



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

May 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

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The DG Troop spent 97.3% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 86.9% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and/or individuals accessed bins in both Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen.
- Individual baboons accessed houses in Welcome Glen on two occasions.
- The troop spent most of the month utilising roosting sites in the vicinity of Da Gama Park.
- TK55 moved together with some females into Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen on numerous occasions.

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The GOB Troop spent 100% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 100% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope section (CoGH) of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) during the month.
- The troop moved into the western sections of their ranging area and into Scarborough on one reported occasion this month. During this brief visit to the village, at least one individual was reported to have entered a house and accessed food. This is the first reported raiding incident in Scarborough in many years.
- The troop moved into the northern sections of their ranging area near the Baskloof Nature Reserve on several occasions during the month.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 93.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 88.8% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved extensively throughout the low-lying area of the northern reaches of its ranging area. Individuals, to a larger extent, moved through the low-lying area of the western reaches of their ranging area.
- While in the western section of their ranging area, individuals frequently moved into Ocean View where they accessed bins and entered houses.
- While in the northern section of its ranging area, the troop frequently moved into Heron Park where they accessed bins and spent a large time roosting on the roofs of buildings.
- The access to waste in Ocean View and Heron Park continued to encourage the troop and/or individuals into the urban space.
- SK13, a young adult male natal to the SK Troop and showing dispersing behaviour spent the majority of the month in Kommetjie, where his behaviour was being monitored by field staff as far as possible. On 23 May, SK13 attempted to re-join the SK Troop but was chased away by another SK male. SK13 returned to Kommetjie the same day and remained in Kommetjie for the rest of the month.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 88.3% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 97.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop concentrated the use of their sleep sites in the northern portion of their ranging area.
- WF8, an adult male in the SWB Troop, continued to show assertive raiding behaviour this month. When trying to enter locked buildings/homes, WF8 continued to use force by pulling and twisting window frames and attempted to pull sliding doors off their hinges.
- WF8 has also been encouraging the SWB Troop to move further north towards, and into, Simon's Town.
- The troop roosted at the Simon's Quarry on two occasions this month, which is a WF Troop sleep site.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 89.4% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.5% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Troop dynamics continued 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. The time spent on SA Navy property remains high which facilitates the movement of the troop and/or individuals into Simon's Town.
- In particular, 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.
- There are several SA Navy facilities within the suburb of Simon's Town. These naval facilities act as human-derived feeding hubs within the built area. These hubs are dispersed across the built area, facilitating easy baboon movement between them and into the urban space.
- WF9 continued to show assertive raiding behaviour and encouraging troop movement into town.

2.6 SOUTHERN AREA RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
DA GAMA	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.	Members of the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch with the help of NCC are engaging with CCT Electricity Department regarding short-term and long-term mitigation measures for electricity poles and power lines. As a short-term measure, many of the poles in DG Troop's range were re-greased this month.
GOB	A GPS tracking collar should be placed on an individual in this troop to act as an early alert system for the field team.	Placement of a tracking collar is planned for June 2022.
SLANGKOP	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.	An educational event with Ocean View youth is scheduled for June 2022.

SMITSWINKEL BAY & WATERFALL	The baboon-proofing of waste areas, windows and doors on South African Navy property would reduce access to human-derived foods and assist baboon management. An initiative to keep doors and windows closed when baboons are in the area would reduce access.	Site visits to Job Masego Barracks, Waterfall Barracks and Signal School were carried out this month, supported by CCT Biodiversity Management Branch staff. The issue of inadequate waste management on the property was escalated to the Navy Base Environmental Officer.
WATERFALL	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.	Signs alerting motorists to the presence of wildlife were installed along Simon's Town Main Road.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 93.5 % of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 98% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent a decreased time in town compared to the previous month as they spent majority of the month in the Price Drive stream and on the mountain above the wine farms.
- The troop entered the urban area on eight occasions during the month.

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 99.5% 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 the majority of the month.
- The troop crossed Orpen Road on three occasions and moved to the Cape Academy where they accessed fruit from fruiting trees.
- 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 98.4% 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 three occasions where they accessed fruit from fruiting trees on the property.
- Fruiting trees on Orpen Road continued to attract the troop and/or individuals.

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.

