

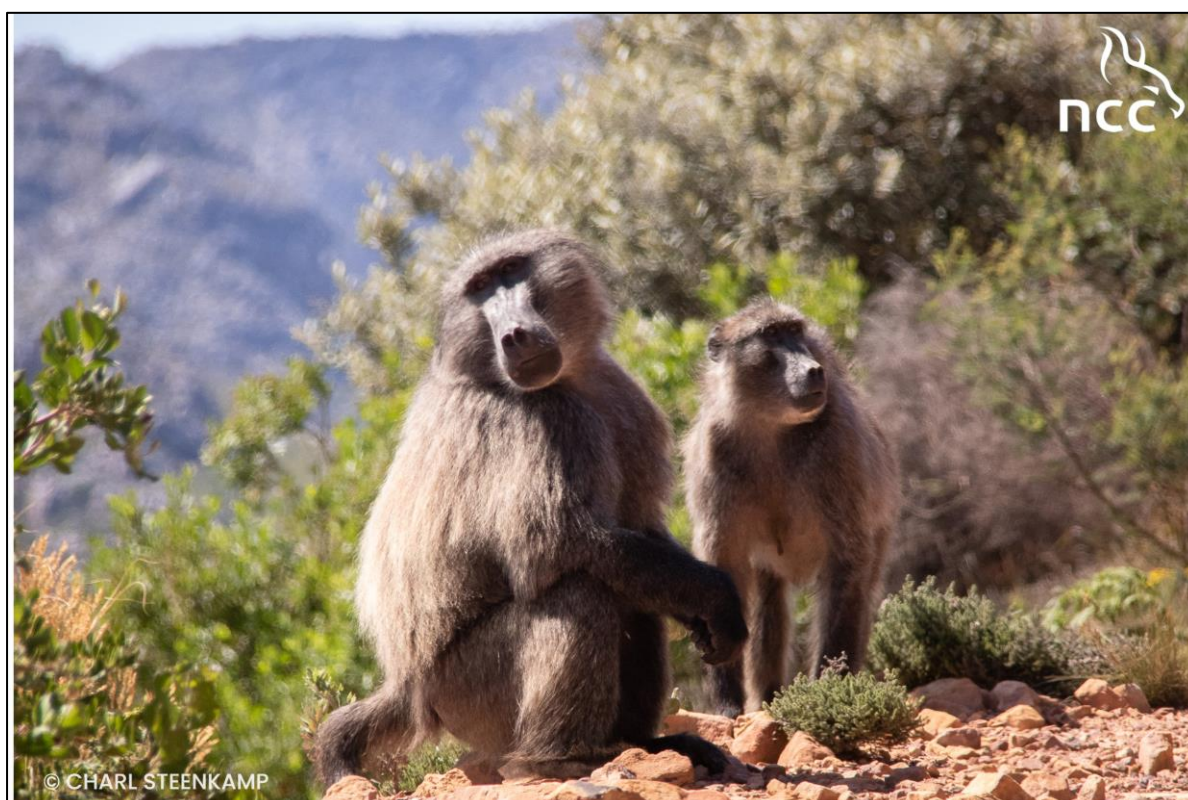


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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Urban Baboon Programme

March 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)	4
2.4	SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)	4
2.5	WATERFALL TROOP (WF)	5
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	8
4.3	HOTLINE REPORTS.....	16
4.4	RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS.....	18
4.4.1.	<i>Troop Specific Recommendations & Actions</i>	18
4.4.2.	<i>Recommendations & Actions for all Baboon Impacted Areas</i>	20

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 98% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 93.9% 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 several occasions. During this time, individuals accessed three occupied houses and several bins.
- An increasing number of fruiting trees in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park continue to attract baboons to the urban area.
- The troop roosted mostly at 2nd Avenue but also at mountain sleep sites on a few occasions.
- On one occasion, a sub-adult male, DG20, went to the SA Navy Transport Depot on Dido Valley Road.
- DGF1, a female of advanced age, was often seen moving away from the troop and on her own this month, either through lagging behind the troop or leaving the troop in the natural space and entering the urban space on her own. On 30 March, she was attacked by a free roaming dog in Da Gama Park and was subsequently humanely euthanised by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA due to the extent of her injuries.
- A VHF collar was placed on DG19 to assist the field team in being able to locate the troop more quickly in the mountainous areas of their range.

