



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

Jan 2025 Monthly Report



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1 INTRODUCTION

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (NCC) was appointed by Shark Spotters on the 1 January 2025 for 2 months. NCC were contracted by Shark Spotters to continue the Urban Baboon Programme and continue to prevent the assigned baboon troops from entering the urban area for at least 90% of daylight hours to minimise human-baboon conflicts. From 1 March 2025, Shark Spotters will take over the baboon programme.

2 SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 96% of the time.
- The field team kept individual baboons out of the urban area 99.8% of the time. This figure excludes the small split group that is not monitored full-time by the programme.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop slept mainly on the Da Gama Park flats roof and one night on the cliffs at Winford farm.
- The troop moved through the residential areas of Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park on numerous occasions.
- The small separate group of females and juveniles from DG Troop are still not showing signs of interest in re-joining the troop. They have continued to spend most of their time in Welcome Glen and Glencairn. This month they accessed an unoccupied house in Glencairn.
- One unidentified juvenile accessed an unoccupied house in Da Gama Park.

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 99.5% of the time.
- The field team kept individual baboons out of the urban area 100% of the time.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop slept within the Cape of Good Hope section of TMNP for the majority of the month, followed by Wildschutsbrand, Perdekloof, and one night at Shamballah.
- The troop visited both Redhill and Scarborough this month, but were quickly moved out of the urban area by the rangers.

- The GOB Troop and unknown reserve troop were seen in close proximity to each other this month however no interactions took place.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 79.1% of the time.
- The field team kept individual baboons out of the urban area 92.6% of the time.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop slept on the cliffs behind Ocean View, the Compass cliffs and on the roof of businesses at Heron Park.
- SK15 and SK16 went to Capri and Heron Park on their own or with a small group on several occasions this month.
- The troop attempted to break the line to Kommetjie on a few occasions. Fortunately, the rangers were able to keep the line strong and prevent this movement.
- The individuals, and the troop on occasion, entered Blue Water Estate more often this month.
- The troop visited the Wildevolelei Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Kommetjie waste dump site on several occasions this month. This made it very difficult for the field team to encourage the troop out of the Heron Park area.
- An unknown adult male arrived in Kommetjie this month and has been reported to be accessing houses in the area.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 98.9% of the time.
- The field team kept individual baboons out of the urban area 99.7% of the time.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's most utilized sleep sites were cliffs by Marina Reserve, Castle Rock, Black Marlin, Blue Gums, Patridge Point and Smitswinkel Bay. The troop's sleep site was unknown on nine occasions as the troop did not come down the mountain and was therefore not seen on these days.
- The troop spent a significant amount of time in the southern portion of their ranging area this month, including by Smitswinkel Bay.
- The troop accessed bins at Miller's Point and the Ski Boat Club on a few occasions this month.

- SWB6 accessed the café on Rocklands Farm where we managed to grab food before he was quickly chased out.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 69.8% of the time.¹
- The field team kept individual baboons out of the urban area 73.6% of the time.¹

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop slept predominantly on the roofs of businesses on the Main Road, SANAD and Waterfall Barracks this month. On a numerous occasions, the troop slept separately with some individuals at the West Yard and others on the Main Road or split between the Waterfall Barracks and Main Road.
- On occasion WFF8, WF10 and TK63 continue to take raiding parties with them down to town. Even when moving as a troop, as soon as the troop enters the urban area, these individuals and their small groups move in different directions. This negatively impacts the field team's ability to encourage the troop out of town as they do not move as a cohesive unit.
- Window and door breaking behaviour has continued. Numerous incidents were again reported and/or witnessed this month, contributing to rising frustrations in the community. This behaviour is witnessed by numerous individuals within the troop.
- WF12 has continued to be recorded as moving on his own without the troop as well as forcibly breaking windows and roofs to gain access to buildings.
- UKP3 disappeared early in the month. We are unaware of the cause of his disappearance.
- Major attractions in the urban area remain a significant factor responsible for the troop spending time in the urban area. Extremely poor management of Navy properties and their waste, as well as unsecured restaurant bins on Main Road remain the most significant of these attractants.