3.6 NORTHERN AREA RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
TK/ZW	Improving the electric fencing around the Tokai picnic to prevent baboons from gaining access.	This request has been submitted to TMNP but this item still requires actioning.
TK/ZW/MT1/MT2	Removal of fruit trees from Cape Academy property would reduce the attraction to this property.	Following extensive engagement, Cape Academy have agreed to remove these trees in the near future.
TK/ZW/MT1/MT2	Removal of fruit from the trees growing along Orpen Road would reduce the level of attraction to the area.	A request has been submitted to CCT Parks and Recreation but this item still requires actioning.
TK/ZW/MT1/MT2	A reduction of access to food on Constantia Uitsig would reduce the attraction of the property.	An assessment of the property revealed a number of attractants which are encouraging baboons to spend extended time on the property. NCC continues to attempt to engage with property owners but this item still requires actioning.

4 ALL AREA RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
ALL 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.	Ongoing community engagement.
ALL AREAS	The availability of baboon-proof rubbish and recycle bins in baboon-impacted suburbs would minimize baboon access to human-derived foods.	Ongoing efforts together with Biodiversity Management Branch and Solid Waste Department to roll out new baboon proof bins.
ALL AREAS	Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.	Ongoing community engagement.
ALL AREAS	Planting of fruiting trees should be discouraged and/or managed by timeously removing fruit to reduce the attractiveness of the area for baboons.	Ongoing community engagement.
ALL AREAS	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.
ALL AREAS	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.	Ongoing community engagement takes place in baboon-affected areas and strategic baboon-proof fences are spoken about at length with local residents.
ALL AREAS	Residents should be aware that the use of pellet guns in urban areas is illegal. Residents should also be informed about the suffering that is inflicted on baboons who are shot.	Ongoing community engagement. The public is encouraged to report pellet gun use to Law Enforcement, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.
ALL AREAS	Contraception to slow the growth of the population should be considered.	CapeNature and SANParks, the relevant mandated authorities for such action, have been informed of this recommendation.
ALL AREAS	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.

5 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

5.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 96.1% of time out of time this month (**Fig. 1**). The WF & SWB troops did not reach 90% of time out of town. The increased amount of time in town for the WF Troop is largely attributed to the movements of male WF9, who frequently moved ahead of the troop into the urban space with several individuals from the troop behind him. The increased amount of time in town for the SWB Troop is largely attributed to the movements of WF8 who has been encouraging the movement of the troop further north over the last few months, extending their ranging area into suburbs such as Froggy Farm. Individual time out of town was 96.6% 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.

