



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

December 2022 Monthly Report



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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 Da Gama Troop spent 97.7% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 90.1% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and individuals moved through the residential areas in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen on several occasions where they accessed food from bins.
- TK55 and one /two adult females frequently split from the troop and moved into the urban area as far as the Navy Transport Depot, while the main troop remained in the natural space. On one occasion, this small group slept several kilometres away from the troop.
- Refuse was collected late in the day on two occasions, resulting in individual baboons accessing more bins.

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 an unknown amount of the time in the urban area.¹

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), spending most of their time in the southern and western sections of their ranging area.
- Two adult females, a juvenile male and an infant that arrived in Scarborough a few months back, have remained in the Scarborough area. The individuals are suspected of originating from the GOB troop but this cannot be definitively confirmed. Continued attempts to catch and release these individuals back into the reserve area are planned.

¹ Individual time in town is unknown for the two adult females, a juvenile male and an infant that arrived in Scarborough and continue to move independently from the troop without field rangers assigned to them.

2.3. SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 94.9% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 90.1% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop largely moved throughout the eastern and western portions of their ranging area.
- The troop entered Capri and Ocean View where they accessed bins on a few occasions.
- There has been an increase in intra-male aggression and splitting as the males fight for dominance, following the humane euthanasia of alpha male (SK10) following severe illness of an unknown cause, this month.

2.4. SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 84.3% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 80.8% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- WF8 has continued to move north towards and into Simon's Town. This encouraged the movement of the SWB Troop in this direction, and subsequently the troop spent time in Simon's Town and Seaforth. Individuals moved even further this month into West Yard.
- Splintering of the troop has significantly increased this month. WF8, along with up to 10 individuals, slept separately from the rest of the troop on 13 occasions. On 8 of these occasions, they roosted in the East Yard. SWB13 also began displaying this behaviour this month. He, along with up to 5 individuals, moved away from the main troop on a regular basis and roosted separately on several occasions. The distance between the splinter groups has reached up to 7km, presenting extreme management challenges to the allocated staff in this area.
- The tracking collar worn by WF8 is used as a tool to track the troop, however this has become decreasingly effective as a troop-monitoring device as he is often far from the majority of the troop.

2.5. WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 87.3% of the time out of the urban area.²
- Individual baboons spent 96.6% of the time out of the urban area.²

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.
- 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.
- WF9 & UKP1 fought on multiple occasions. Following these interactions, WF9 and up to 12 individuals, often split away from the rest of the troop.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 99.6% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.8% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's time in town remained similar to last month. This was largely due to the troop spending more time in the mountains above the wine farms and on the wine farms themselves.
- The troop only entered the urban space on one occasion this month, and continued to roost above the wine farms and south of the Price Drive stream.

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 spent the majority of the time above Buitenverwachting and roosted on Porter Estate on one occasion.

² 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 65.9% of time out of the urban area for the troop and 93.3% for individuals.

- Adult male MT19 from the Mountain Troop has been attempting to integrate with the Tokai Troop this month.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 99.8% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted above The Range for the majority of the month.
- The troop crossed Orpen Road and went to Cape Academy on one occasion during the month.
- The troop continues to enter Constantia Uitsig on a regular basis.
- The tracking collar has continued to be valuable in monitoring the troop's movement and assisted the field team in preventing them from moving deeper into the urban space.
- The fruit trees along Orpen Road serve as a significant attractant to the roadside and boundary of 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 99.2% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals gained access to food from tables at the Tokai Picnic on one occasion, and accessed the urban areas of Tokai and Zwaanswyk on three occasions.
- Adult male MT19 from the Mountain Troop has been attempting to integrate with the Tokai Troop this month.

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 the overlap of their ranging areas.
- Individuals gained access to food at the Tokai Picnic area on one occasion.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 96.4% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The WF & SWB troops did not reach 90% this month. Overall individual time out of town was 95.2%, however individuals from the SWB Troop did not reach 90%. Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their respective summary above.