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 58% of time out of the urban area for the troop and 65.2% for individuals.**

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 58.1% of the time.
- The field team kept individuals out of the urban area 100% of the time.
- The figure for individual time out of town does not include the small group led by CON19 as resources do not allow for their continual monitoring.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop utilized a variety of sleep sites for this month. They slept predominantly in trees on along Constantia Main Road, residential properties on Belair Drive and Pear Lane and in Del Hel Nature Reserve.
- CON19 and his small group slept separately from the troop for the majority of the month, predominantly in Pear Lane.
- The troop spent a significant amount of time in town due to restriction of ranger access to Constantia Mist, Eagles' Nest and Constantia Glen. These properties continue to push the troop towards Constantia Main Road, which prevents the field team from encouraging the troop back towards the mountains behind these farms. Discussions between these farms, CapeNature and NCC took place this month in an attempt to resolve these challenges, but a resolution has not yet been determined.
- The troop moved between Belair Drive and Price Drive, Eagles' Nest farm, De Hel Nature Reserve and Cecelia Forest again this month.

3.2 MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 100% of the time.
- The field team kept individuals out of the urban area 100% of the time.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent the majority of the month time foraging and sleeping on Buitenverwachting and Klein Constantia farms.
- The troop interacted with TK Troop on Chrysalis Academy on a few occasions this month, without negative interactions.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 96.6% of the time.
- The field team kept individuals out of the urban area 99.7% of the time.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop slept predominantly in trees at The Range.
- The troop was seen foraging with the TK Troop on multiple occasions without negative interactions and the two troops slept at same location on a few nights.
- Intermittent movement between males from MT2 and TK troops has continued.
- The troop was also seen foraging with MT1 without negative interactions.
- The clustering of the MT1, MT2, TK and ZW troops around Porter Estate is largely related to pressure from the Buitenverwachting ranger staff who move all four troops in that direction away from their farm.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 100% of the time.
- The field team kept individuals out of the urban area 78.7% of the time.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop slept predominantly in the pine trees at the Tokai Picnic this month.
- Individual males TK65, TK66, TK68 and TK72 entered the urban area on numerous occasions this month where they were recorded as accessing bins and entering occupied houses and vehicles.
- TK70 was humanely euthanised in accordance with the BTTG03 guideline.
- UKP4 was humanely euthanised in accordance with the BTTG04 guideline.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The field team kept the troop out of the urban area 100% of the time.
- The field team kept individuals out of the urban area 100% of the time.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop slept predominantly at the Manor House pine trees, Chrysalis trees and the Tea Garden trees sleep sites this month.
- Neither the troop nor individuals entered the urban area this month.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 89.9% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The CT1, SK and WF troops did not reach 90% of time this month. Overall individual time out of town was 94.8%. Factors that impacted the differing levels of success for these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

