occasion.

MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 94.2% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The Slangkop, Waterfall and CT1 troops did not reach 90% this month. Factors which impacted the management of these troops can be found in their above respective summary. Overall individual time out of town was 97%, this month but the Slangkop Troop did not reach 90%.

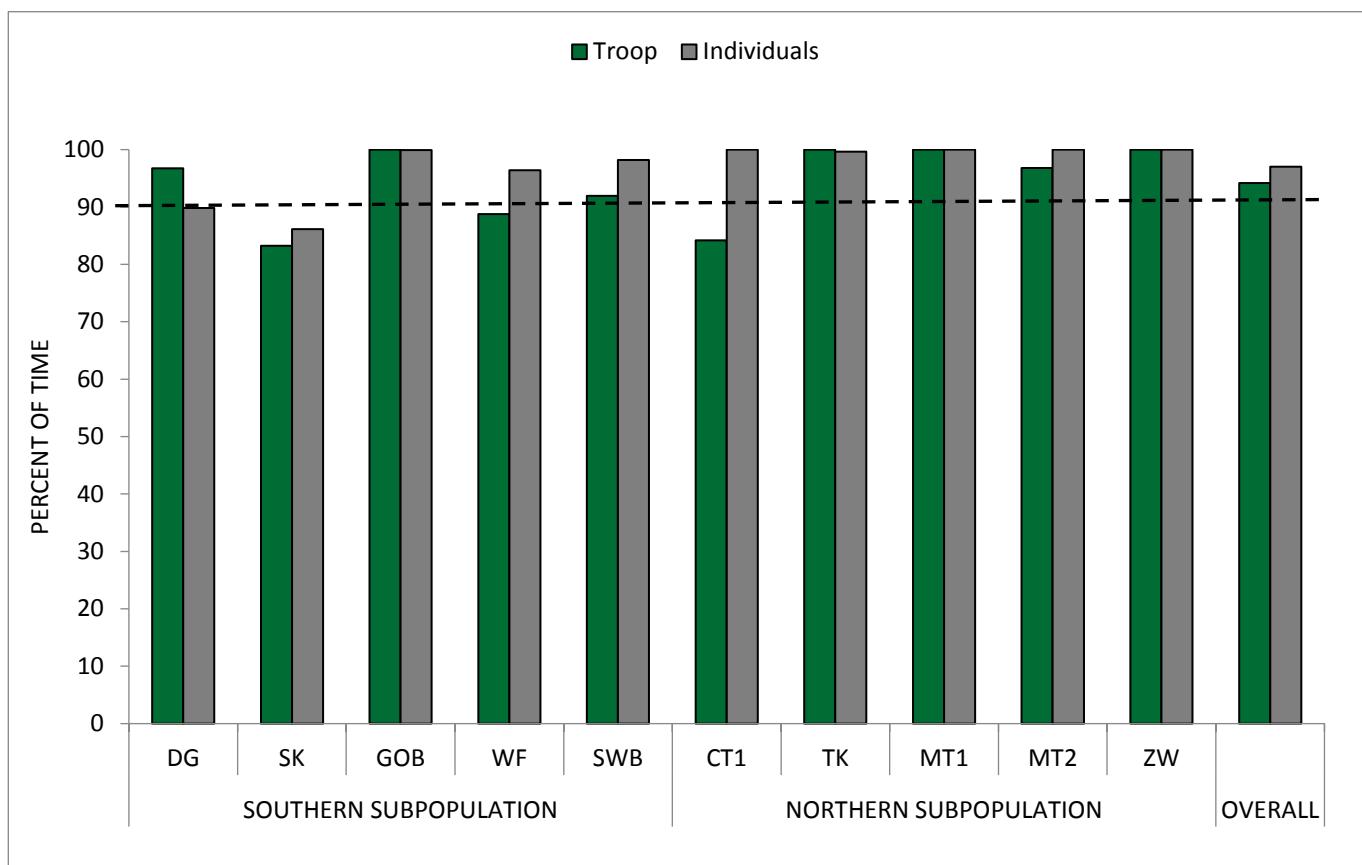


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of July 2022. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of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

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 Scarborough, Da Gama, Welcome Glen, Constantia, Imhoff's Gift & Simon's Town

- Provided general baboon proofing advice to residents and discussed how to mitigate damage to properties when baboons visit.
- Visited residents whose homes had been entered by baboons. Access points were identified and ways in which to prevent future incursions were discussed.
- Advised residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour when faced with baboons on their property.
- Spoke to residents about specific challenges in their areas and how we can work together to address these.
- Assessed existing residential electric fences and advised on how the fencing could be improved to prevent baboon incursions. The necessity for the removal of vegetation that enables baboons to jump over fences was also highlighted.
- Visited parents whose children were observed eating in close proximity to baboons on several occasions. The potential dangers of this behaviour were discussed to prevent future conflict.
- Engaged with individual residents over the presence of significant baboon attractants on their properties including pet food, fruiting trees and unsecured waste. Where possible these attractants were removed or secured.

