

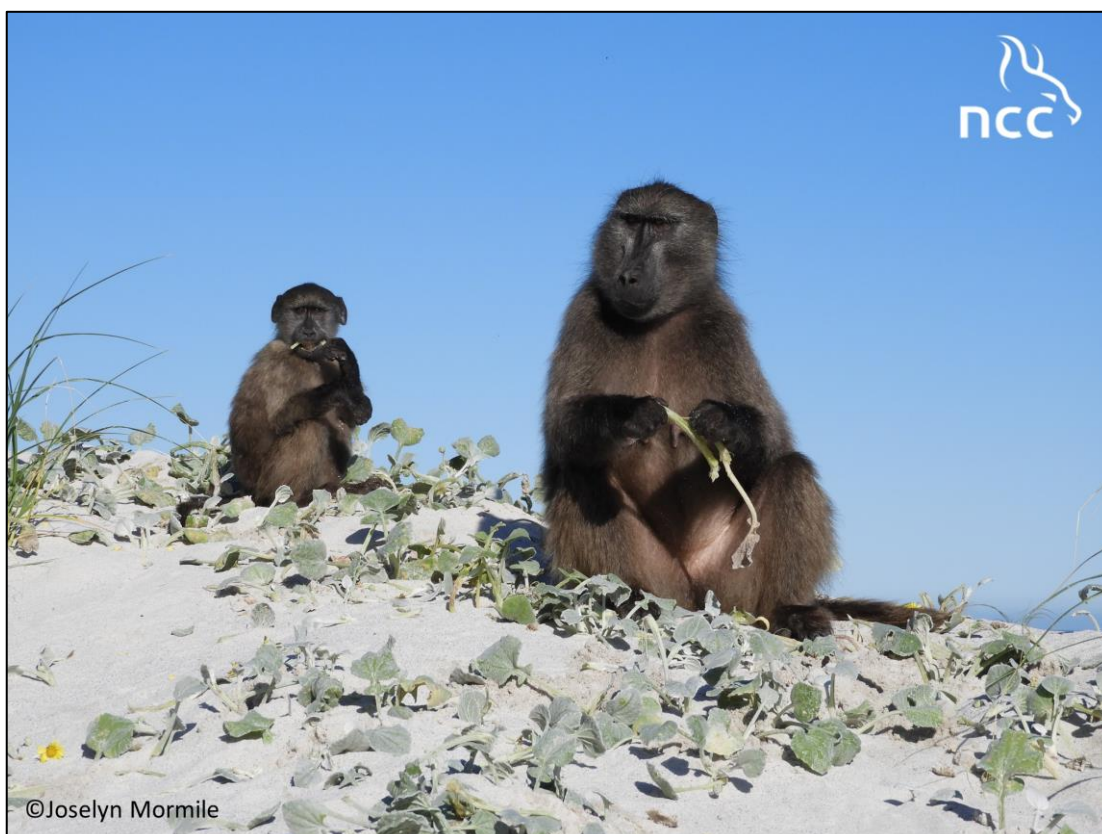


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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Urban Baboon Programme

August 2023 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION.....	3
2.1	DA GAMA TROOP (DG)	3
2.2	GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB).....	3
2.3	SLANGKOP TROOP (SK).....	3
2.4	SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB).....	4
2.5	WATERFALL TROOP (WF)	4
3	NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION	5
3.1	CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1).....	5
3.2	MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1).....	5
3.3	MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2).....	6
3.4	TOKAI TROOP (TK)	6
3.5	ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW).....	6
4	MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY	7
4.1	OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN	7
4.2	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.....	7
4.3	HOTLINE REPORTS.....	17
4.4	RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS.....	18
4.4.1.	<i>Troop Specific Recommendations & Actions</i>	<i>18</i>
4.4.2.	<i>Recommendations & Actions for all Baboon Impacted Areas.....</i>	<i>20</i>

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). This contract has been extended via a section 116 process until 31 December 2024. NCC are contracted to prevent designated 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 Da Gama Troop spent 98.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 94% 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 on a few occasions. While in these suburbs, they accessed numerous bins, particularly in Da Gama Park.
- The troop spent most of the month roosting in Dagleish Avenue pine trees, 2nd and 9th Avenue pines and the remainder of the month roosting at mountain sites.