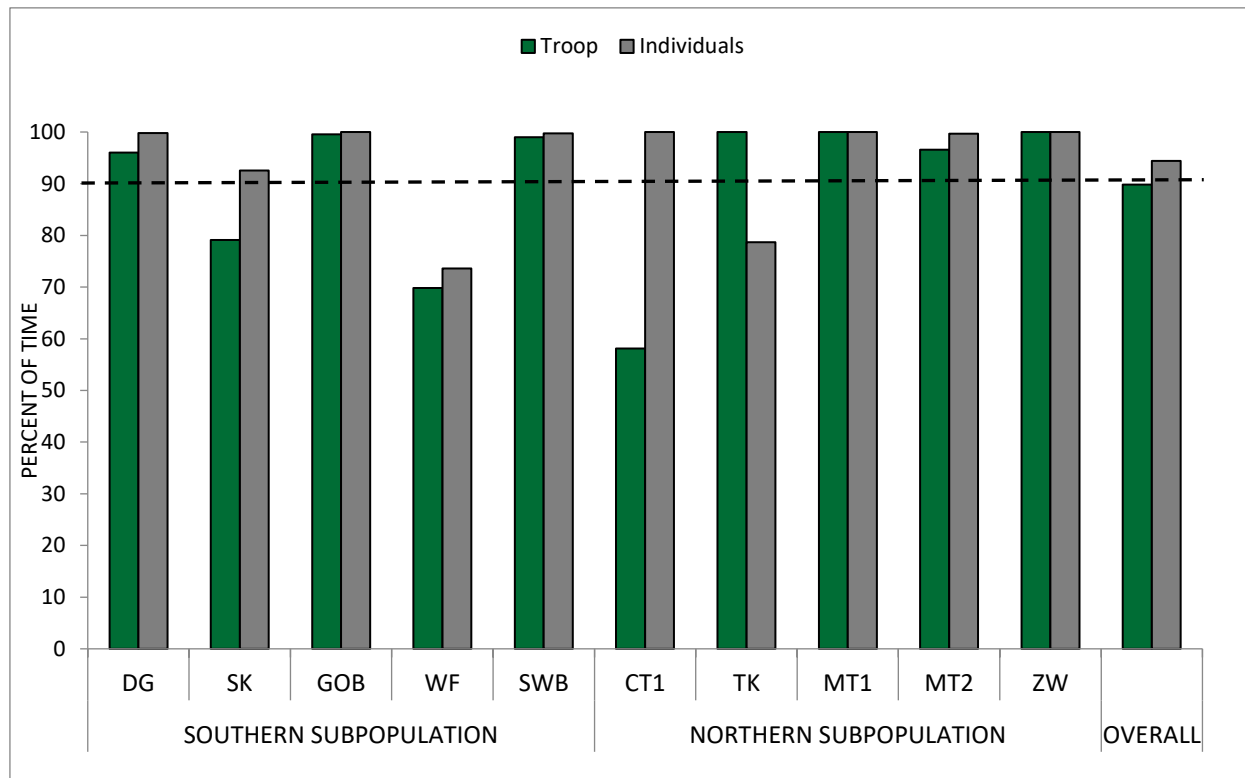


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of January 2025. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per month. The small group in Da Gama area and the small group in the Constantia area, are not included in the individual time in town figures as they are not monitored full-time by the UBP.

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, Glencairn, Kommetjie, Ocean View, Simon's Town, Tokai and Welcome Glen.

- Engaged with residents in Welcome Glen and Constantia whose properties were occasionally being used as a sleep site for baboons. Where relevant, residents were given advice on how to reduce attractants at their properties to decrease the likelihood of the baboons spending time there. They were also encouraged to call the hotline as soon as they spot the baboons in the area

to provide the rangers with the best chance of being able to move the baboons out of the urban area before nightfall.

- Spoke with Kommetjie residents about the presence of a dispersing male in the area. Residents were provided with tips on how to prevent human-baboon conflict whilst the male was in the vicinity. Advice included but was not limited to securing baboon attractants such as compost heaps, vegetable gardens, waste bins and pet food and avoiding planting fruiting trees and grape vines (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. Dispersing male baboon gaining access to grapes in Kommetjie.

- Explained to Kommetjie residents that the current programme unfortunately does not allow for rangers to be allocated to individual baboons on an ongoing basis. Manpower constraints dictate that all resources must first be directed at keeping the majority of the troop out of the urban space. It was also communicated that whenever the situation with the main troop allows, rangers or a field manager will attend to hotline calls and to try to move the male out of the area.
- Addressed common misconceptions surrounding the Urban Baboon Programme to increase residents' understanding of the challenges and constraints which the programme works under. This includes finite budget and manpower resources and staff safety and wellbeing considerations. Ranger tactics such as 'holding the line' were also elaborated upon. The standard operating procedures for paintball markers was also explained, and its limitations discussed.
- Spoke with residents who had experienced baboon related damage to their homes and vehicles (**Fig. 3**). Where applicable, residents were provided with advice on how to reduce the possibility of comparable damage occurring in future by strengthening or adapting infrastructure, baboon proofing their properties and reducing attractants around their homes.



Figure 3. Windscreen damage caused by a baboon jumping onto the car from a height.

- Damage to roof structures and wooden window frames remains a significant issue in Simon's town and a problem which we are currently unable to solve. After removing roof tiles and sheeting, troop members often break through ceiling boards to access homes (**Fig. 4**). This is creating an untenable situation for Simon's Town residents.



Figure 4. Roof and ceiling damage in Simon's Town

- Engaged with residents who wanted to know more about the baboon programme's transition to Shark Spotters in March. Residents were assured that the service would remain interrupted and were advised that the structure and funding of the new programme will be more conducive to reducing human baboon conflict in urban areas.

Alleged use of weapons against baboons by members of the public. An adult female from the Seaforth troop and an adult female from the CT1 troop were both killed due to illegal weapon use by members of public during the month of January. Where available, all evidence and witness information was passed on to the authorities for official investigation. Members of the public who witness illegal activity are encouraged to write affidavits to increase the chances of a successful prosecution under one of the following acts: Animal Protection Act No. 71 Of 1962: 2. (1)(g), the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 19 of 1974, and in some cases the Firearms Control Act Chapter 16, 120 Offences (7). The City of Cape Town Coastal By-Law 2020 is also applicable when such an incident occurs within 100m of the high-water mark.