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

¹ Two adult females, a juvenile male and an infant that arrived in Scarborough several months ago 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.

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.
- No urban incursions into Scarborough took place.
- Continued attempts are planned to catch the individuals in Scarborough and release them back into the reserve area.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 68.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 93.8% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent an increased amount of time in the urban area compared to last month. This was largely attributed to their time spent in and around Heron Park accessing attractants and the continued competition between three natal males for alpha status, resulting in poor troop cohesion. This presents challenges to preventing their movement into the urban space and encouraging them out of urban areas if they enter.
- The troop roosted mostly on buildings around Heron Park.
- On 31 March, natal adult male SK14 began showing signs of dispersal when he moved away from the troop and into the Kommetjie area on his own.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 88.1% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons from the SWB Troop spent 98% of the time out of the urban area.
- The SWB splinter troop spent 74.2% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The SWB splinter troop has continued moving independently from the main SWB Troop through the Seaforth area and roosting mostly in the SA Navy's East Yard. Short-term contingency staff have remained with group to assist with encouraging them out of the urban area.
- Adult male UKP2 appears to have obtained alpha status with the main SWB Troop and shows an inclination for keeping the troop in the southern portion of their ranging area. While the

majority of the troop move with him, adult male SWB6 and some individuals move separately from the main troop and in a more northerly direction.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 87.7% of the time out of the urban area.²
- Individual baboons spent 98.9% of the time out of the urban area.²

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop has been more cohesive and manageable in the absence of WF9 and the entire troop is now being led by UKP1.
- The troop spent a considerable amount of time at SANAD and out of the urban area compared to last month. Short-term contingency staff appointed to the troop have greatly assisted in making this possible.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 93.5% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop time in town decreased compared to the previous month due to continued collaboration with the neighbouring wine farms.
- The troop mostly roosted around the wine farms 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.
- Individuals 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 50.5% of time out of the urban area for the troop and 98.5% for individuals.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

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

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 99.4% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.9% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted above The Range for the majority of the month and continued to enter Constantia Uitsig on a regular basis.
- Individuals crossed Orpen Road on two occasions and visited Cape Academy.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop; however, the tracking collar has proved valuable in monitoring the troop's movement and assisted the field team in preventing them from moving deeper into the urban space.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The TK Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 92.8% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals entered the urban area around the Tokai Picnic site on eighteen occasions.

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

- Individuals gained access to food at the Tokai Picnic site on one occasion.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 93.5% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The SK, WF and SWB 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.