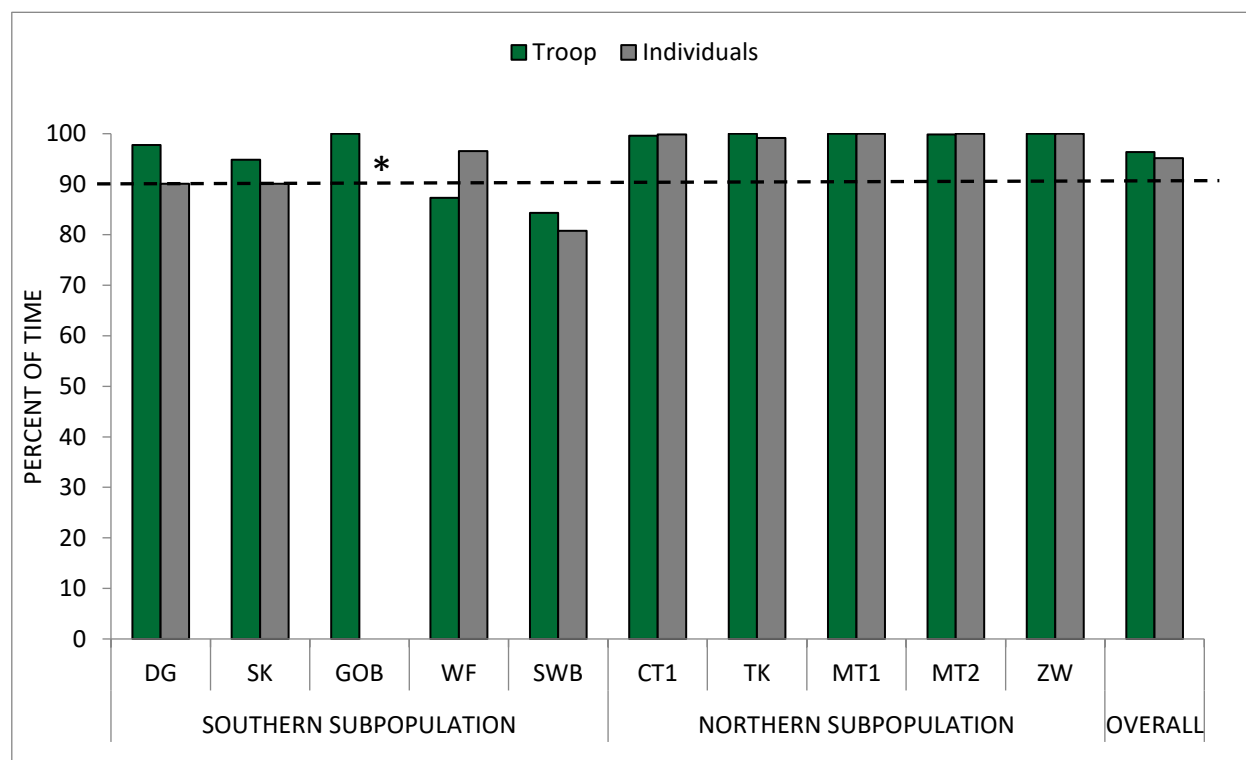


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of December 2022. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average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

*Time in town for GOB individuals was unknown this 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 Da Gama Park, Imhoff's Gift, Welcome Glen, Simon's Town, Seaforth & Murdock Valley:

- Visited residents who had experienced baboon damage to their vehicles and properties. In cases where preventative measures could be implemented, residents were provided with advice on how to mitigate future damage. This included but was not limited to calling the hotline when baboons are in the urban area, baboon-proofing properties and/or strengthening existing infrastructure, as well as joining local WhatsApp baboon sighting groups which serve as an early warning when baboons are in the area.
- Notified residents of the need to remove or secure fruiting trees and vegetable gardens in baboon ranging areas.
- Discussed baboon management challenges with residents specific to their neighborhood, to foster an increased understanding of the Urban Baboon Programme, its successes, and its limitations. Troop dynamics, how these dynamics influence the frequency of urban incursions and how management techniques are adapted to mitigate this were also discussed. Ways in which Urban Baboon Programme staff and community members can work together to reduce human baboon conflict were also identified.
- Liaised with residents about the future of the Urban Baboon Programme and possible outcomes for their area. Residents were encouraged to respond to the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team's draft strategic management plan with their comments or concerns upon its release.
- Provided general baboon-proofing advice to Seaforth residents who have experienced an increase in baboon activity due to the splintering of the Smitswinkel Bay Troop.
- Advised residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour when faced with a baboon on their property. Best practice and safety measures were also discussed in terms of how residents can encourage baboons to leave their properties.
- Engaged with individual residents over the presence of baboon attractants at their properties. Residents were advised to remove, mitigate, or secure the attractants in order to reduce the potential for human-baboon conflict.
- Discussed the standard operating procedures for bear bangers with individual residents to increase understanding of when and how these tools are used to assist with management.