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 spent most of their time in the southern and western sections of their ranging area.
- They have continued regularly visiting Berg Farm.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 62.4% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 94.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop returned to the Rooikrans mountain area from the Kommetjie area on 13 August.

- The troop's time in town remained high this month mostly due to time spent at Heron Park. There are considerable attractants in and around Heron Park that significantly impact the movements of the troop. This, combined with security fencing and the fact that the troop roosts inside of Lluvia, makes managing the situation with the troop in this area especially difficult.
- The amount of time spent at Heron Park is highly concerning. These concerns are heightened by the fact that the troop must cross a busy road in order to move back towards the natural mountain space posing a risk to road users and the baboons themselves.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 97.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons from the SWB Troop spent 99.6% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The SWB Troop spent nearly the entire month in the natural space where they foraged on fynbos vegetation on the mountain slopes above Miller's Point, Partridge Point, Blue Gums and Smitswinkel Bay.
- The Kanonkop Troop was spotted outside the Cape of Good Hope section of the Table Mountain National Park reserve on a few occasions this month, moving as far as Partridge Point. This impacts the SWB Troop's movement by forcing them to move in a northerly direction.
- The most frequently accessed red bins being piloted by the City of Cape Town in the Simon's Town area have now been secured with locks, which has reduced the level of attraction to the Seaforth area.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 84.7% of the time out of the urban area.¹
- Individual baboons spent 98.1% of the time out of the urban area.¹

¹ 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 urban area, facilitating easy baboon movement between them and into the urban space. When adjusting the time out of town figure to account for time spent on SA Navy property that falls within the urban space, this figure is reduced to 73% of time out of the urban area for the troop and remains the same for individuals.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The alpha male of the troop, UKP1, was humanely euthanised by the CoGH SPCA this month due to significant injuries sustained from fighting with another male baboon which became severely infected.
- The troop spent 8 days at SANAD and roosted on the mountains above SANAD on a few occasions.
- Waterfall Barracks was the most utilised roosting site this month, followed by roosting on the roofs of businesses on Simon's Town Main Road.
- This month a check was done on the Waterfall Barracks' bin areas where each block's bin room was inspected. The majority of the bin rooms no longer have latches on the doors. Baboons have managed to easily access the bin rooms at the male quarters, which has made keeping the troop out of Barracks more challenging. This information has been shared with the SA Navy.
- Plots of alien vegetation in and around Simon's Town Main Road, Cardiff Road and the Waterfall Barracks have hampered the ability of staff to encourage the baboons out of the urban area as the thick vegetation limits ranger mobility and provides a hide-out for the troop. The CCT is investigating the clearing of these plots.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 59.2% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 98.7% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent time on several private properties this month, which limited the field team's ability to encourage the troop out of the urban space. Many of these properties contain excessive attractants, such as large vegetable gardens. This contributed significantly to the amount of time spent on these properties.
- The troop roosted most of the time around the wine farms and in the Price Drive stream but also spent a few nights roosting within the urban space. The use of roosting sites within the urban space has increased over the last year in response to the removal of former roosting trees on Eagles' Nest wine estate in August 2022.

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 was observed around Porter Estate on a few occasions but spent the majority of their time above Buitenverwachting.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 91.6% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.7% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted mostly above The Range and continued to regularly enter Constantia Uitsig.
- The troop crossed Orpen Road on a few occasions and visited the Cape Academy where they accessed waste from unprotected bins.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop. The tracking collar which previously alerted the field team that the troop was moving towards Orpen Road, was recently removed. This has presented increased challenges to preventing the troop from moving 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 79% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- A few natal subadult/young adult males have continued showing signs of dispersal and have been moving in and out of the urban area of Tokai on a regular basis.