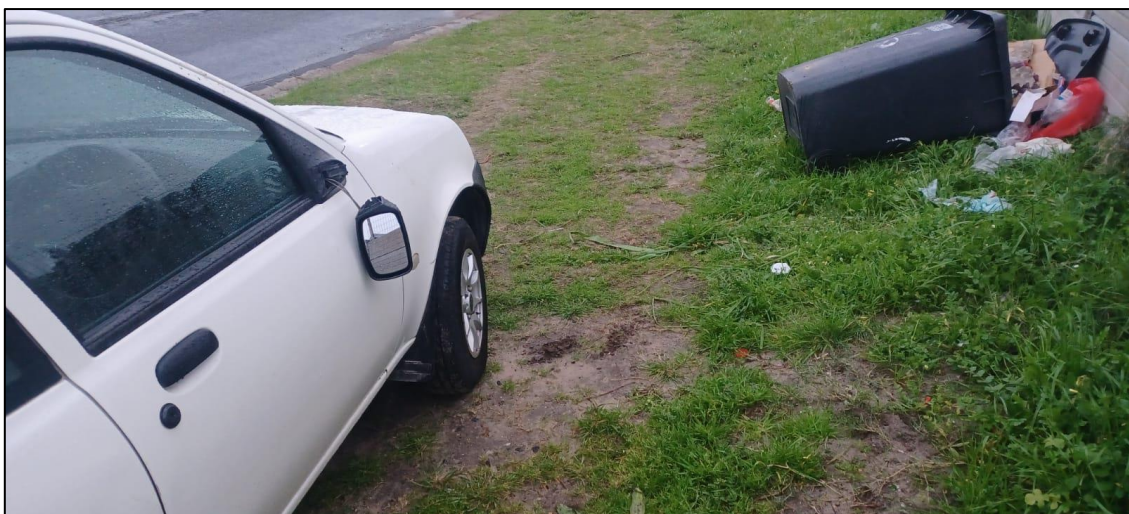


Figure 2. Damage caused to a car wing mirror by baboons that were attracted to the vicinity by unsecured waste.

Alleged paintball marker use by members of the public – Followed up on reports of paintball marker use against baboons. Residents were advised of the legal ramifications of their actions under the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 and the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 19 of 1974. Sufficient evidence was not available to facilitate prosecution at the time.

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 and the applicable penalties in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974 and the Animal Keeping By-law of 2021.

Baboon and dog altercations – Engaged with a resident whose dog had been involved in an altercation with baboons to ascertain the events that led up to the incident and to provide advice to reduce the chance of future altercations.

The Brasserie, Forest Glade Centre, Tokai – Meeting with the manager to discuss a recent incident where a male baboon gained access to the restaurant through an open back window and took food from tables. Baboon-proofing and mitigation measures were suggested, and potential attractants at the retail centre were identified. The appropriate reactive behaviour should a baboon enter the premises again was also discussed.

The Range, Tokai – Meeting to discuss recent visits by individual baboons to the Friday night market. The owner wished to discuss proactive solutions such as the upgrade and extension of existing electric fencing and the potential for training The Range staff as dedicated baboon rangers. Existing baboon-proofing measures were also assessed and ways in which they could be improved were suggested.

Cape Research Centre, Tokai – The skip at the centre has been removed and residents are now using private bins in the housing area. This new system will be monitored to ensure that this does not lead to increased human/baboon conflict. Some issues were noted with the electric fence around the centre that will need to be rectified to prevent baboon incursions.



Figure 3. Existing spikes at The Range which the baboons have learnt to navigate. A new design of spike will be trialled.



Figure 4. Electric fencing at Cape Research Centre

Chrysalis Academy, Tokai - Site visits are regularly undertaken to check that food and waste-based attractants are stored securely through the property. Everything was in order. A separate visit was also undertaken to discuss an incident where a male baboon entered the occupied staff tearoom, and an employee was injured in the ensuing panic. The circumstances of the event were noted and safety tips were provided to the staff members to help to avoid the likelihood of a future repeat event. The staff were unable to identify the individual baboon and the situation will be monitored.