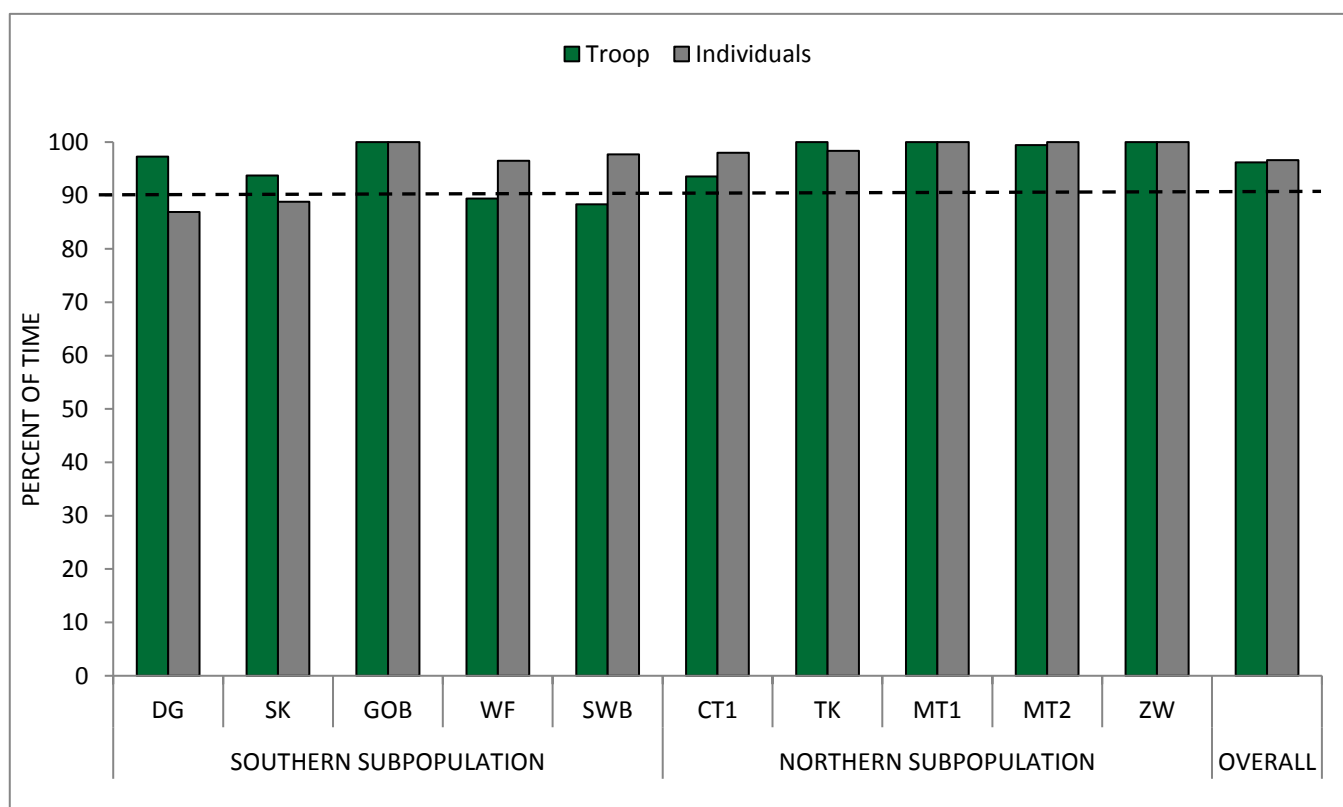


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of May 2022. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of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

5.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Site visits, stakeholder liaison, and community engagement, including education initiatives, took place this month as follows:

Site Visits:

Private properties in Capri, Murdock Valley, Kommetjie and Simon's Town

- Discussed current baboon troop dynamics with Simon's Town residents and explained how these dynamics can influence the frequency of baboon visits. Ways in which management techniques are adapted to mitigate this were also discussed.
- Liaised with smallholding owners who would like to apply for the relevant permissions to use paintball markers to move baboons off their properties. These residents were then referred to CapeNature for permitting applications.
- Engaged with Kommetjie and Simon's Town residents about the potential benefits of strategically placed baboon proof electric fences.
- Spoke with residents who had recently moved to baboon-affected areas and provided advice to mitigate potential conflict with baboons. Contacts of companies and individuals who can assist with baboon proofing measures were also shared.
- Engaged with Kommetjie businesses and residents about the presence of a dispersing male baboon. Tips were provided to prevent opportunistic raiding.
- Visited properties which had suffered baboon-related damage to advise on mitigation that could be implemented to prevent or reduce the likelihood of further damage.
- Provided advice to residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour when faced with a baboon on their property.



Figure 2. Baboon damage to a thatched roof. Mitigation measures were discussed with the resident.

Baboon and dog encounters - Engaged with residents whose dogs were free and chasing baboons. Explained the risks to the owners for both dogs and baboons and made the owners aware that this is a direct contravention of the Animal Keeping By-law of 2021 14(1): *'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'*.

Alleged paintball marker and pellet gun use by members of the public – Visited private homes to speak to members of the public who are allegedly using paintball markers and pellet guns to drive baboons off their properties. Residents were advised of the legal ramifications of such 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. Further evidence will be gathered for prosecution wherever possible.

Fruit trading stalls, Orange Kloof Car Park, Constantia Nek – Discussed recent baboon activity with the traders and gave advice on how to mitigate potential raiding.



Figure 3. Bin broken by baboons in their attempts to access the waste.

Black Box Coffee Truck, Orange Kloof Car Park, Constantia Nek – Provided advice to the staff with regards to baboon presence and action that can be taken to minimize the risk of raids. The staff were also advised on how to baboon proof their waste bin at two anchor points to prevent baboons from accessing their waste (**Fig. 3**).

Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai – Engaged with individual businesses within the centre to discuss recent baboon visits and offer advice on how to mitigate conflict. The shared waste cage was also inspected, found to be in good order and was being used properly.



Figure 4. Proper bin storage at Forest Glade Residential complex.



Figure 5. Skip with bent lid at the Cape Research Centre.