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

- None this month.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 89.4% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The SK, WF and CT1 troops did not reach 90% this month. Overall individual time out of town was 94.2% and individuals from the TK Troop did not reach 90%. Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

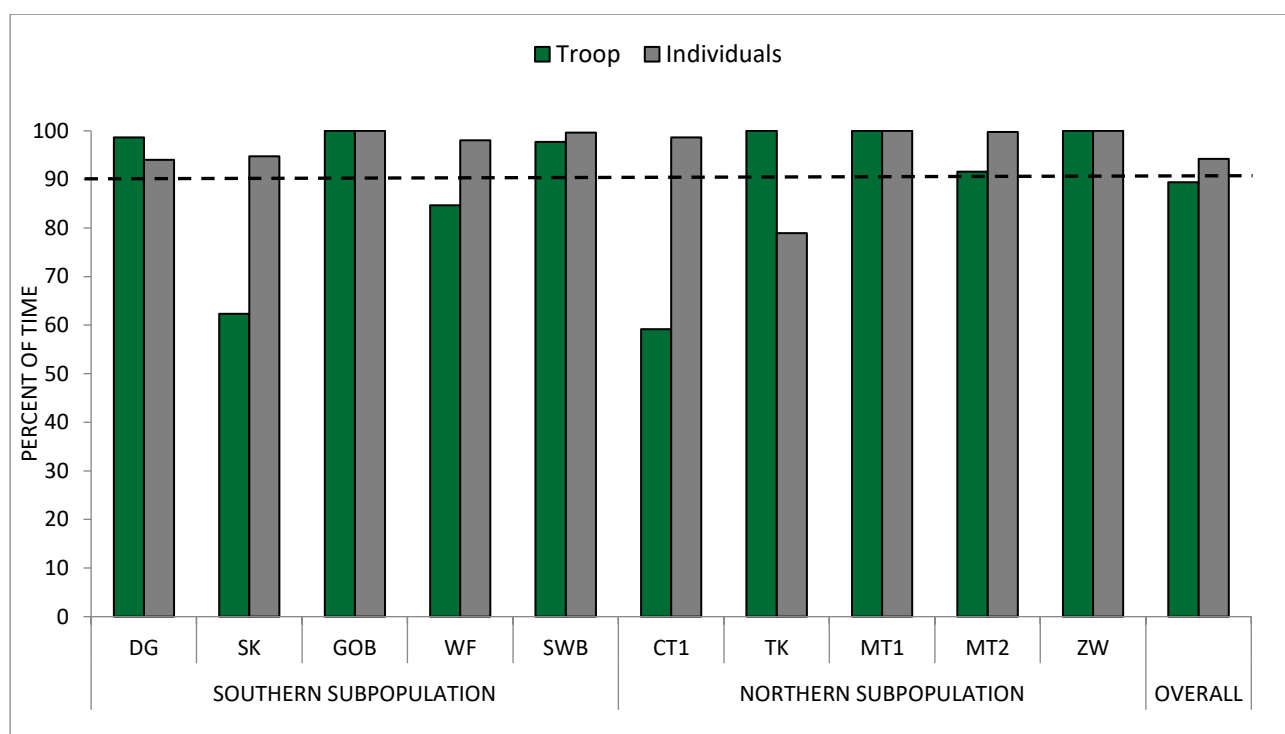


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of August 2023. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average 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, Da Gama Park, Dreyersdal, Imhoff's Gift, Kommetjie, Seaforth, Simon's Town, Tokai, Welcome Glen and Westlake:

- Engaged with residents who had suffered baboon-related property damage and suggested ways to mitigate the likelihood of similar damage in future through baboon-proofing and removal of attractants. Baboon behavior was discussed to foster a greater understanding of why baboons are motivated to enter properties.

- Addressed common misconceptions surrounding the Urban Baboon Programme to increase residents' understanding of the challenges and constraints under which the programme operates. This includes a finite budget, manpower resources as well as staff safety and wellbeing considerations. The standard operating procedures for both paintball markers and bear-bangers were also explained, and their limitations discussed.
- Engaged with residents about the presence of several male baboons who are frequenting residential areas near Tokai. Tips were offered to prevent baboons from opportunistically entering buildings or gaining access to attractants at the properties.
- Spoke to individual Constantia residents about the potential benefit of a baboon-proof electric fence on Price Drive.
- Encouraged residents to engage with the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team to discuss future long-term solutions for baboon management in their respective areas.