- Assessed individual properties at the owners' request to recommend measures to prevent or reduce baboon visits and mitigate property damage.
- Advised witnesses who observed people feeding or harming the baboons of the relevant legislation and the correct procedures for reporting these incidents.

Alleged deliberate feeding of baboons by members of the public – Responded to reports of members of the public placing food out for the baboons. It was not possible to gather evidence for prosecution in these cases. However, members of the public are reminded that feeding baboons is illegal under the Animal Keeping By-law, 2021 28. (2): *No person may deliberately or negligently feed any wild animal that is not in captivity, with the exclusion of bird feeders.* It is also a contravention of the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 19 of 1974: *No person shall, Hunt or feed baboons.* A fine of up to R40 000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or both such fine and imprisonment can be applied if sufficient evidence is gathered for prosecution in the case of deliberate feeding.

Alleged paintball marker use by members of the public – Followed up on reports of paintball marker use against baboons. Residents were advised of the illegality and consequences of such actions. The applicable sections of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974 and Animal Protection Act were highlighted to the alleged offenders. Unfortunately, the evidence available was not sufficient to facilitate a prosecution.

Black Marlin Restaurant, Miller's Point – Site visit to check for attractants. The area was neat and tidy. The electric fence still provides potential access points for the baboons (**Fig. 2**). The Urban Baboon Programme staff have reached out to the General Manager at The Black Marlin to discuss how these points can be further mitigated to reduce baboon access.

Happy Valley Home, Simon's Town – Inspection of the waste storage area, all was in order.



Figure 2. Gap in the electric fence at the Black Marlin where the baboons can gain access to the property.

Kogelfontein, Red Hill – Site visit to check for waste-based baboon attractants. Skips have been placed at the property again. These were overfilled at the time of the visit and additional bags had been dumped at the side of the skips (**Fig. 3**). The issue was raised with SANParks who arranged for the waste to be collected. SANParks staff and NCC will continue to monitor the situation to ensure good waste management.



Figure 3. Overfilled skips and dumping at Kogelfontein.

Miller's Point Resort, Miller's Point – Visit to check for waste management and speak to the staff about the upcoming festive period and the potential for increased human-baboon conflict. The area was neat and tidy, and educational signage was provided and placed in the communal areas at the campsite. It was noted that the large outdoor educational sign still requires replacement (**Fig. 4**). A request was made to the City of Cape Town for new signage.



Figure 4. Faded signage at Miller's Point Resort. A replacement has been requested.

Miller's Point Picnic Site & Slipway, Miller's Point – Site visits to check for waste-based attractants. The area was neat and tidy at the time of the visits (**Fig. 5**).

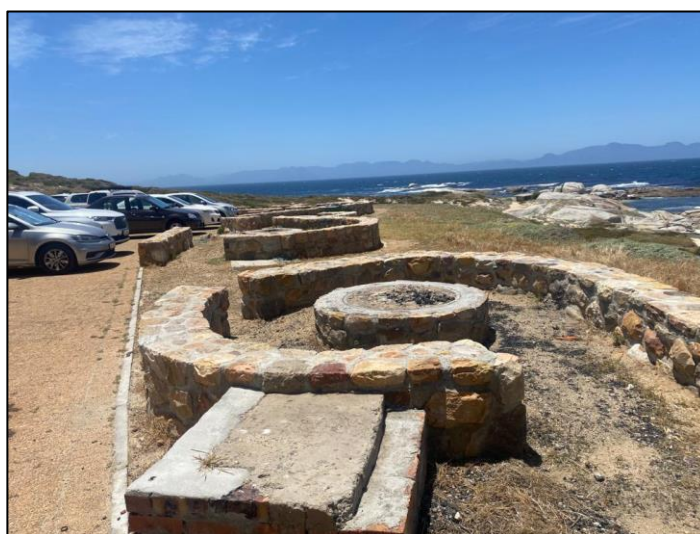


Figure 5. Good waste management at Miller's Point Picnic Site.

Cape Boat & Ski-Boat Club – No significant baboon attractants were noted at the time of the visits.

SA Navy Property, Job Maseko, Seaforth – Waste management at Job Maseko has been much improved but remains inconsistent. Most waste is being stored inside, but dumping of residential waste by Navy staff remains an issue (**Fig. 6**). One bin is also often left outside. The Urban Baboon Programme staff will continue to liaise with the Navy to encourage further improvement.



Figure 6. Dumping under educational signage, and food and waste (watermelon) outside Job Maseko.