Alleged deliberate feeding of baboons- Several members of the public contacted the hotline with concerns that members of their communities were feeding the baboons. This appears to be of specific concern in the Welcome Glen area. Unfortunately, there was no evidence available to proceed with legal action. If any evidence does become available this will immediately be shared with the relevant authorities.

Baboon and dog altercations – Two significant altercations were reported between baboons and dogs during the month of January. Thankfully, in both cases no fatalities occurred. As the altercations happened on private properties no legal contraventions took place. Residents who wish to learn more about reducing the likelihood of baboon and dog altercations can find further information [here](#).

Cape Point Farm Stall, Plateau Road -Visit to speak to the farmstall staff following reports from members of the public that the waste bins are being accessed by the Plateau Road troop on collection days. The staff confirmed that they will ensure that the bins are made baboon proof as soon as possible.

Cape Research Centre, Tokai – Site visit to check waste management. All waste was stored securely.

Chrysalis Academy, Tokai – Welfare related site visits were undertaken during the reporting period. No significant waste or food attractants were noted at the time of the visits (**Fig. 5**).

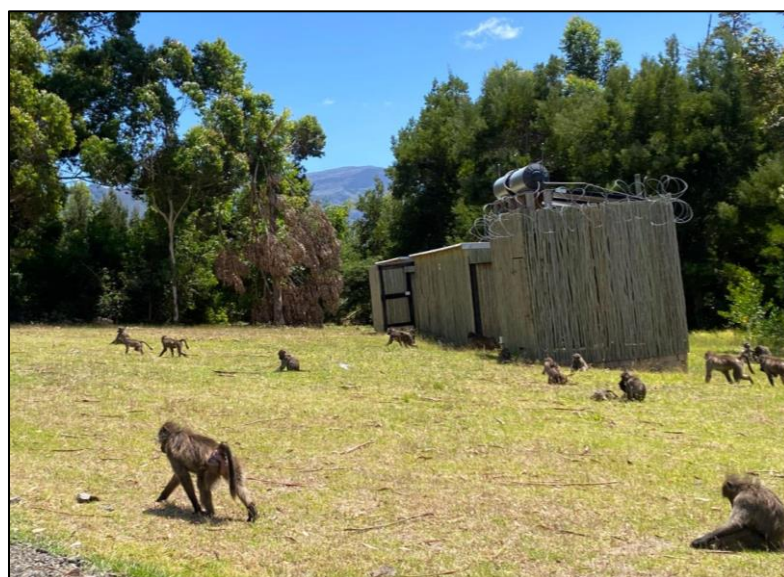


Figure 5. Baboons foraging naturally around the secure waste storage area at Elephant's Rest Camp - Chrysalis Academy

Glen Mews, Welcome Glen – Visit to check for waste attractants. All bins were secured in the dedicated outbuilding (**Fig. 6**). The complex also has signage in place to remind residents of the importance of not feeding the baboons or allowing baboons to access waste.



Figure 6. The secure waste room at Glen Mews.

Miller's Point Picnic and Slipway, Miller's Point – Waste compliance remains of a high standard at both the picnic site and the slipway area.

Miller's Point Resort, Miller's Point – No significant attractants were noted at the time of the visit.

Rocklands Centre, Murdock Valley South – Courtesy visit to discuss recent baboon activity at the centre and to speak about the baboon programme transitioning over to Shark Spotters.

Rocklands Farm, Murdock Valley South – Work has continued on fully reinforcing the commercial vegetable tunnels on the main farm to reduce the likelihood of baboons accessing the produce. A tenant on the farm has created a substantial vegetable patch which is currently uncovered. Funds are not currently available to secure the patch but the tenant was provided with advice to reduce the likelihood of baboons accessing the vegetables until the area can be fully enclosed. Urban Baboon Programme (UBP) staff will continue to check in with the tenant to ensure that conflict does not develop.

SA Navy Property – Job Maseko Wardroom, Seaforth – Waste remains well managed at the property. All bins were secured within the dedicated waste room and the kitchen door was closed at the time of the visit.

SA Navy Property – Kronseil and Bluefin Flats, Da Gama Park – The residents continue to manage their waste well and all refuse bins are stored securely in the waste rooms.