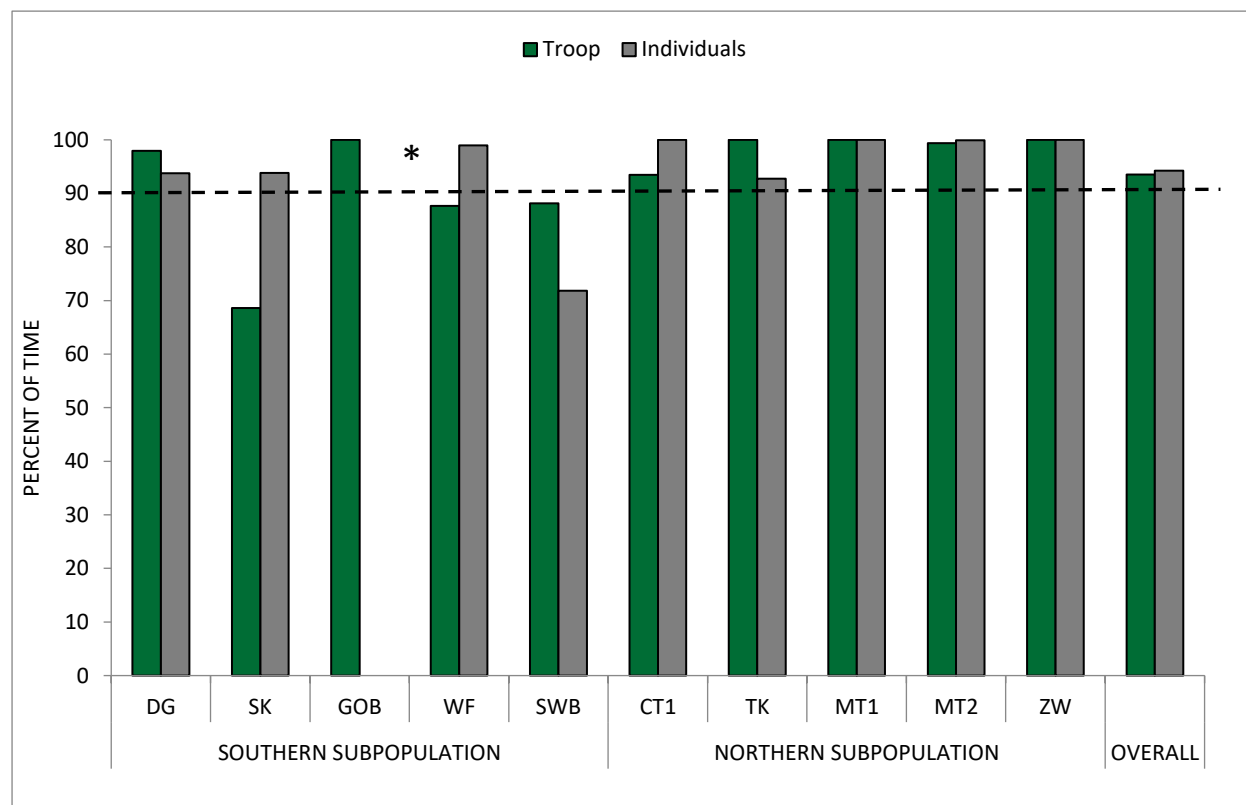


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of March 2023. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of 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, Da Gama, Heron Park, Imhoff's Gift, Misty Cliffs, Murdock Valley, Ocean View, Redhill, Seaforth, and Tokai:

- Engaged with residents about the challenges of managing baboons in the urban environment and how these challenges can influence management success. Ways in which community members can assist were discussed.
- Advised residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour when faced with a baboon on their property.
- Informed residents of how to mitigate property damage by baboon-proofing and modifying or strengthening existing infrastructure.
- Encouraged residents to remove fruit trees or pick the fruit regularly to prevent attracting baboons to their properties.
- Explained the Urban Baboon Programme's standard operating procedure for the use of paintball markers and how this influences the way in which this tool is used in the urban environment.
- Ranger tactics such as 'holding the line' were discussed to help to dispel common misconceptions. It was explained why it is not always possible for the rangers to move individual baboons, if sending a ranger comes at the expense of affording more troop members the opportunity to move further into the urban space.
- Discussed the value of collaring and tracking individual baboons as a tool to reduce urban incursions, thus improving overall troop welfare by limiting the troop's exposure to the dangers of the urban environment.
- Spoke to residents about potential long-term solutions to reduce human-baboon conflict in their areas such as strategically placed baboon-proof electric fences.
- Provided advice on DIY baboon-proofing of existing municipal bins to prevent baboons from accessing waste (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. Baboons accessing waste in Ocean View. DIY baboon-proofing options were suggested to residents.

Alleged paintball marker and pellet gun use by members of the public – Visited private homes to inform residents that it is illegal to use paintball markers to move baboons unless the individual is fully trained and has a permit issued by CapeNature to do so. In cases where it was suspected that pellet guns were being used, the residents were informed of the illegality of their actions under the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974, the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 and in some cases the Firearms Control Act. In all cases where weapons are being used against baboons, any evidence that is gathered is filed with the relevant authorities.

Baboon and dog altercations – Liaised with residents whose dogs had been involved in altercations with baboons. During these visits, the events that led up to the altercation were discussed with the owners and advice was given to prevent the likelihood of a similar incident occurring in future. In incidents where the dogs are on their own property, no legal contraventions have occurred.

Two incidents that occurred during this reporting period took place off residents' property where baboons were attacked by unaccompanied dogs. This is a direct contravention of the Animal Keeping By-law, 2021 14. (1) which states that '*a person who keeps any animal must ensure that it is kept under proper and effective control when it leaves the premises where it is kept and that it does not endanger any person, animal, or property when it leaves the premises*'. Further action is being taken in these cases.