SA Navy Property, Navy Sports Field and Pool, Seaforth – Site visit to discuss alleged feeding at the property. It was determined that this action had been carried out by a car guard at Seaforth who no longer works there. Further action could not be taken in this case.

SA Navy Property, Waterfall Barracks, Simon’s Town – Visit to check that the recycling area had been properly secured as requested. The door was chained and padlocked, and general waste management was good at the time of the visit.

SA Navy Property, West Yard, Simon’s Town – Secure waste storage remains a challenge at West Yard. The Urban Baboon Programme staff and key individuals at the Navy are working together to mitigate waste attractants. Materials are being collected to begin work on temporary secure bin storage areas. The Navy will continue to follow their tender process so that permanent steel bin cages can be built as soon as possible.

The Village Hub, Scarborough – Site visit to assess baboon attractants. Doors and windows at the property are often left open when the staff are aware that baboons are in the area, except for the side door. Despite numerous visits by the Urban Baboon Programme staff, no observable improvement has been made. This has led to a high level of human-baboon conflict at the property. The repeated opportunities for baboons to access food rewards has led to them visit the property on an almost daily basis (**Fig. 7**).



Figure 7. Juvenile baboon accessing food that had been disposed of in the recycling area at The Village Hub.

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – A new skip with a plastic lid has been placed on site, which cannot be fully secured and is therefore accessible to the baboons (**Fig. 8**). This has been highlighted to SANParks for their action.



Figure 8. Baboon accessing waste at Tokai Picnic Site.

Zwaanswyk Estate, Tokai – Liaised with the estate staff to identify points where the baboons had bypassed the electric fence on the western perimeter. These access points were mitigated and there have been no further incursions at these points (**Fig. 9**).



Figure 9. Razor wire used to prevent baboons from accessing Zwaanswyk via tower anchor wires.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

Attended a walk around with the Blue Water Estate Residents Association to discuss recent baboon activity and known baboon entry points. Vegetation that could be used by the baboons to access the estate was identified for trimming. Baboon attractants were also discussed and ways in which these attractants could be mitigated were highlighted. Current body corporate regulations may need to be adapted to accommodate baboon proofing, such as building secure structures for vegetable gardens. NCC has offered to assist with any supporting documentation required to facilitate these changes.

Continued engagement with CCT Solid Waste and Cleansing Departments to reduce baboon access to waste-based attractants and facilitate timely collections in baboon ranging areas. Late collection of waste during the reporting period has been problematic. The extended time period in which the baboons can access the waste increases the difficulty of moving and keeping the baboons out of the urban area, increases wind-blown litter pollution and poses risks to baboon and human health (**Figure 10**). NCC and the City's Biodiversity Management Branch will continue to liaise with the relevant City departments to alleviate this issue.



Figure 10. Domestic waste accessed by baboons in Da Gama Park.

Ongoing consultation and collaboration with the Cape of Good Hope SPCA concerning baboon injuries, welfare matters and contraventions of the Animal Protection Act by members of the public.

Liaison with the City's Electricity Generation and Distribution Department to request mitigation measures be put in place on electrical poles on Rhodes Drive where a baboon was injured. This dialogue was facilitated by the City's Biodiversity Management Branch.

Liaison with Solid Waste Law Enforcement via the City's Biodiversity Management Branch to improve waste management. Issues such as kerbside dumping and insufficient waste bin capacity have been highlighted for their attention (**Fig. 11**).

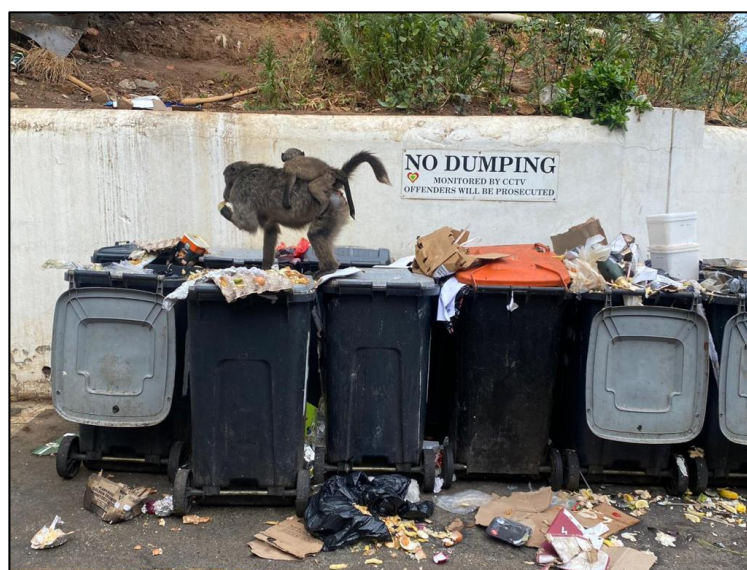


Figure 11. Baboons accessing overfilled and unsecured bins containing significant food attractants. Photo supplied by resident and shared with permission.

