



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

June 2022 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

30 June 2022

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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 98.3% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 90.4% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

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

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The GOB Troop spent 99.9% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 99.8% 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 into the northern sections of their ranging area near the Baskloof Nature Reserve on multiple occasions.
- The troop moved into the western sections of their ranging area and into Scarborough on one known occasion and two individuals entered the village on two known occasions.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 85.5% 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 low-lying area of the northern reaches of its ranging area. While marginally less, the troop and individuals also spent a large amount of time in the eastern reaches of its ranging area.
- While in the northern and eastern section of their ranging area, the troop and individuals frequently moved into Capri, De Oude Weg and Heron Park where they entered houses on multiple occasions and spent time roosting.
- Access to waste and residential properties in Capri, De Oude Weg and Heron Park continued to encourage the troop and/or individuals into the urban space.
- SK13 was noted to have moved back to the SK troop's ranging area at the end of May. This month he was seen spending time with the troop, or just on the outskirts of the troop.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 93.0% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 95.0% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- WF8 has continued encouraging the SWB Troop to move further north towards Simon's Town and accessed a house on one known occasion.
- The troop roosted at the quarry sleep site above Simon's Town on one occasion this month.
- The troop has spent time in Simon's Town's urban space twice and Seaforth's urban space four times. Likewise, individuals spent time in the urban space of Seaforth four times and accessed an occupied house on one occasion.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 92.1% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 97.9% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Troop dynamics continue to be affected as both adult males in the troop fought on several occasions. This resulted in the troop splitting and moving in fragmented groups.
- WF9 continued to lead the troop and/or a group of individuals into the urban space.

- 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 was higher this month, which subsequently facilitated the movement of the troop and/or individuals into Simon's Town.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 84.7 % of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.7% 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 due to their movements into the urban area below the farms and not being able to exit town through the wine farms to move back into their natural ranging area.

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

- None

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 98.7% 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 the majority of the month.
- The troop crossed Orpen Road and visited the Cape Academy on several 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 22.3% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals accessed food from tables at the Tokai Picnic area on one occasion.
- Individuals visited Cape Academy on a few occasions.
- Forest Glade Centre was visited by baboons on several occasions, during which bins were accessed as a result of inadequate use of the bin cage.
- A young adult male (TK58) natal to the TK Troop, showed dispersing behaviour, mainly moving to Steenberg and Westlake areas.

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

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

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 95.2% of their time out of town in July (**Fig. 1**). The SK and CT1 troops did not reach the 90% target, however. The increased amount of time in town for the SK Troop is attributed to the movements of the troop in and around the Heron Park and Capri areas. The increased amount of time in town for the CT1 Troop was attributed to the movements of the troop into urban areas adjacent to the wine farms. Individual time out of town was 96.5% this month. The movement of TK55 and a few individuals from the DG Troop into Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen, as well as the movement of small groups of individuals from the SK Troop into Ocean View and Heron Park contributed to this figure.

