

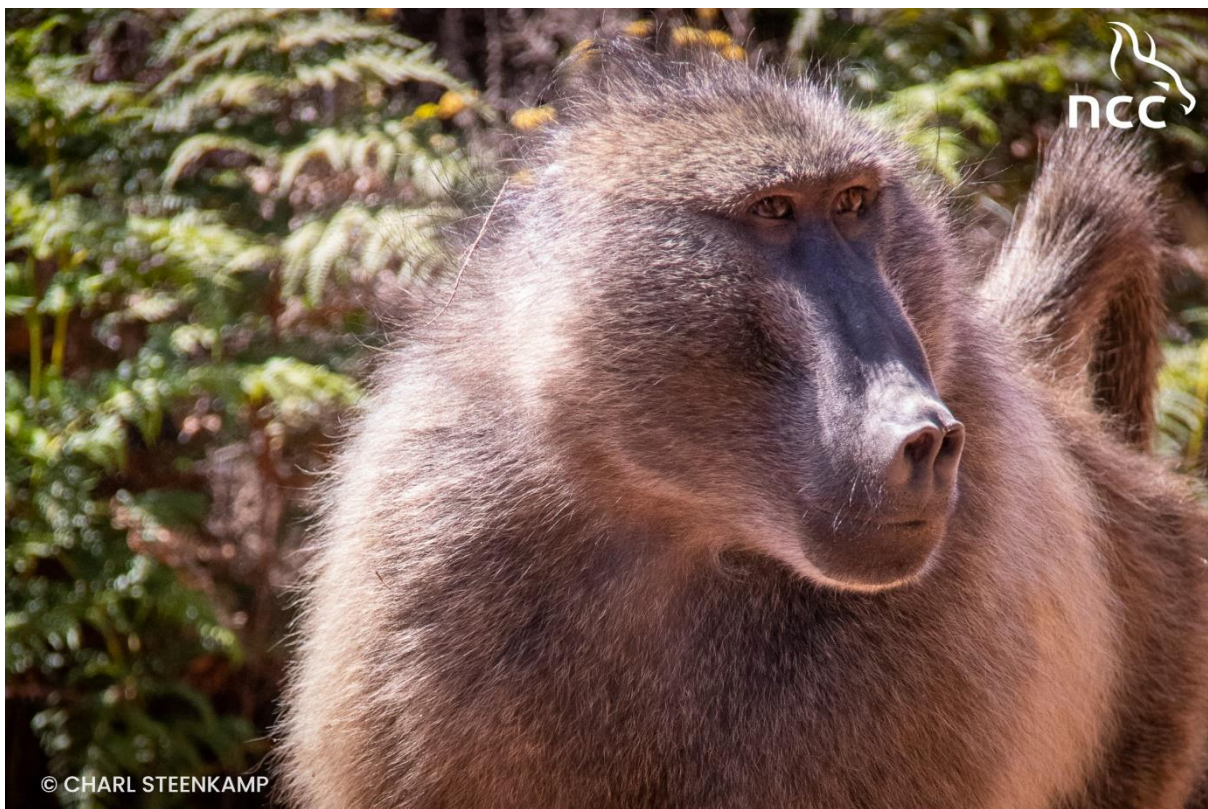


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

January 2023 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

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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% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 90.3% 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, Welcome Glen, Scarborough and Misty Cliffs where they accessed food from bins on several occasions.
- On 6 January, TK55 and a male juvenile were electrocuted and killed when they climbed on the uninsulated power lines running behind Da Gama Park.
- On one occasion, DGF1, DG20 and an additional un-coded sub-adult male went to the Woodlands area along Dido Valley Road where they accessed bins.
- There was an increase in intra-male aggression between DG19 and DG20 following TK55's death.
- Fruiting season for trees in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park attracted baboons to these areas.

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.