Forest Glade Residential Complex, Tokai – Visit to assess potential attractants. All was in order and the waste was secured in the designated waste cage (**Fig. 4**).

Cape Research Centre, Tokai – Visit to check on the condition of the skip. The lid remains broken which allows baboons to access the contents. This has been escalated to the SANParks section ranger (**Fig. 5**).

Chrysalis Academy, Tokai – Visit to check for baboon attractants at the academy. All waste and food attractants were securely stored at the time of the visit.

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – The site was clean and all bins were secured.

Cape Academy, Constantia – Site visit to check for attractants. All waste was securely stored. The guava and loquat trees on the property are beginning to fruit. The school has agreed that these trees can be removed to reduce potential conflict (**Fig. 6**).



Figure 6. Guava and loquat trees which will be removed from Cape Academy.

Bloekom Laan Houses, Porter Estate, Tokai – A site visit was conducted to assess attractants (avocado trees) which are encouraging baboons to the area. We are liaising with Porter Estate management to enquire whether these trees can be removed.

The Range, Tokai – All waste was stored securely in the designated bin area and no issues were observed.

Constantia Uitsig, Constantia – Assessment visit to identify attractants that are encouraging the baboons to spend extended periods of time at the property. Several issues were noted. NCC will continue to attempt to engage with the property owners to address these issues (**Fig. 7**).



Figure 7. MT2 troop members at Constantia Uitsig.



Figure 8. Closed bin at Miller's Point.

Tokai Road Stables, Tokai – Visit to speak with the grooms about previous baboon damage to the feed room wall, which the grooms subsequently repaired. The baboons have not accessed the feed room in the last month.

Miller's Point Picnic Site and Slipway, Miller's Point – Visits to check for the presence of baboon attractants. The area was clean and in good order. The new bins appear to be working well. There was an occasion where the bins were returned to their housing with the lids closed. The design of the housing prevents the lids from then being opened by members of the public. This was quickly resolved with the assistance of the City Biodiversity Management Branch and Cleansing Department staff (**Fig. 8**).

Miller's Point Resort, Miller's Point – Site visit to speak to the staff after an event where the Smitswinkel troop gained access to the bins on the kerbside. The staff were requested to put the waste bins out on the morning of collection only, and to ensure that all bins were baboon proofed. The baboons have also broken the bin storage area which will be repaired by the on-site staff. Local community volunteers assisted the resort staff with baboon proofing their bins. The on-site educational signage has faded. It has been recommended that this is replaced to assist with tourist education at the resort (**Fig. 9**).



Figure 9. Baboon damage to bin room and faded signage at Miller's Point Resort.

Ski Boat Club, Millers Point – The area was clean and free of food and waste-based attractants.

Kogelfontein Skips, Scarborough – Site visits to assess skip use. The skips were in good order and not overfilled at the time of the visits. Spoke to on-site staff with regards to the appropriate reactive behaviour when baboons visit the area.

The Peach Pip, Kommetjie Road – Courtesy visit to engage with staff and discuss any challenges that they have experienced during the last reporting period.

SA Navy Property, Waterfall Barracks, Simon's Town – Regular visits are undertaken to assess attractants at the property. The waste room at the ladies' flat is still posing a significant issue and is rarely properly secured. The baboons repeatedly target this room and are highly determined in their efforts to reach it. This makes it very challenging for the rangers to move the baboons into the natural space. This and other pertinent issues have been escalated to Building Manager of Waterfall Barracks and the Facilities Division, via the Navy Base Environmental manager (**Fig. 10**).



Figure 10. Improperly secured waste room at the ladies' flats at Waterfall Barracks.

SA Navy Property, Job Maseko Barracks, Simon's Town – Poor waste management at the Job Maseko Barracks is proving challenging for baboon management. Waste bins are left outside the kitchen door and many of them do not have lids. It was requested that on-site staff store the bins inside an outbuilding until they can be replaced/baboon proofed. Despite this request the bins are still often left out and accessed by baboons. This matter has been escalated to the Navy Base Environmental Officer (**Fig. 11**).

SA Navy Property, Signal School, Simon's Town – Site visit to assess potential baboon attractants. General waste and recycling are being stored securely at the school. There is a residential property where waste is being stored in a broken garage. The Navy Base Environmental Officer will resolve this with the tenant (**Fig. 12**).