SA Navy Property – Waterfall Barracks, Simon's Town – The barracks remain the most challenging property in Simon's Town for the Urban Baboon Programme. UBP staff will continue to liaise with the

Navy to find solutions to ensure that waste and buildings are better secured and that baboon access to attractants is reduced.

The Range, Tokai – All waste was stored securely at the time of the visit.

Tokai Forest Picnic Site, Tokai – The reintroduction of skips at the picnic site (**Fig. 7**) has assisted in reducing baboon access to waste in the evenings. Waste is now removed by SANParks staff and placed in the skip at the end of each day.



Figure 7. Locked skip at Tokai Picnic Site.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

Ongoing reporting to the City's Solid Waste and Cleansing Departments to highlight waste issues on the peninsula. All incidents which significantly increase baboons' opportunities to access waste derived food rewards are reported. This includes but is not limited to late waste collection, problematic areas, dumping and solid waste law enforcement issues.

Close collaboration with the Cape of Good Hope SPCA to ensure that injured or ill baboons receive veterinary care in as timely a manner as possible. UBP staff assist with SPCA led baboon captures. In addition to this, all known contraventions of the Animal Protection Act involving members of public harming baboons are reported to the inspectorate for their investigation.

Engagement with Groot Constantia, Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting vineyards to encourage collaborative baboon management in the Tokai and Constantia areas.

Ongoing reporting to the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Baboon Operational Team (JBOT) and Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Task Team (CPBMJTT). Regular updates are provided on the troops which fall under the management of the current Urban Baboon Programme.

Regular inspections of electrical lines where baboon injuries and fatalities have occurred in the past (**Fig. 8**). Poles are checked to ensure that they are sufficiently greased so that baboons cannot climb and contact the live wires. The City's electricity department is made aware when it is apparent that further grease needs to be applied.



Figure 8. Greased electrical H Poles on Plateau Road

Ongoing liaison with residents, business owners and baboon interest groups to answer queries and identify points for collaboration.

Due to the continued close proximity of the CT1 and CT2 baboon troops, regular contact was maintained with the NPO Baboon Watch WC. This information sharing was helpful for both parties and helped to ensure that the teams worked together in a collaborative manner.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Distribution of printed and electronic educational material – UBP staff have created Infographics and leaflets on a wide variety of topics pertaining to baboons. These materials allow staff to instantly disseminate accurate information across electronic platforms and are sent to members of the public on a regular basis. Recipients are further encouraged to share the infographics as widely as possible within their communities to ensure that as many residents as possible have access to this information.

Opportunistic engagement with residents, business owners and tourists – UBP staff members continue to actively engage with members of the public to increase understanding of the baboon programme and to promote responsible behaviour around baboons, with the aim of reducing human baboon conflict.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 888 hotline calls during the month of January. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (836), followed by general enquires (41) and reports of injured baboons (11) (**Fig. 9**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Kommetjie in response to an individual male in the village (**Fig. 10**). This was followed by calls from Tokai in response to the movement of individuals from the Tokai and MT2 troops. Factors which impacted the management of these troops/individuals can be found in their above respective summaries.