Engagement with businesses in the Seaforth area to provide advice on ways to reduce attractants and improve baboon-proofing following the increase in baboon visits to the area. Ways in which the Urban Baboon Programme staff and local businesses can assist each other going forward were also discussed.

Many of the community members who reside in baboon ranging areas kindly provided our rangers with a variety of end of year gifts and contributions. Some rangers were even gifted a full Christmas dinner. We would like to acknowledge these individuals for their kindness, generosity and for supporting our rangers, not only at the end of the year but also throughout it.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES:

Distribution of Educational leaflets: Approximately 150 'Baboons A Lifestyle Choice' leaflets were delivered to residents in Imhoff's Gift. During distribution, the community conservation manager and area manager also engaged with individual residents to increase local understanding of the Urban Baboon Programme and discuss how the community can help to reduce the frequency of baboon incursions. 100 leaflets were also provided to residents in Blue Water Estate. Due to estate access regulations, these were given to the security guards for direct distribution to residents.

Electronic distribution of educational material: Educational material for tourists was shared with guesthouses for inclusion in their guest welcome packs. The leaflet titled 'How to be Baboon Wise - A visitor's guide to the laws and guidelines regarding baboons on the Cape Peninsula' can be accessed via the following link: [Information and Leaflets | NCC Group \(ncc-group.co.za\)](https://ncc-group.co.za/information-and-leaflets)

Opportunistic engagement with tourists: Significant efforts were made to directly engage with and educate tourists in order to reduce potential human baboon conflict over the festive period (**Fig. 12**). Baboon behaviour and misconceptions were discussed and tips on how to behave responsibly around the baboons were shared.



Figure 12. The festive period brings increased opportunity for human-baboon conflict. Tourist education is therefore vital.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 397 hotline calls during the month of December. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (383), followed by general enquires (11) and reports of injured baboons (3) (**Fig. 13**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Simon's Town and Murdock Valley areas in response to the presence of the WF & SWB troops (**Fig. 14**). Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

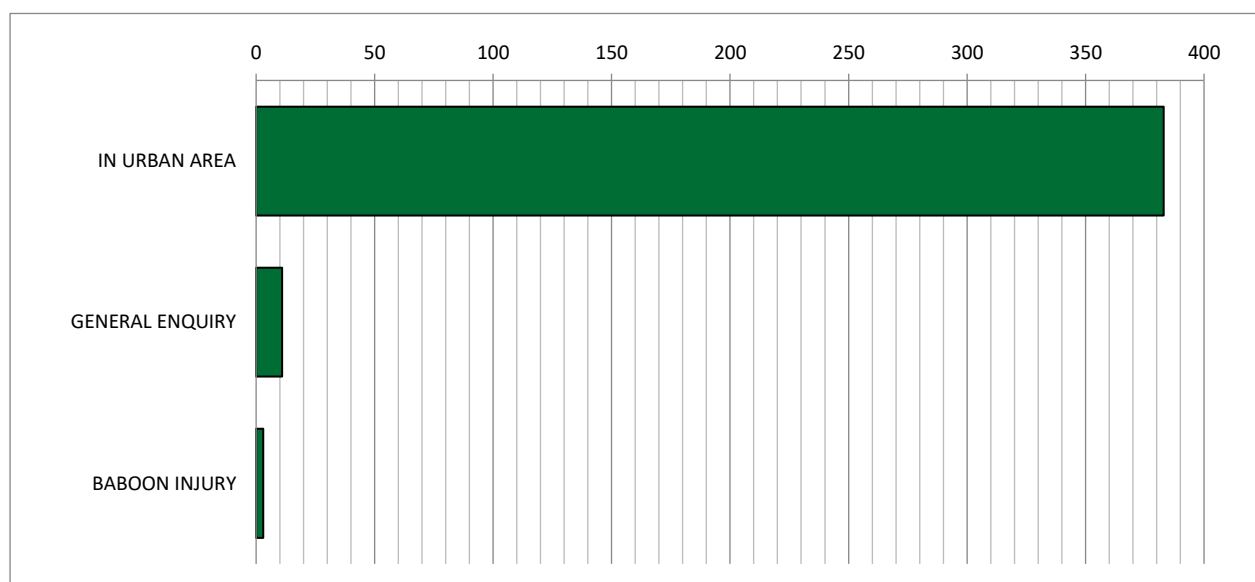


Figure 13. The number of hotline calls by type in December 2022.