Illegal weapon use by members of the public – The illegal use of weapons against baboons has continued at an alarming rate across all baboon ranging areas. This behaviour is a contravention of the Animal Protection Act, Nature Conservation Ordinance and in some cases the Firearms Control Act. NCC would like to encourage witnesses of illegal behaviour to come forward so that the perpetrators can be prosecuted. Further information pertaining to the relevant legislation and the governing bodies is available for download via the following link: [Reporting Illegal Activities - Baboons | NCC Group \(ncc-group.co.za\)](https://nccgroup.co.za/reports/reporting-illegal-activities-baboons). Witnesses can also contact the baboon hotline (071 588 6540) for assistance in notifying the appropriate authorities.

Baboon and dog altercations – Two baboon and dog altercations occurred during the reporting period. As the incidents took place on private properties, no legal contraventions occurred. Where appropriate the dog owners were offered advice on how to prevent similar incidents from occurring in future.

Cape Academy, Firgrove – Waste management was under control at the time of the visit. A meeting is being organized with the grounds staff to discuss how attractants can be further minimised on the property. This will help to reduce the troop's motivation to visit and assist the ranger team in encouraging the troop out of the urban space.

Constantia Uitsig, Firgrove – Site visit to speak to individual business owners about recent baboon interactions at the property. Advice was provided on how conflict can be minimised. Several business

owners will be installing baboon-proof bin cages which will reduce the baboons' opportunity to access waste on site.

Cape Research Centre (CRC), Tokai – Refuse bags continue to be left on the ground next to the skips where the waste can be accessed by baboons, other wildlife and domestic animals. UBP staff will continue to liaise with residents about this problematic behaviour. SANParks has also been made aware of this issue (**Fig. 2**).

Eagles' Nest Wines, Constantia – Site meeting with the property's baboon management staff to facilitate teamwork between the farm and NCC rangers, thus reducing baboon access to both the farm and the urban edge. Baboon points of entry at the farm's perimeter were also highlighted and ways in which these points could be mitigated were suggested (**Fig. 3**).



Figure 2. Waste left on the ground next to the skips at the Cape Research Centre.

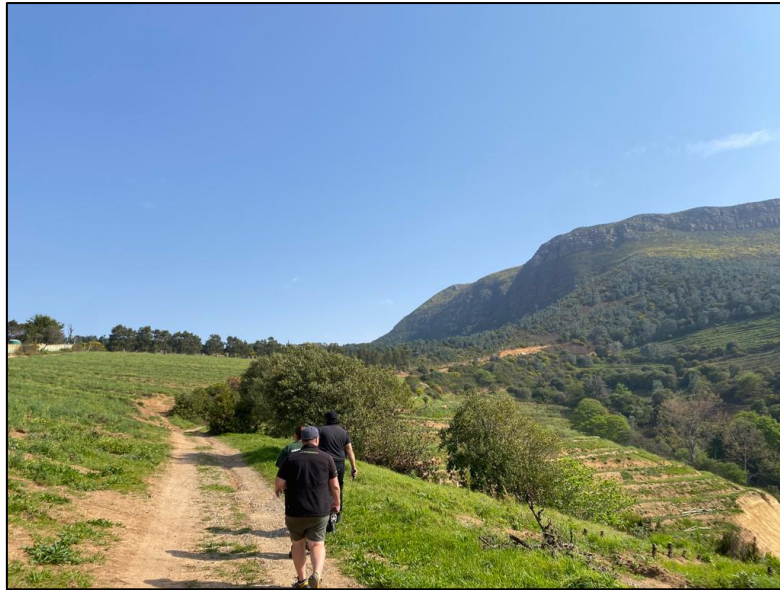


Figure 3. Site walk at Eagles Nest Wines.

Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai Road – The waste cage at the centre remains a significant attractant for baboons in the Tokai area, specifically young males who are exploring the urban edge. The presence of such a readily available source of high calorie human-derived foods only serves to motivate them to visit the urban edge more frequently and become more determined in their efforts to bypass the rangers. UBP staff are continuing to engage with the City’s Environmental Health Department to remedy the situation. Baboon-proofing advice has been continually shared directly with the landlord of the centre but has not been actioned to date (**Fig. 4**).