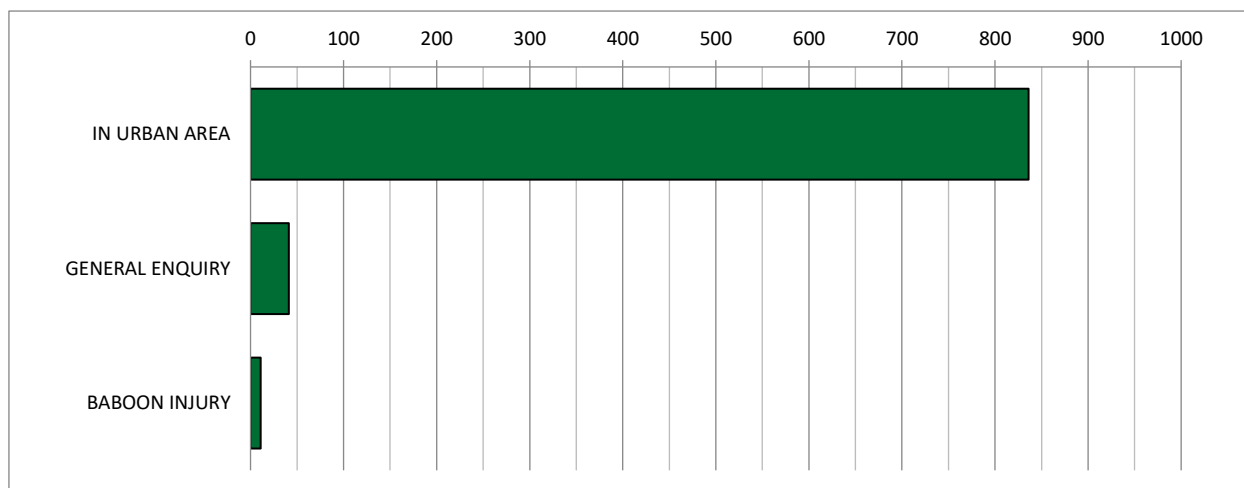


Figure 9. The number of hotline calls by type in January 2025.

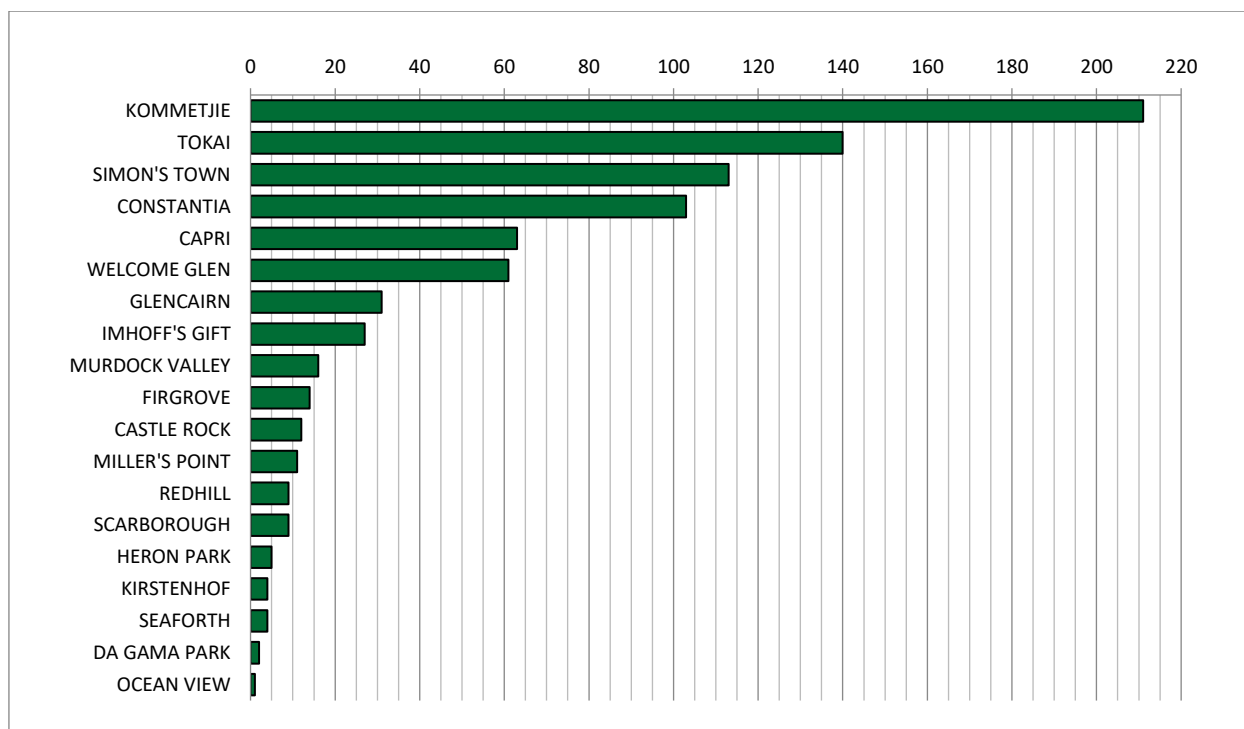


Figure 10. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in January 2025.

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 investigated.	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 and other troop's access to human-derived foods.	None this month.	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
SK	Though baboons are not always in Kommetjie, 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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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.	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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing monitoring, reporting & engagement.
TK/ZW	Forest Glade Retail 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.	None this month.	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, <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 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, <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 & the Snare Free initiative at 076 127 8485.	A request that the public alert the Baboon Hotline & the 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.	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.