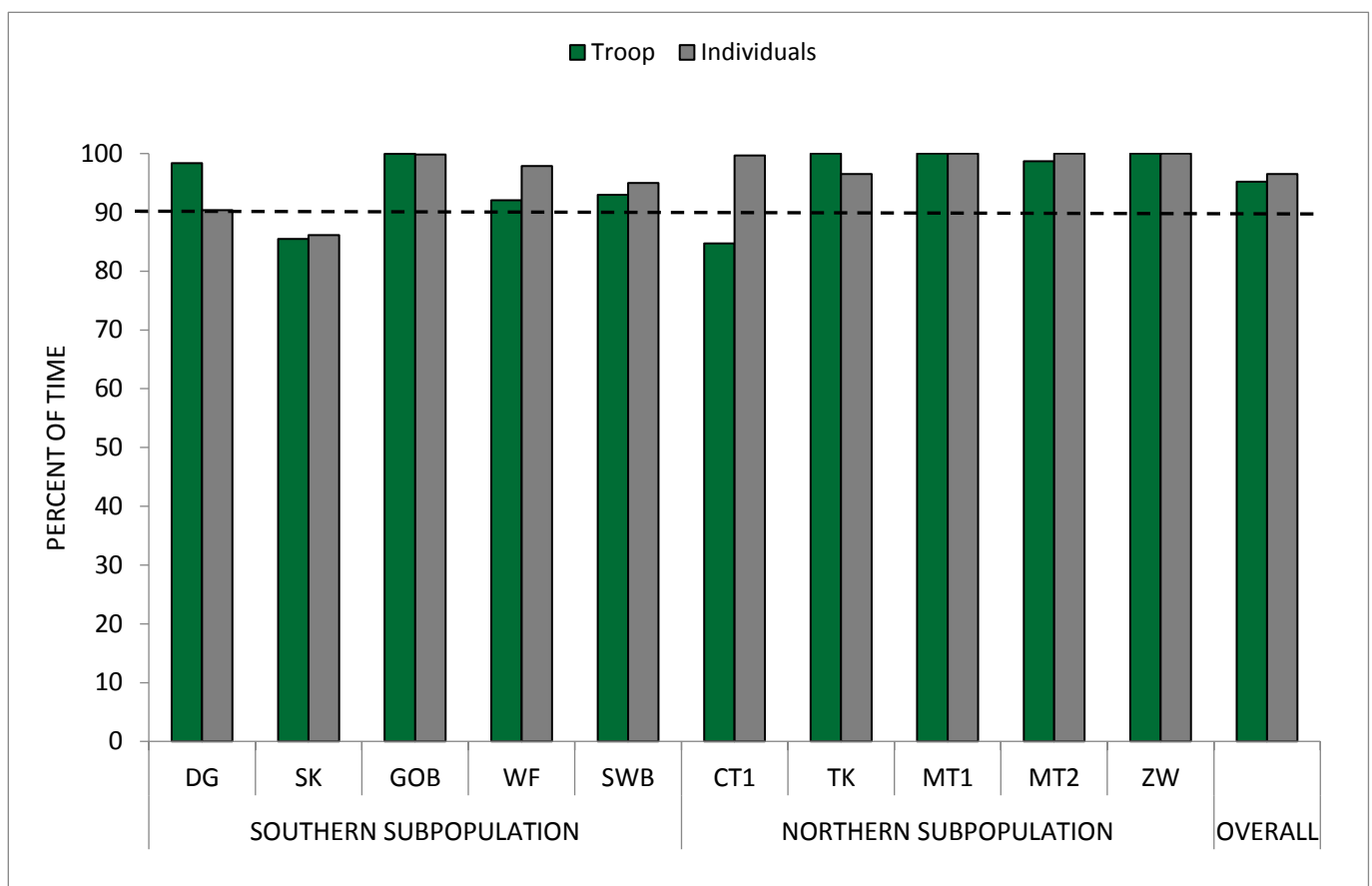


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of June 2022. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of 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 Constantia, Tokai, Westlake, Steenberg, Da Gama Park, Ocean View, Scarborough, Imhoff's Gift and Simon's Town

- Engaged with smallholding owners who are experiencing frequent visits from the GOB troop. Ways in which animal enclosures, feed storage and baboon-proofing can be improved to mitigate raiding were discussed. Landowners were encouraged to set-up a baboon alert group to serve as an early warning system. The manager of Berg Farm will facilitate this.
Spoke with residents on how to improve existing residential electric fencing to reduce the likelihood of baboons accessing the property. Potential weak spots and vegetation that could be used by the baboons to jump over the fence were identified so that they could be improved.
- Visited residents whose properties have been damaged by the baboons. Ways in which future damage could be mitigated were discussed.
- Engaged with Westlake and Steenberg residents and businesses about the novel presence of a dispersing male baboon. Advice was provided to reduce opportunistic raiding.
- Provided guidance to residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour when faced with a baboon on their property.
- Engaged with Constantia residents about urban incursions by local troops and the factors that influence their frequency. Management techniques were also discussed to facilitate a greater understanding of the Urban Baboon Programme amongst local residents.
- Liaised with residents to highlight the need to remove fruiting trees that were serving as baboon attractants.
- Spoke to Imhoff Gift residents to ascertain access points for the baboons when they enter the complex from Heron Park. Measures will be taken to mitigate these access points.