Figure 5. Baboon incursion at Chrysalis Academy.



Figure 6. Open waste cage at Forest Glade Retail Centre.



Figure 7. Felled large loquat tree at Cape Academy.

Total Energies, Tokai Road, Tokai – Spoke to staff about recent baboon visits and how to reduce potential conflict. All wheelie bins are baboon proofed.

Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai – Visit to assess use of the waste cage. The cage was found open on several occasions and was accessed by baboons. This issue was highlighted to the relevant businesses for their attention. A design flaw that makes it difficult to close the gate was highlighted to centre management for rectification with the objective of increasing user compliance.

Orange Kloof Parking Area, Constantia Nek, Constantia – Site visit to check for attractants and to speak to traders about recent baboon visits. There are still some non-baboon-proof public bins which need removing. This has been brought to the attention of the Solid Waste Department's Cleansing division.

Kogelfontein, Scarborough - Site visit conducted to assess waste attractants. The skips had been removed at the time of the visit and waste was being stored securely inside an outbuilding. The on-site staff were expecting delivery of new skips.



Figure 8. Green bin at Orange Kloof.



Figure 9. Temporary waste room at Kogelfontein.

Happy Valley waste collection area, Simon's Town – Visit to check on waste compliance. The bins had been accessed by the baboons. There is an ongoing challenge where passers-by open the cage to look inside the bins, and then subsequently do not secure it. This then provides an opportunity for the baboons to access waste. Potential options for dealing with this situation were discussed.

Miller's Point Picnic Site, Miller's Point – Visit to check waste compliance at the picnic site. All was in order.

Unit 10, Heron Park, Kommetjie Road – Visit to the unit to ascertain if progress has been made with the manufacture of a bin cage to prevent baboons from accessing food waste attractants. The installation of the bin cage is still pending.

Heron Park Businesses and Imhoff's Gift Residents Association – Liaison with interested and affected parties from Imhoff's Gift and Heron Park to identify points which baboons use to cross between the two complexes. The business owners and residents will work to mitigate issues on their respective properties. This should lead to reduced human baboon conflict for all parties.



Figure 10. Examples of the baboon access points between Heron Park and Imhoff's Gift.

Rocklands Farm, Murdock Valley South – Visit to speak to staff about recent baboon activity and to check for attractants. All was in order.

Cole Point Car Park, Simon's Town – There are still a few waste bins that do not have lids and require replacement to prevent the baboons from accessing waste. This has been highlighted to the relevant businesses.



Figure 11. Waste bins at Cole Point Car Park.



Figure 12. Problematic waste room that has been cleared and is no longer in use at Waterfall barracks.

Simon's Town Country Club, Simon's Town - Visit to speak to the staff about baboons accessing the waste. The club has now had all their waste bins baboon proofed by community volunteers to prevent future issues.

SA Navy Property, Waterfall Barracks, Simon's Town – Opportunistic engagement with the barracks base manager to discuss baboon attractants that require urgent attention. The Navy has now discontinued using a waste room that was often accessed by the baboons due to a broken door closing mechanism. The ladies' flats remain an issue, the empty top floor and loft space is serving as a secure sleep site for the baboons. This makes it incredibly difficult for the NCC rangers to move the baboons out of the barracks area.

SA Navy Property, Job Maseko Barracks, Simon's Town – Waste management at the barracks remains sub-optimal. The dedicated bin room has been repaired but has been filled with loose bags of waste. The bins therefore could not be housed inside the secure area at the time of the visit and remained outside and in use. Many of the bins are broken and cannot be baboon proofed. The Navy has requested replacement bins from the City's Solid Waste Department.



Figure 13. Overfilled waste room at the Job Maseko barracks preventing bins from being stored inside.



Figure 14. Waste accessed by baboons at SAS Simonsberg

SA Navy Property, SAS Simonsberg, Simon's Town - Site visit to check for baboon attractants. The waste has been accessed by the baboons on several occasions. Broken bins are exacerbating the issue and replacement bins have been requested.

SA Naval Property, West Yard, Simon's Town - Site visit to check on waste management. Although attempts have been made to baboon proof the bins many do not have lids which facilitates baboon access to waste. Replacement bins have been ordered. The provision of secure waste storage areas has also been recommended to Navy staff

SA Naval Property, Admiralty House, Simon's Town - Visit to speak to staff about eggs which had been left on the grass at the property and were accessed by the baboons.