Figure 11. Open door providing access to the kitchen and unsecured waste bins at Job Maseko Barracks.



Figure 12. Open garage and waste attractants at Signal School.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- Liaison with individual ward councillors to discuss the baboon programme and to plan future collaborations for both waste management and education initiatives in their respective wards.
- Online and face-to-face meetings with community representatives and environmental task teams to facilitate open dialogue. Local challenges and solutions were discussed, and points for future collaboration were identified.
- Meeting with the project manager of the Kommetjie Mountain Estate to discuss how the estate can be developed in such a way as to minimize conflict with the Slangkop baboon troop. Baboon-proof electric fencing and waste management was discussed and the proposed timeline for the building phases. The developer has also committed to remove the alien vegetation on land which will not be developed in the short term. This will aid with baboon management and safety by improving visibility along a key portion of Kommetjie Road.



Figure 13. Non-baboon-proof bin which was subsequently removed by the City to prevent further access to waste.

- Continued engagement with CCT Solid Waste Department and Cleansing Department to reduce baboon access to waste-based attractants. Non-baboon proof bins were removed from baboon ranging areas through collaboration with the City Biodiversity Management Branch and were replaced with baboon-proof alternatives (**Fig. 13**).

Education Initiatives:

- **Blue Fin and Kronseil Flats, Da Gama Park:** Pop-up interactive educational talk. The children learned about baboon behaviour, troop dynamics, diet and the reasons why baboons visit town. Human safety around baboons was also emphasised (**Fig. 14**).
- **Discussions with community representatives** regarding laws surrounding feeding and harming baboons, and the evidence that is required for a successful prosecution. Residents were encouraged to report legal transgressions to the baboon hotline and the relevant authorities.
- **Engagement with Ocean View Community Educators:** Met with representatives from the Ocean View Library to plan educational talks at the library in the upcoming school holidays.
- **Breaking Barriers, Ocean View:** Liaised with organizers with regards to their upcoming youth day event. NCC will be in attendance with an educational stand and will engage with the children about baboon behaviour next month.
- **Distribution of Educational Material:** Completed distributing the 'Dispersing Male Baboons' educational flyer to homes and businesses in the 'old Kommetjie' area.
- **Tourist Education:** Ongoing engagement with tourists to provide advice on responsible tourism in baboon home ranges.



Figure 14. Kids educational event at Da Gama Park.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 402 hotline calls during the month of May. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (377), followed by general enquiries (17) and reports of injured baboons (8) (**Fig. 15**).