Baboon and dog encounters

- Spoke to residents whose dogs had been injured in altercations with a baboon whilst inside their own property. The purpose of the visit was to check on the welfare of the dogs, ascertain the events that led up to the interaction and to provide tips where possible to reduce the chance of future encounters.

- Gathered evidence from community members who witnessed a fatal dog attack on a baboon in a public street in Da Gama Park. The matter was reported to Law Enforcement, the SPCA and the Military Police. The dog has been removed from the area by the owner to prevent further altercations. A compliance notice was served to the dog owner by the CCT's, Animal Impound, Law Enforcement division.

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

- Communicated with residents who were witnessed carrying paintball markers and pellet guns whilst baboons were in the area. Residents were advised of the legal implications of their actions under the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962, the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 19 of 1974 and in the case of air powered pellet guns, the Firearms Control Act.



Figure 2. Baboon accessing waste at the Black Box Coffee Truck.



Figure 3. Baboon accessing waste at Orange Kloof Picnic Site.

Black Box Coffee Truck, Orange Kloof Car Park, Constantia Nek – Engaged with the staff to emphasize the importance of baboon-proofing their bins. The baboons have now gained access to the waste on numerous occasions. The owner has been made aware of the issue, was advised on methods of baboon-proofing the bins and has committed to remedy the situation as a matter of urgency (**Fig. 2**).

Orange Kloof Picnic and Braai Area, Constantia Nek – Site visit to check for baboon attractants. Baboons were accessing waste at the picnic site adjacent to the car park. The City will address this issue with SANParks to request that a baboon proof alternative be installed (**Fig. 3**).

Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai – Engaged with individual businesses to discuss recent baboon activity and offered advice on how to prevent baboons from accessing food rewards at the centre. The shared waste cage was also inspected, some food waste was found outside the enclosure. This was cleaned up by the staff (**Fig. 4**).

Eagles' Nest Wines – Meeting held at the owner's request to discuss ways in which the fencing can be upgraded to minimise baboon incursions (**Fig. 5**).

Chrysalis Academy, Tokai – Visit to speak with staff about recent baboon activity and incidences where baboons have tried to gain access to closed buildings. A site inspection was carried out, which revealed no easy access to human derived foods or waste.



Figure 4. Baboon inside a shop at Forest Glade Retail Centre.

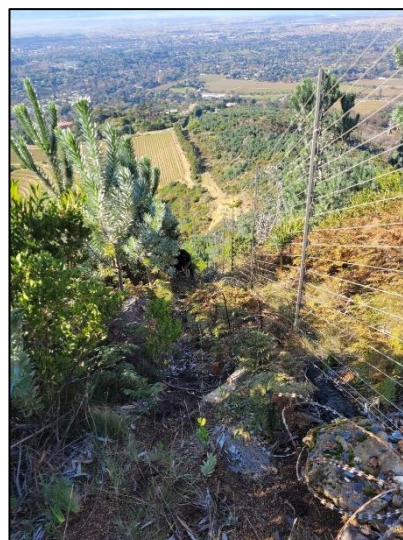


Figure 5. Fence line inspection at Eagles' Nest Wines.

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – No unsecured waste were observed at the time of the visit.

The Range, Tokai – Advice was provided to a film crew doing a shoot on the property. Ways to avoid conflict with local baboons and appropriate storage of food and waste was discussed.

Tokai Road Stables, Tokai – Visit to speak with the stable manager about baboon management and ways in which to avoid human-baboon conflict. Strategy of how the rangers operate around the property were also discussed and will be shared with the clients who utilise the stables.