Figure 15. Eggs put outside at Admiralty House.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

- Discussed the standard operating procedures for paintball markers and bear bangers with individual community members to increase understanding of when and how these tools are used to assist with management.
- Addressed queries about satellite and VHF Collars to improve community awareness.
- Liaised with concerned residents regarding the laws surrounding feeding or harming baboons, the relevant reporting processes and the evidence that is needed to secure a successful conviction.
- Engaged with several wine farm owners to facilitate open dialogue and foster cohesive baboon management techniques.
- Attended a meeting with local business representatives to discuss an early warning phone-based app for residents in baboon-affected areas. The app is still in the development and testing stage but may prove to be a useful tool in future. We will continue to advise and liaise throughout the development process.
- Liaised with the relevant City departments to request removal or trimming of trees and vegetation which enable baboons to jump over electric fencing and enter secure estates.
- Continued engagement with CCT Solid Waste Department's, Collections and Cleansing divisions to reduce baboon access to wheelie bins (residents waste). Late collections impact negatively on baboon management.
- Liaised with Solid Waste's Cleansing division regarding spilled and raided waste issues.



Figure 16. Domestic dogs accessing waste that had previously been accessed by the Da Gama Troop

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

- **Distribution of Educational Material:** Continued distribution of ‘Baboons A Lifestyle Choice’ flyers to Scarborough homes following recent visits to the urban edge by the GOB troop and the novel presence of a lone female and juvenile. During distribution, the community conservation manager also engaged with individual residents and businesses to increase public understanding of the urban baboon programme and discuss how the community can help to reduce the frequency of baboon incursions.
- **Da Gama – opportunistic education:** Engaged with children who had been observed using food to tease the baboons. The children were educated on the reasons as to why this is dangerous for themselves and detrimental to the baboons.
- **Ocean View Library – Holiday Club:** Interactive educational event for children attending the holiday club to foster a greater understanding of baboon behaviour and ecology. Ways in which the local children can help prevent human baboon conflict were discussed along with tips for staying safe around the baboons. The children were encouraged to share their own stories about their experiences with baboons for group discussion. Educational puzzles and activities were also completed throughout the course of the morning.



Figure 17. Environmental education event for the holiday club at Ocean View Library.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 413 hotline calls during the month of June. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (399), followed by general enquiries (8) and reports of injured baboons (6) (**Fig. 18**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Simon's Town in response to WF Troop movements (**Fig. 19**). The second highest number of calls were received from Tokai in response to the movement of the TK and MT2 troops in the urban area. Similarly, many calls were received from Constantia in response to the presence of the CT2 Troop in deep urban areas of Constantia. This new troop and area is not covered by the Urban Baboon Programme, although temporary assistance was provided from March 2021 to mid-April 2022.

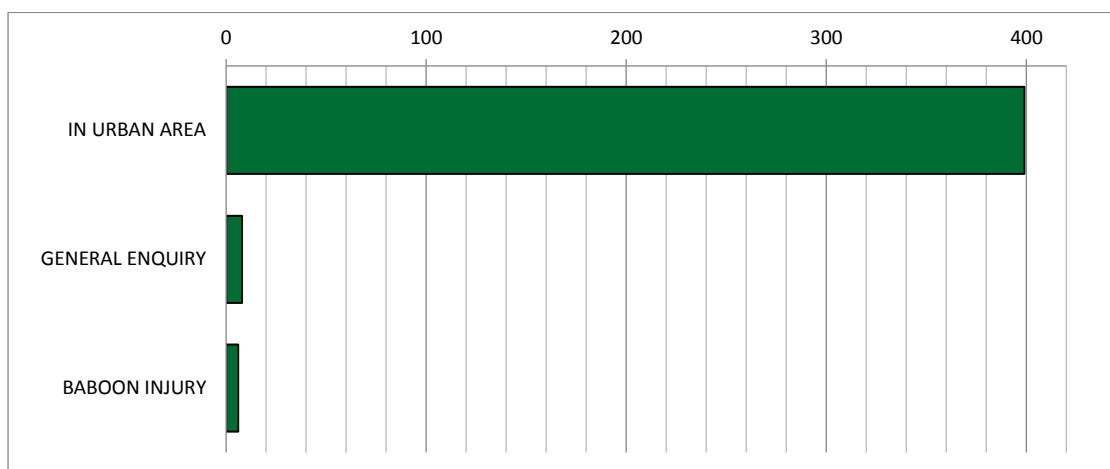


Figure 18. The number of hotline calls by type in July 2022.