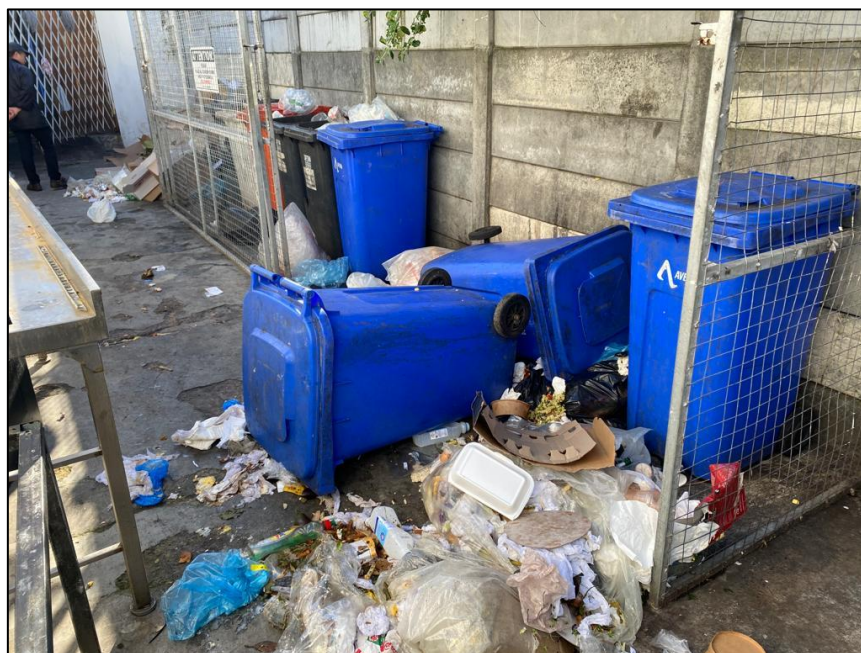


Figure 4. Waste which has been accessed by baboons at the Forest Glade Retail Centre.

Kogelfontein, Red Hill – Visits to check waste compliance. All refuse was stored inside the skips at the time of the visits.

Miller's Point Picnic and Slipway, Miller's Point – Site visit to check for waste compliance. All bins were secured and no waste-based attractants were found at the picnic/braai areas (**Fig. 5**).

Rocklands Farm, Murdock Valley – Courtesy visit to speak to the staff about baboon activity at the farm and facilitate open communication channels.



Figure 5. Good waste management at Miller's Point Picnic site.

SA Navy Property – Silvermine Naval Base, Westlake – Poor waste management is encouraging frequent visits to the property by a dispersing male baboon. UBP staff have engaged with naval staff at the base and are attempting to assist with ensuring that the bins are baboon-proofed (**Fig. 6**).

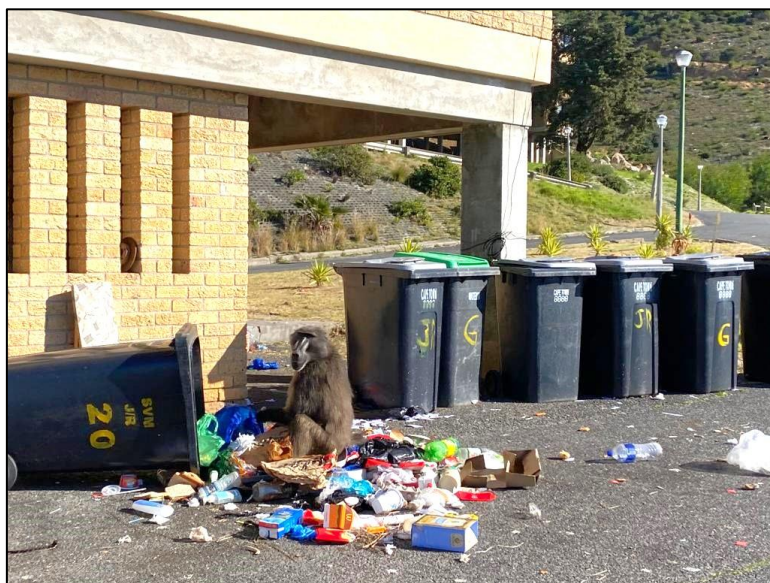


Figure 6. A dispersing young adult male baboon accessing waste at the Silvermine Naval base.

SA Navy Property – Waterfall Barracks, Simon’s Town – Site visit to check on progress following NCC’s walk around with the Navy’s environmental team during the last reporting period. Unfortunately, the problematic waste rooms have not yet been secured with new bolts. NCC has reached out to Navy staff to request that this is prioritised.