Hearshaw and Kinnes Laboratories, Westlake Business Centre - Visit to speak to the staff about the novel presence of a dispersing male baboon who had been accessing their waste. Due to the nature of the business, significant food rewards were available in the bins. Management was provided with information on how to baboon proof the bins and was amenable to doing so (**Fig. 6**).

Steenberg Estate, Steenberg – Meeting with the estate manager to discuss recent baboon incursions and how they can be prevented. Points where the baboons can gain access to the complex by using vegetation or structures next to the electric fence were identified for mitigation. NCC alerted the City to the presence of problematic trees on City land in this location, which will be discussed further.

American Embassy, Steenberg – Engaged with the embassy security staff about ways in which their refuse bins could be baboon proofed to prevent a dispersing male baboon from accessing waste.

Miller's Point Picnic Site and Slipway, Miller's Point – Inspections to check for the presence of baboon attractants. Waste bags which could not fit through the gap at the top of the bins were left beside them. The bags were cleared and disposed of by NCC (**Fig. 7**).

Miller's Point film set, Miller's Point – Engaged with staff on location to ensure that the production crew were aware of the presence of baboons in the area and were following the applicable waste and food storage practices.

Ski Boat Club, Miller's Point – Site visit revealed waste management at the site was in order.



Figure 6. Dispersing male baboon accessing food waste at Hearshaw and Kinnes Laboratory.



Figure 7. Waste left beside the bins at Miller's Point picnic site.

Kogelfontein Skips, Scarborough - Site revealed that the skips were being used correctly.

SA Navy Property, Waterfall Barracks, Simon's Town – Regular visits are undertaken to assess attractants at the property. Storage of waste and access to buildings remains an issue. The baboons now have access to a second waste room through a broken asbestos roof. This issue has been highlighted to the Rear Admiral's office (**Fig. 8**).



Figure 8. Baboons in the waste room at Waterfall Barracks.



Figure 9. Attempts made by the baboons to access waste in the cage at Diva Foods.

SA Navy Property, Job Maseko Barracks, Simon's Town – Poor waste management at the Job Maseko Barracks remains challenging for baboon management. Waste bins are left outside despite a suitable bin room that could easily be baboon-proofed. The community conservation manager has spoken to and educated the staff on numerous occasions, but compliance remains an issue (**Fig. 9**).



Figure 9. Baboons accessing waste at Job Maseko. The existing redundant waste room on the right could be baboon-proofed for waste storage.

DIVA Foods, Heron Park – Site visit to assess waste compliance. All waste was stored securely in the dedicated refuse cage. The baboons attempted to pull bags out through the gaps in the mesh. The staff will increase the height of the cardboard barrier inside the cage to prevent this.

In2Foods, Heron Park – Site visits to check for the presence of food and waste attractants. All was in order. Recent incidents where baboons had attempted to gain access to food being loaded/offloaded from the delivery trucks were also discussed. Plans were put into place to reduce conflict.

Unit 10, Heron Park – Visit to check on progress with the planned baboon-proof bin enclosure. The structure will be completed within the next few weeks.

SAPS, Simon's Town – Visit to speak to the staff about baboons accessing their waste bins. The bins were subsequently roped and baboon-proofed by local community members.

Happy Valley Home, Simon's Town – Engaged with the staff about the kerbside waste cage which is often open and accessed by bin pickers. This creates an opportunity for the baboons to target this cage. The staff will appoint residents to monitor the cage on collection day to help alleviate the raiding.

South Point Farm, Plateau Road – Advised a resident who is building a farm stall on their property about the importance of ensuring that the construction is baboon-proof. The stall will be enclosed and will utilise a double door system to prevent baboons from accessing the farm stall.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

- Liaison with SPCA, Law Enforcement and CapeNature to follow-up on and report cases of legal contraventions.
- Meetings with community representatives to discuss current challenges and solutions for their respective areas.
- Ongoing liaison with CCT Solid Waste Department and Cleansing Division to reduce baboon access to waste-based attractants. Non-baboon proof public waste bins have been flagged for removal from baboon ranging areas. Cases where late waste removal has provided the baboons with extended access to waste have been highlighted for action. Continued dialogue around the issue of a lack of baboon-proof bins remains a priority.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Kids Eco Club, Da Gama Park: Staff members from NCC joined the children to answer questions about baboon behavior and ecology on a walk around Da Gama Park. Staff also joined the children on a nature hike the following weekend to provide further environmental education (**Fig. 10**).