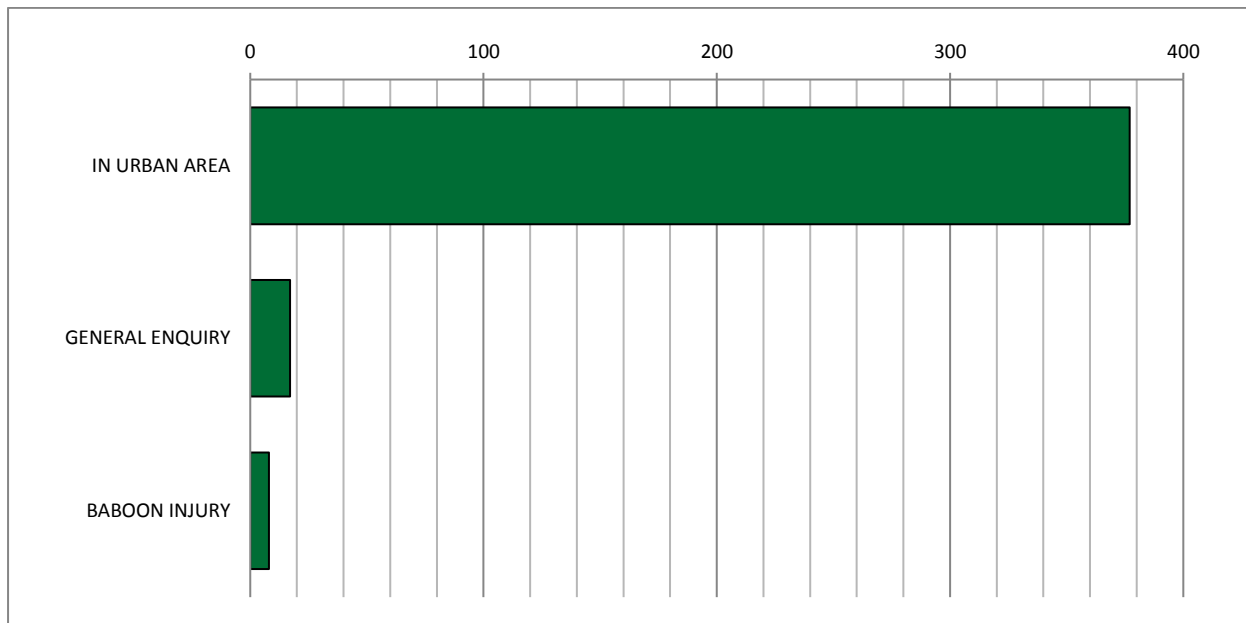


Figure 15. The number of hotline calls by type in May 2022.

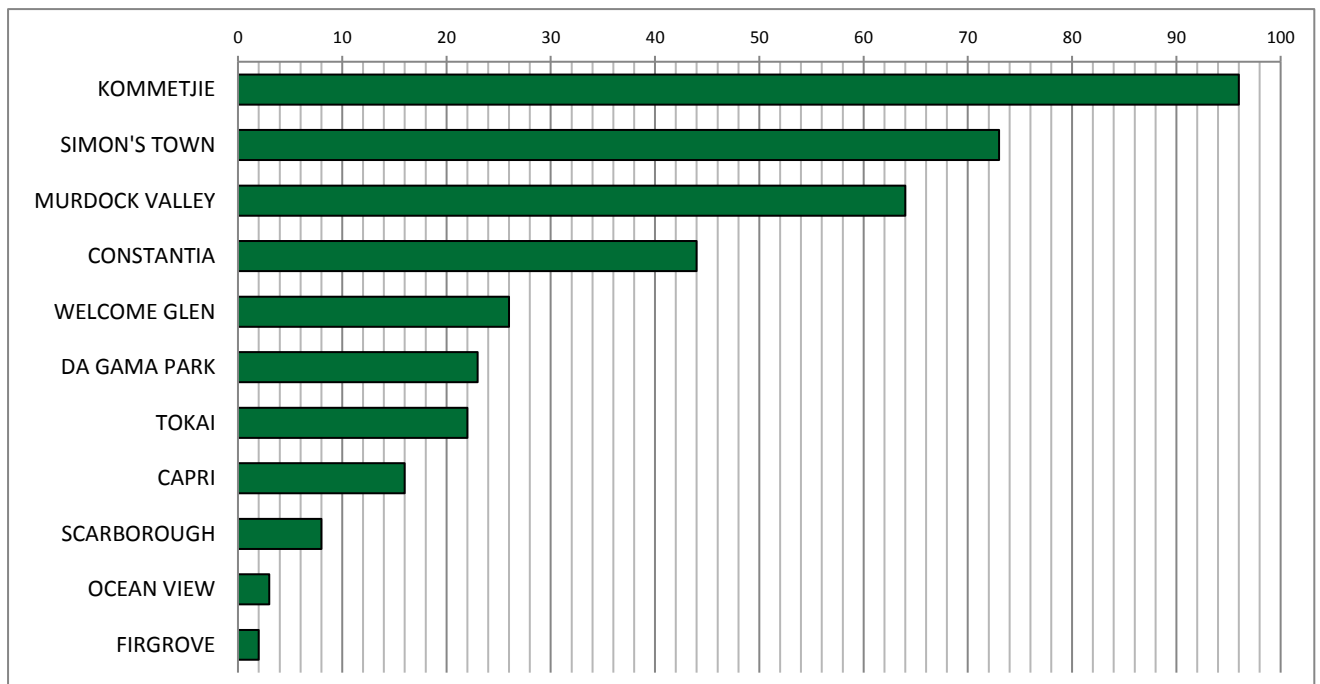


Figure 16. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence, by suburb, in May 2022.

The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Kommetjie this month as a result of the dispersing behaviour of young adult male SK13 (**Fig. 16**). The second highest number of calls were received from Simon's Town in response to the WF Troop's presence in the urban area. Similarly, many calls were received from the Murdock Valley area in response to the presence of the SWB Troop in the urban space. –