¹ Two adult females, a juvenile male and an infant (suspected to be from the GOB Troop but unable to definitively confirm) that arrived in Scarborough a few months back have remained in the Scarborough area. These individuals moved independently from the troop without field rangers assigned to them and thus individual time in town for this month is unknown. Continued attempts to catch and re-release these individuals back into the reserve area are planned.

- Two adult males from the reserve joined the GOB troop. This has resulted in the troop occasionally splitting into two groups. On one occasion, the larger split of the troop nearly entered Scarborough by Hill Top Road, however the field rangers were successful in stopping them.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 57.5% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 94.8% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- On 5 January, the troop managed to break towards the Kommetjie area. They remained in this area, where they often roosted in the urban area, despite continuous attempts to encourage them back towards the Rooikrans mountain area. Encouraging the troop out of this area proved particularly challenging this month.
- In addition to the consistent issues of significant food attractants in the village and the difficult terrain surrounding it, the troop's three adult males continued to fight for alpha status. This fighting resulted in a lack of troop cohesion which greatly impeded the field team's operations.
- Additionally, the long daylight hours meant that on occasion, even when the field team managed to encourage the troop to roost in the mountains far from the urban space, the troop would still move back to the village after the team left for the evening.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 94.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 71.3% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Splintering of the troop has again significantly impacted management this month. WF8 and SWB13, along with up to 16 individuals have splintered from the main troop, significantly increasing the amount of time spent in town for individuals. These groups, which have been recorded up to 9km away from the main troop, have spent most of the month foraging around the Seaforth area and roosting in the East Yard on SA Navy property.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 87.6% 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 and UKP1 continued to displace each other throughout the month. Following these interactions, the two males often move independently from each other with their groups of individuals, occasionally roosting separately.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 75% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 97.7% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's time in town increased significantly compared to last month. This was due to the troop moving through the wine farms towards the urban area below the farms and not being allowed to re-enter the farms from the bottom. This resulted in the field team needing to encourage the troop to move back to the mountain area through the urban space.
- The troop roosted around the wine farms for the majority of the month but also in the urban space on a few occasions.

3.2 MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT1 Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

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 67.8% of time out of the urban area for the troop and 94.9% for individuals.

- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent the majority of the time above Buitenverwachting and was not seen visiting Porter Estate.

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 and continued to enter Constantia Uitsig on a regular basis.
- The troop crossed Orpen road on one occasion and visited the Cape Academy.
- The tracking collar has continued to prove 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 99.5% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 97.7% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals gained access to food from tables at the Tokai Picnic on two occasions.
- The troop briefly gained access to the urban space on six occasions during the month where they moved down to the Lower Tokai Plantation and Cape Academy.
- The fruit trees along Orpen Road continue to be a significant attractant resulting in the troop needing to be encouraged away from Orpen road on a near daily 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

- 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 91.1% 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%, 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.