SA Navy Property – West Yard, Simon’s Town – Waste bins continue to be regularly accessed by baboons (**Fig. 7**). Recommendations have been made to the Navy to fully baboon-proof the bins, replace bins with broken lids and build dedicated waste cages to reduce access for the baboons. This has not been actioned.

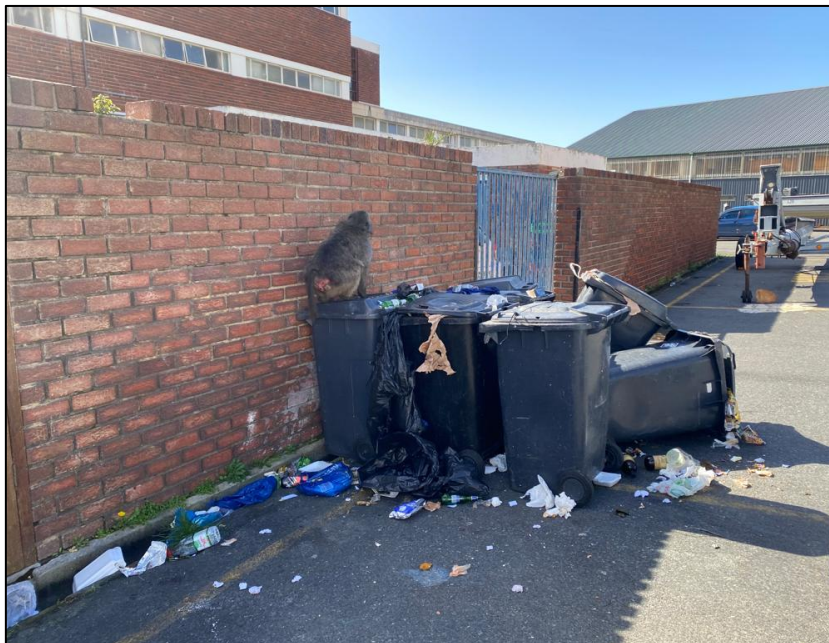


Figure 7. Female baboon accessing waste at Navy West Yard.

Silvertree Estate, Westlake – Meeting with the estate manager to discuss the presence of a dispersing male baboon who has been frequenting the property. Best practice in terms of baboon-proofing was discussed and queries about baboon management were addressed. Educational material was also shared for distribution with the estate’s residents.

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – Waste management at the picnic site remains good and no attractants were noted at the time of the visits.

Total Garage / Mugg and Bean, Tokai Road – Waste management at the property still requires improvement and an alternative needs to be found to the makeshift waste cage. UBP staff will continue to engage with and advise the staff on how to sufficiently baboon-proof their waste.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

Ongoing dialogue with community members and baboon interest groups to facilitate open communication and address any concerns which they may have. Points for collaboration such as waste management and opportunities for further community education are also identified and actioned.

Continuous liaison with Groot Constantia, Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms to ensure that all parties support each other in the task of keeping the baboons off the farms and out of the urban area as much as possible. This dialogue ensures that all stakeholders remain cognisant of each other's objectives and challenges and facilitates smoother movement of the baboons back to the natural space.

Collaboration with the CoGH SPCA on all matters related to baboon welfare. Baboon injuries and health concerns are reported to the CoGH SPCA for their attention. The NCC team also acts in a supportive role at captures when necessary.

NCC remains in close contact with the Wildlife Forensic Academy who, along with the CoGH SPCA, attempt to ascertain the cause of death for baboon fatalities where foul play is suspected or the cause of death is not immediately apparent. This assists in highlighting potential illegal or problematic behaviour in specific areas which can then be communicated to the authorities for further investigation.

Continued communication with the City's Solid Waste Department facilitated by the Biodiversity Management Branch. Problems such as delayed residential waste collection, issues with public waste bins and illegal dumping activities are all reported to ensure that they are remedied as soon as possible and their impact on baboon management is minimised (**Fig. 8**).



Figure 8. Late waste collection in baboon ranging areas provides an extended opportunity for baboons to access waste and has significant impacts on baboon management.