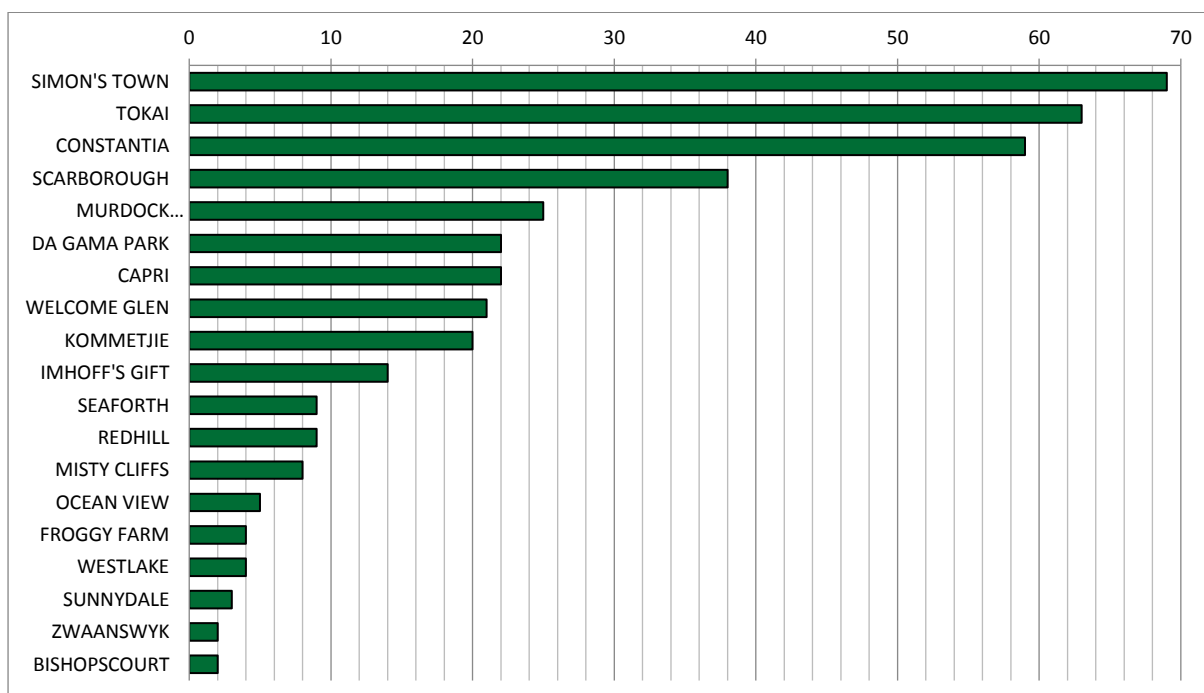


Figure 19. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence, by suburb, in July 2022.

4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

4.4.1 Troop Specific Recommendations & Actions

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
DG	There is a 3km above ground electricy 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 and long-term mitigation measures for electricity poles and power lines in baboon ranging areas.	Ongoing engagement.
DG	The alien invasive vegetation surrounding Da Gama Park is extensive, dense and overgrown. This vegetation should be removed as it obscures the troop's movements and allows them to enter the urban area	None this month.	Engagement with landowner(s).
GOB	Residents of Scarborough should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
GOB	Owners of rental properties should alert their guest to the possible presence of baboons and proper conduct required to mitigate against conflicts.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
GOB	Both skips at Kogelfontein should be kept locked to reduce this troop's acces to human-derived foods.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.
SK	Though baboons do move through Kommetjie often, residents of Kommetjie sohuld remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	None this month.	Ongoing community engagement.
SK	The installation of electric fencing aprons on the roofs of businesses within the Heron Park industrial area would discourage the baboons from utilising them as a roosting site.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
SK	Continued environmental education in Ocean View particularly with children, is recommended in an attempt to reduce the level of human-baboon conflict along the urban edge.	See section 4.2, COMMUNITY EDUCATION	Ongoing community engagement.
SWB	The Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club should continue to store all bins inside the baboon-proof enclosure.	None this month.	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.
SWB/WF	The baboon-proofing of waste areas, windows and doors in facilities of SA Navy property would reduce access to human-derived foods and assist baboon management. Alternatively, an initiative to keep doors and windows closed when baboons are in the area would reduce access.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing monitoring, reporting & engagement.
MT1/MT2/TK/ZW	Cape Academy should consider removing fruiting trees from their property to reduce attractants on their property.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Additional removal of fruit trees where necessary.

4.4.2. Recommendations & Actions For All Baboon Impacted Areas

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