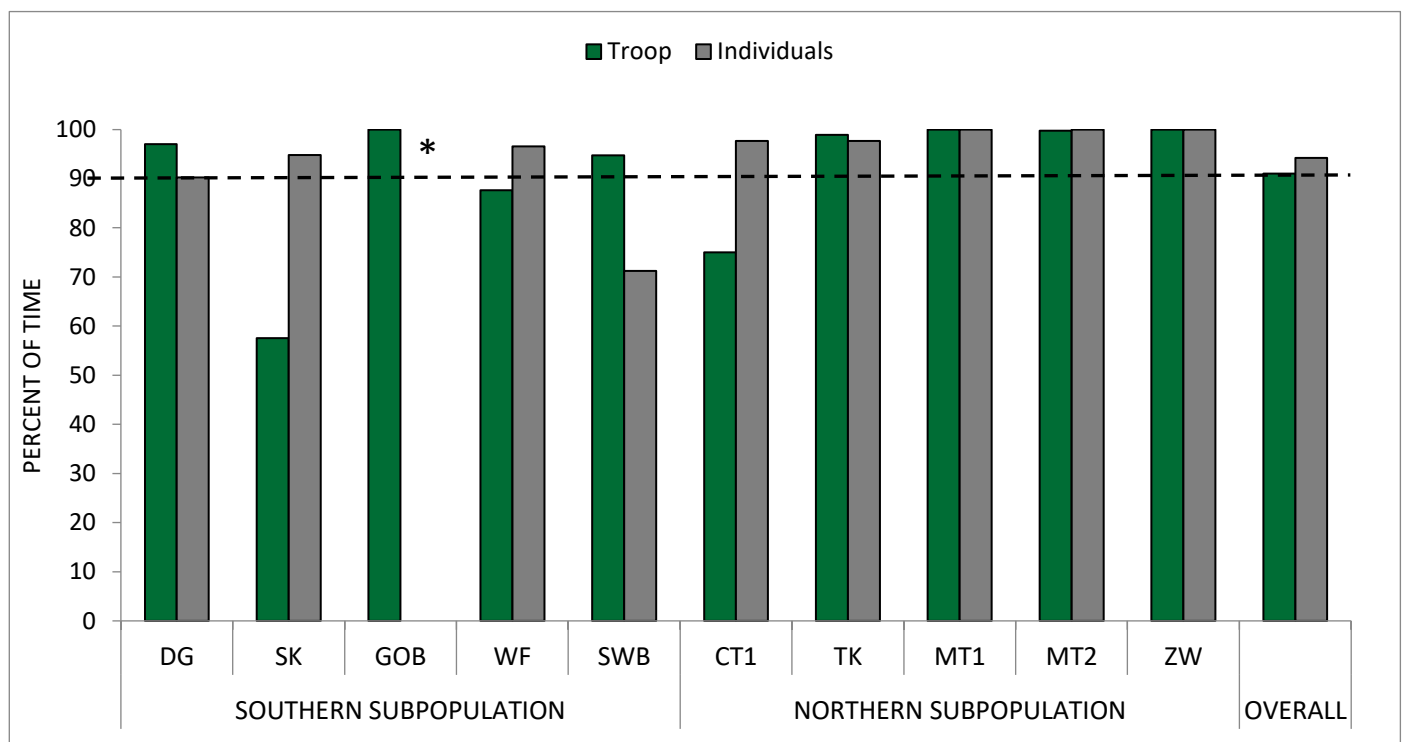


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of January 2023. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per month.

*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 Capri, Constantia, Da Gama Park, Froggy Farm, Kommetjie, Misty Cliffs, Murdock Valley, Seaforth, Simon's Town, Tokai and Welcome Glen:

- 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. Residents were also notified of the need to remove or secure fruiting trees and vegetable gardens in baboon ranging areas.
- Addressed common misconceptions surrounding the Urban Baboon Programme to increase resident's understanding of the challenges and constraints which the programme works under. Residents were encouraged to comment on the Draft Baboon Strategic Management Plan upon its release so that the Joint Task Team of SANParks, Cape Nature and The City of Cape Town can collectively address their concerns and assist with sustainable long-term solutions for their communities.
- Visited properties where baboon attractants were identified by NCC staff and members of the public. The residents were encouraged to baboon-proof or remove these attractants including grape vines, birdseed, refuse bins, uncovered vegetable gardens and fruiting trees.
- 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.
- Assessed individual properties at the owners' request to recommend measures to prevent or reduce baboon visits and mitigate property damage.
- Encouraged residents who had witnessed illegal behavior, such as feeding or harming the baboons, to write affidavits in order to facilitate prosecutions through the appropriate authorities.
- Discussed baboon behavior with residents to assist them in identifying fearful or antagonistic baboon body language, with a view to increasing safety for baboons and residents alike.

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 and pellet gun 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 (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. Example of an air rifle that was allegedly being used to shoot at baboons this month.

Baboon and dog altercations – Visit to a resident whose dog had been injured in an altercation with baboons on their property. The visit was to check on the welfare of the dog, ascertain the events that led up to the altercation and to provide advice to reduce the chance of future conflict.

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. 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.