Problematic electrical infrastructure which is deemed to pose an elevated risk of injury or death to baboons is regularly inspected by NCC staff. Electrical poles which require re-greasing are reported to the City for their action (**Fig. 9**).



Figure 9. Greasing of problematic electrical poles remains ongoing until a long-term solution can be implemented.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Kommetjie Eco Pre-Primary School – An interactive educational talk was presented to the learners. The children learned all about basic baboon behaviour and how to behave if baboons visit the school grounds. Scenarios were played out to enhance learning and make the experience more memorable and fun. The learners also shared their own stories with the NCC team and asked lots of great questions. The children were presented with a certificate after the session with reminders of how to stay safe around baboons. Craft activities were also provided to the teachers for the children to complete during their free time (**Fig. 10**).



Figure 10. Educational presentation to the children at Kommetjie Eco Pre-Primary.

Distribution of printed and electronic educational material – Infographics and leaflets are distributed on an ongoing basis to encourage best practice and responsible behaviour for people residing or working in baboon ranging areas. These leaflets range from general advice to more targeted information such as how to report illegal activities, depending on the residents’ requirement.

Opportunistic engagement with Seaforth residents and businesses – Senior UBP staff continue to engage with and educate Seaforth residents on how to baboon-proof their properties to mitigate incursions and incidents with the local baboon troop. The current programme no longer provides field rangers to this troop, but education in the area remains a priority (**Fig. 11**).



Figure 11. The absence of rangers in the Seaforth area allows baboons unmitigated access to food attractants.

Snare Free Initiative – Representatives from the UBP attended the official launch of the Snare Free initiative at Kirstenbosch Gardens (**Fig. 12**). This initiative will help ensure a quick and efficient response to wildlife snaring incidents. We commend the Snare Free partners on this incredibly important initiative. NCC will endeavour to help to raise awareness in the communities and assist the Snare Free team wherever possible. To report an animal in a snare anywhere throughout the Western Cape, please phone 076 127 8485. More information can be found at www.snarefree.co.za.



Figure 12. UBP staff members Fanus Ferreira (Area Manager) and Joselyn Mormile (Project Manager) pictured at the Snare Free Launch with Dr Katy Williams of the Cape Leopard Trust, Jon Friedman of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA and Dr Greg Simpson of the Wildlife Forensic Academy.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 734 hotline calls during the month of August. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (693), followed by general enquires (29) and reports of injured baboons (12) (**Fig. 13**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Kommetjie in response to the presence of the Slangkop Troop for the first half of the month. The second highest number of calls came from Constantia and Tokai in response to visits from the CT1 Troop and individual males from the Tokai Troop moving through the urban space (**Fig. 14**). Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

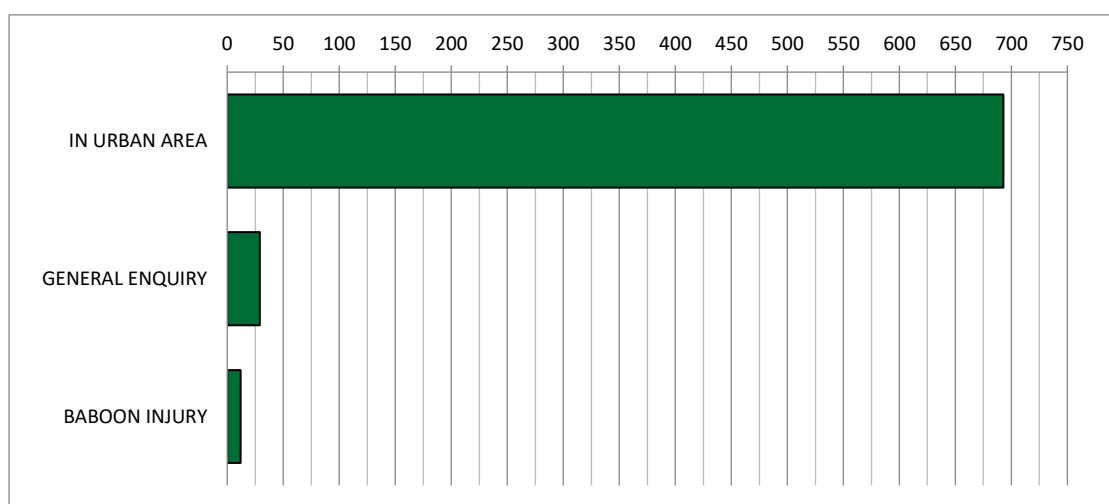


Figure 13. The number of hotline calls by type in August 2023.