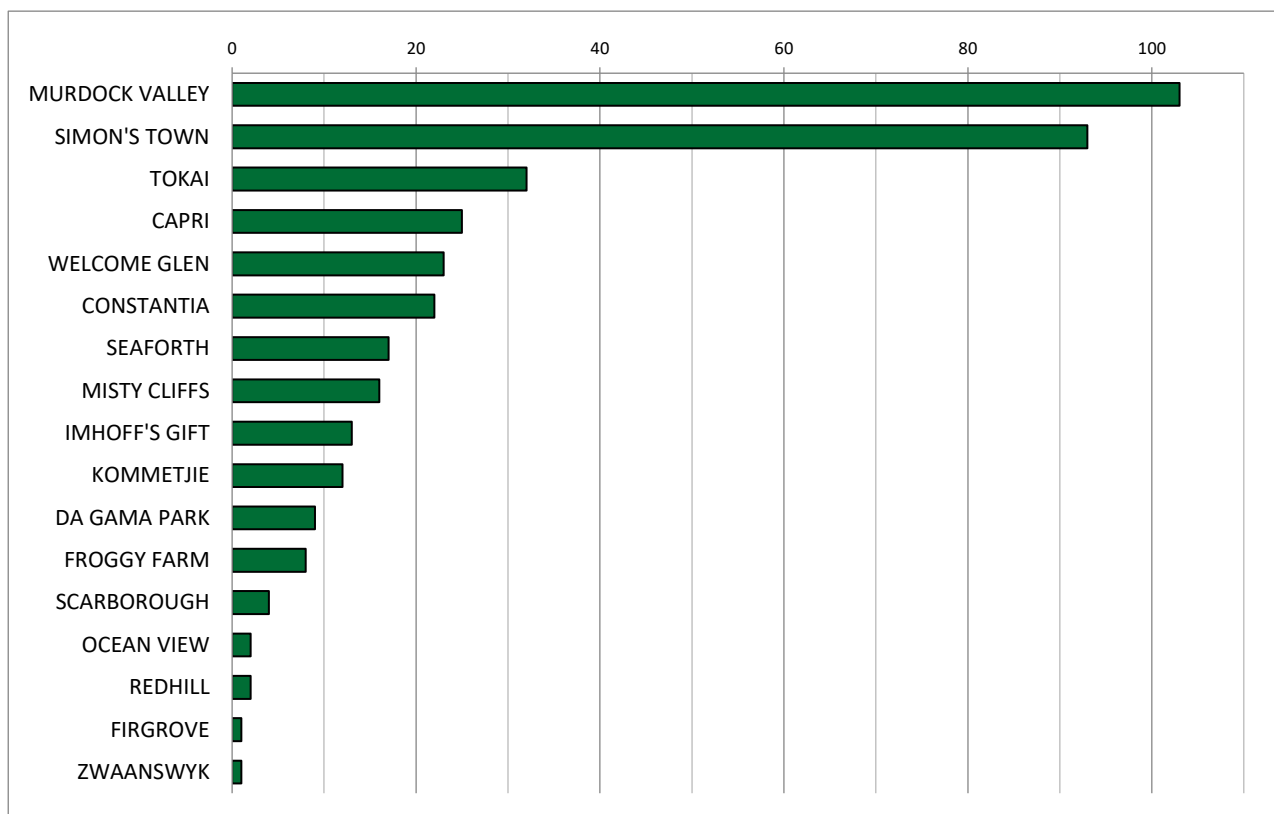


Figure 14. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in December 2022.

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 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.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	Ongoing community engagement.
GOB	Owners of rental properties should alert their guests 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.

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.	None this month.	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.	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.	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.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing monitoring, reporting & engagement.
TK/ZW	Forest Glade Centre should improve their bin cage to improve waste management & reduce attractants to baboons.	None this month.	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.	Ongoing engagement with CapeNature & relevant wine farms.	Ongoing engagement.
MT1/MT2/TK/ZW	Cape Academy should consider removing fruiting trees from their property to reduce attractants on their property.	None this month.	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.	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.	None this month.	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.