Cape Research Centre, Tokai – Site visit to check for waste management concerns. The skip lid is bent which allows baboons to access the waste. This was brought to the attention of the SANParks section ranger for their action (**Fig. 3**).

Jack's Shop, Da Gama Park – The waste storage area is no longer secure. The staff have been alerted to this and asked to repair the structure to prevent baboons from accessing the waste (**Fig. 4**).



Figure 3. Skip with a bent lid and waste that has been accessed by baboons at Cape Research Centre.



Figure 4. Waste cage at Jack's shop which requires repair.

Kogelfontein, Red Hill – Frequent visits are undertaken to assess waste compliance. NCC will continue working with SANParks and Kogelfontein residents to try to ensure that the skips are emptied before they become overfilled and become a baboon attractant (**Fig. 5**).



Figure 5. Overfilled skips at Kogelfontein.

Miller's Point Resort, Miller's Point – Visit to follow up on reports that a camper had allegedly used a paintball marker on the baboons. The guest had unfortunately left. The security guards were made aware of the illegality of this so that they can report this to the relevant authorities should a similar scenario occur in future. A general site visit was also undertaken, the area was free of waste-based baboon attractants.

Miller's Picnic Site and Slipway, Miller's Point – Site visits to assess waste management. The area was clean and tidy (**Fig. 6**).



Figure 6. Good waste management at Miller's Point.

Cape Boat and Ski-Boat Club, Miller's Point – No significant baboon attractants were noted at the time of the visits.

SA Navy Property, Job Maseko Wardroom, Seaforth – New baboon-proof bins have been delivered to Job Maseko. This has reduced baboon access to waste-based attractants. It is hoped that this will also reduce dumping by residents, as a bin can now always be left available outside. The situation will be monitored (**Fig. 7**).

SA Navy Property, SAS Simonsberg, Seaforth – Baboons were observed accessing the waste at SAS Simonsberg. NCC and the City's Biodiversity Management Branch are working together to ensure that baboon-proof bins are delivered to the property as a matter of urgency. Further attractants on the property such as grape vines and fruiting trees have been brought to the attention of Navy staff and a request has been made for their removal (**Fig. 8**).



Figure 7. New baboon-proof bins at Job Maseko.



Figure 8. Grape vines and waste-based attractants at SAS Simonsberg.

SA Navy Property, Waterfall Barracks, Simon's Town – Visit to check for baboon attractants at the property. Baboons had gained access to a residential waste room. NCC are engaging with the Navy to improve waste management and ensure that all waste rooms are secured (**Fig. 9**).

SA Navy Property, West Yard, Simon's Town – Secure waste storage remains an ongoing challenge at West Yard. A request for baboon-proof bins was made and some bins have been replaced but more are needed. This has been highlighted to the City's Solid Waste Department. Plans to erect secure bin cages are ongoing (**Fig. 10**).



Figure 9. Problematic waste storage at Waterfall Barracks.



Figure 10. Bins at West Yard. Additional baboon-proof waste storage is required.

The Village Hub, Scarborough – Site visit to investigate reports of baboons being fed at the property. Insufficient evidence was available to take matters further. The staff have been asked to alert the baboon management team should they witness any deliberate feeding.

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – The skip at the picnic site has a plastic lid and can be accessed by the baboons. NCC has requested that SANParks replace the skip with one with a metal securable lid.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

- A meeting was held with representatives of the Simon's Town Civic Association (STCA) to discuss the current dynamics of the Smitswinkel Bay troop. The impact of the troop splitting into two to three subgroups on management success and operational capabilities was discussed. Limitations surrounding manpower and resources were also explained. Ways in which the community can help to alleviate human/baboon conflict and points for collaboration were also identified.

- Ongoing engagement with various businesses in Seaforth to reduce the amount of food waste which is discarded in standard waste bins. Several businesses have indicated their willingness to set aside their food waste for collection by local pig farmers. The STCA is assisting with facilitating this.
- Continued liaison facilitated via the City's Biodiversity Management Branch with the City's Solid Waste Department to reduce baboon access to waste-based attractants. Cases where late waste removal has provided the baboons with extended access to waste have been highlighted to the relevant City departments for their attention (**Fig. 11**).