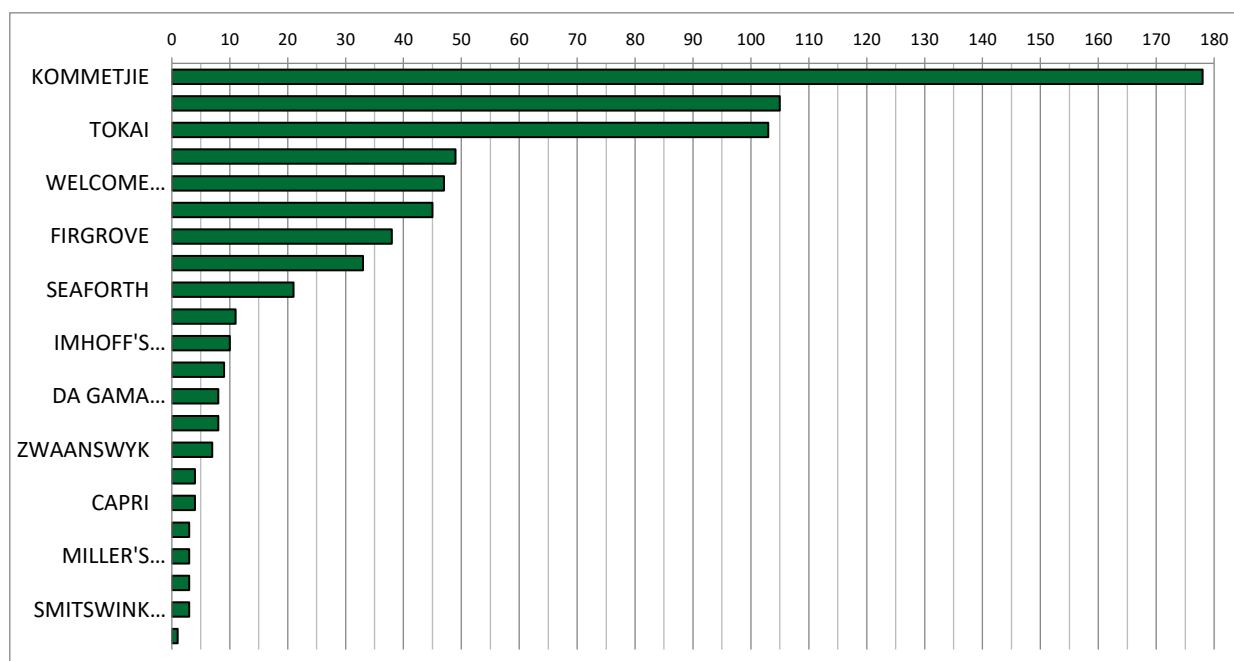


Figure 14. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in August 2023.

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-term mitigation measures for electricity poles and power lines in baboon ranging areas while long-term measures are put in place.	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 undetected. It also poses a fire risk to the built-up area.	No known clearing this month.	Continued clearing.
GOB	Residents of Scarborough 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.
GOB	Owners of rental properties should alert their guest to the possible presence of baboons and proper conduct required to mitigate against conflicts.	None this month.	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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
SK	Though baboons do not move through Kommetjie often, residents of Kommetjie should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
SK	The installation of electric fencing aprons on the roofs of businesses within the Heron Park industrial area and baboon-proof bin storage would reduce the amount of time the troop spends in this area.	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.	None this month.	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.
TK/ZW	Forest Glade Centre should improve their bin cage to improve waste management & reduce attractants to baboons.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Alterations by owner.
CT1/MT1/MT2/TK/ZW	The Constantia wine farms and the UBP should collaborate on management strategies as per the CapeNature permit agreement.	See section 4.2, STAKEHOLDER LIAISON	Ongoing 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 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 & the Snare Free initiative at 076 127 8485	A request that the public alert the Baboon Hotline & the newly formed Snare Free initiative 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.