Distribution of Educational Material: Began distributing 'Baboons A Lifestyle Choice' flyers to the Scarborough area following recent visits to the urban edge by the GOB troop. The Community Conservation Manager and Area Manager also opportunistically engaged with residents in the most affected area. Flyers were also left at key community businesses (**Fig. 11**).

Youth Day Educational Event, Ocean View: Provided an educational stand with interactive activities to foster greater understanding of baboons and the environment. The event was attended by approximately 350 children from the community of Ocean View and was held in collaboration with Breaking Barriers, Blue Ribbon Bread and Shark Spotters (**Fig. 12**).



Figure 10. Da Gama Park Kids Eco Club.



Figure 11. Educational flyer distributed in Scarborough.



Figure 12. Youth Day educational event at Ocean View Multipurpose Centre.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 411 hotline calls during the month of June. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (402), followed by general enquiries (8) and reports of injured baboons (1) (**Fig. 13**).

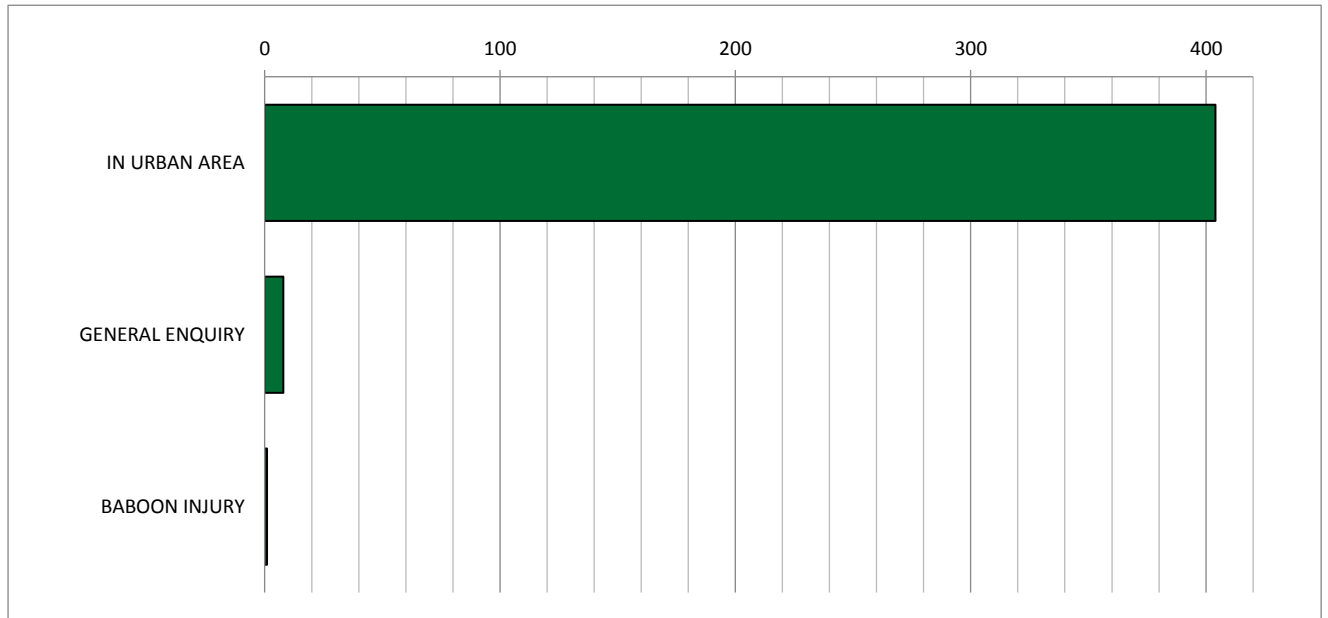


Figure 13. The number of hotline calls by type in June 2022.