Figure 11. Late waste collection and a lack of baboon-proof bins leads to increased human-baboon conflict.

- Engagement facilitated via the City's Biodiversity Management Branch with Solid Waste Law Enforcement to highlight problem hotspots and areas where waste bins are often filled beyond capacity allowing baboons to easily access the waste within them (**Fig. 12**).
- Ongoing dialogue facilitated via the City's Biodiversity Management Branch with the City's Solid Waste Department around the need for the limited supply of baboon-proof bins to be assigned to baboon conflict hotspots such as Navy properties.
- Liaison facilitated via the City's Biodiversity Management Branch with the City's Electricity Department to mitigate the risk of baboons and other wildlife being injured or killed on electrical infrastructure. High-risk poles and structures have been highlighted and inspected within current baboon ranging areas and mitigation measures have been suggested (**Fig. 13**). The opportunity for the electricity department to meet with an independent expert who specialises in preventing negative interactions between wildlife and electrical infrastructure has also been offered.



Figure 12. Bins which are often filled beyond capacity and dumping on Simon's Town Main Road.



Figure 13. Examples of electrical infrastructure which poses an elevated risk of electrocution for baboons.

- Ongoing engagement with the Cape of Good Hope SPCA relating to baboon injuries, welfare issues and contraventions of the Animal Protection Act by members of the public.
- Liaison with CapeNature to address contraventions of the Cape Nature Ordinance No 19 of 1974.
- Discussions with the City's Traffic department facilitated by the Biodiversity Management Branch to explore the possibility of speed limit enforcement on Orpen Road and reduce potential wildlife mortalities.
- Engagement with the Groot Constantia, Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms to encourage collaborative management of the baboons and to ensure that the regulations set out in the standard operating procedure for paintball marker use on private farms are adhered to.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES:

Continued distribution of educational material: Educational material was provided to residents and businesses to assist with reducing human-baboon conflict.

Simon's Town School: The baboon management team has engaged with the principal and are planning a school-wide education programme to teach the learners about baboon behaviour and ecology, how to behave around baboons, and how to keep the school grounds free of waste and accessible food- based baboon attractants. Other elements of environmental education will also be discussed with the children.

Opportunistic engagement with tourists and residents: Ongoing efforts are made to directly engage with both tourists and residents to reduce the likelihood of human baboon conflict. Owing to current baboon troop dynamics, education efforts were focussed on the Seaforth and Kommetjie areas, but not to the exclusion of other baboon-affected areas.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 690 hotline calls during the month of January. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (613), followed by general enquires (66) and reports of injured baboons (11) (**Fig. 13**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from the Kommetjie area in response to the presence of the SK Troops, followed by Constantia in response to the CT1 Troop and Simon's Town in response to the WF and SWB troops (**Fig. 14**). Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

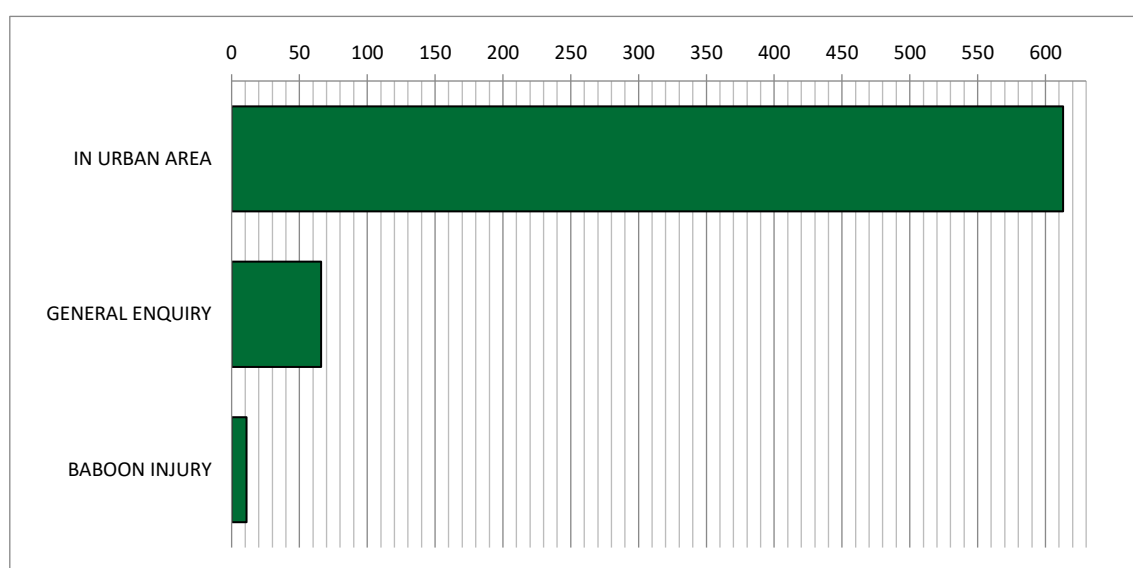


Figure 14. The number of hotline calls by type in January 2023.

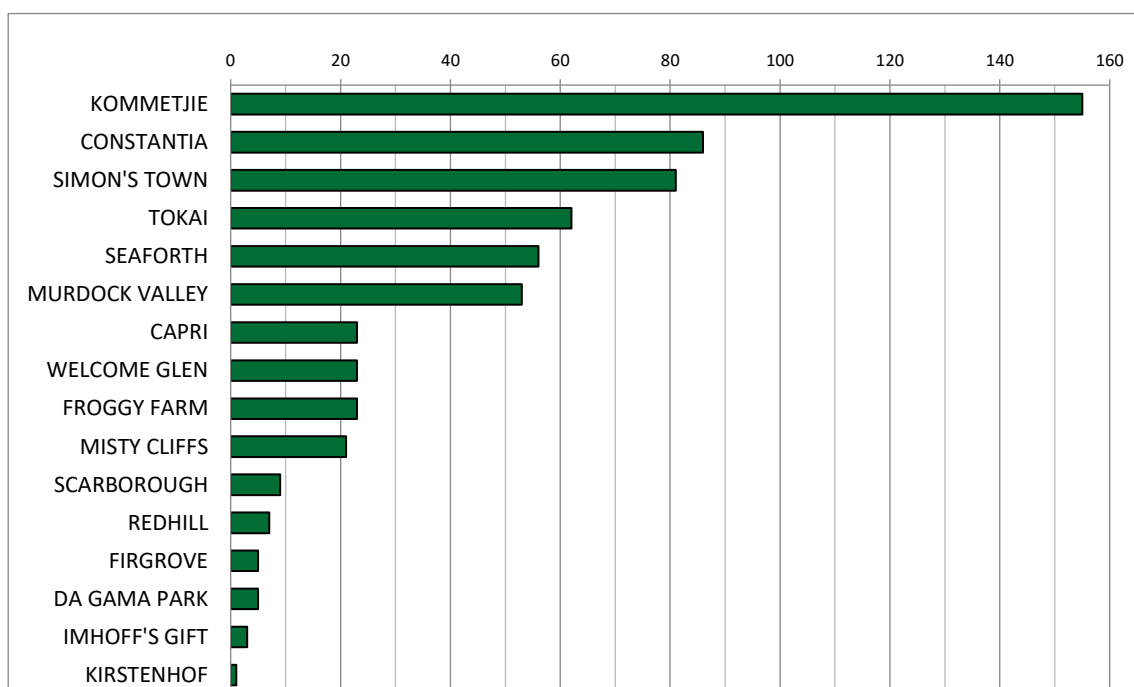


Figure 15. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in January 2023.

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, 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.	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.	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.