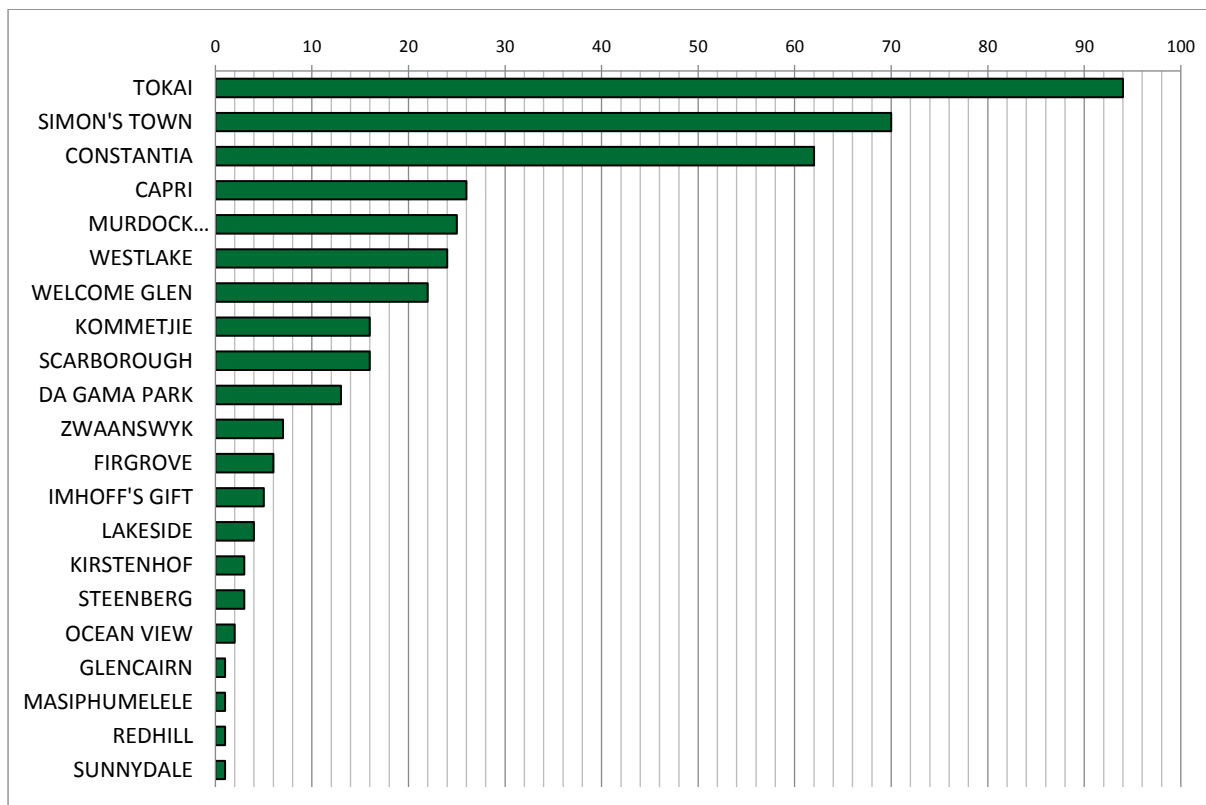


Figure 14. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence, by suburb, in June 2022.

The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Tokai this month as a result of the dispersing behaviour of young adult male TK58 (**Fig. 14**). The second highest number of calls were received from Constantia in response to the presence of the CT1 Troop and individuals in the urban area. Similarly, many calls were received from the Murdock Valley area in response to the presence of the SWB Troop and individuals in the urban space.

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 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 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 access to human-derived foods.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.
SK	Though baboons do 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.	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.	None this month.	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.	None this month.	Ongoing engagement.

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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing community engagement.
Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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 Law Enforcement, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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.