NCC also requested that the SPCA seize the dogs involved in one of these altercations when the owner allegedly refused to seek medical treatment for their dogs' significant injuries. The SPCA assisted and will be pursuing a case against the owner under the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962.

Cape Research Centre, Tokai – Site visit to check for waste compliance. The on-site skip still needs to be replaced as it has a bent lid. NCC spoke to the SANParks section ranger again who is in the process of getting the skip replaced to prevent baboons from accessing the contents. A follow-up visit to confirm replacement will be arranged in the near future.

Kogelfontein, Red Hill – Visit to ensure that the skips are being well managed and are not serving as a baboon attractant. The skips had been accessed by the baboons via a bent skip lid which had resulted in litter pollution in the surrounding environment (**Fig. 3**). The SANParks section ranger was alerted and the area was cleaned. It was advised that the skip with the bent lid be replaced.



Figure 3. Skips accessed by the GOB Troop at Kogelfontein.

Lluvia Nutrition, Heron Park – Site visit to speak to the staff about baboons accessing peanut butter barrels at the property (**Fig. 4**). This serves as a significant attractant and increases the Slangkop Troop’s motivation to access Heron Park. A meeting was subsequently held between the City’s Environmental Health Department, the City’s Biodiversity Management Branch and Lluvia management staff to address the issue. Lluvia have been instructed to build a baboon-proof structure to house the barrels. In the interim, Lluvia management will ensure that the barrels are collected more frequently to limit baboon access to peanut butter residue. NCC will also consult with Lluvia to identify other interim baboon-proofing measure that can be taken until the cage has been fabricated. It is important to note that the barrels that are being accessed are from the post-production phase and are awaiting collection for washing and recycling.



Figure 4. Baboons accessing peanut butter residue on empty barrels at Lluvia Nutrition.

Miller's Picnic Site and Slipway, Miller's Point – Regular visits are undertaken to assess waste management. The area was clean and tidy during all visits.

Miller's Point Resort – Site visit to check for baboon attractants. All waste was stored securely, and educational signage is still available for camping guests in the communal bathroom areas (**Fig. 5**). Outdoor signage has faded and needs to be replaced. This has been highlighted to the City for their attention.



Figure 5. Well-secured waste at Miller's Point Resort.

Rocklands Centre, Murdock Valley South – Courtesy visit to speak to the management staff about baboon activity at the centre and to discuss how to mitigate conflict. NCC also offered to provide educational presentations to the staff and visitors.

Rocklands Farm, Murdock Valley South – Spoke with the staff about baboons accessing the vegetable tunnels at the property (**Fig. 6**). The staff will continue to reinforce the tunnel materials to mitigate this issue.



Figure 6. Baboon damage to the vegetable tunnels at Rocklands Farm.

SA Navy Property, Glencairn Sports Complex, Welcome Glen – Visit to check for waste management. All waste is stored securely in a dedicated enclosure. (**Fig. 7**)



Figure 7. Secure waste room at Glencairn Sports Complex.

SA Navy Property, Job Maseko Wardroom, Seaforth – The new baboon-resistant bins continue to be used compliantly at the property. However, the baboons still occasionally gain access to waste by pulling out the cables on the bins or bending the lids. An outbuilding is being used to house full waste bins to mitigate this issue.

SA Navy Property, SAS Silvermine, Westlake – Site visit to speak to staff members about the presence of a young adult male baboon which has been frequenting the property. NCC has made recommendations to the staff with regards to baboon-proofing of waste and alerting the hotline when the baboon is at the property.

SA Navy Property, Signal School, Simon's Town – No significant baboon attractants were found at the time of the visit.

The Village Hub, Scarborough – Visit to discuss the continued presence of four baboons in Scarborough which frequent the shop and restaurant area. Further potential baboon-proofing options were suggested.

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – The skip which is currently being used at the picnic site is not baboon-proof. The SANParks section ranger has confirmed that they are still in the process of arranging a replacement skip. The picnic area was neat and tidy. The number of public waste bins on site has been reduced, but this does not seem to have negatively affected cleanliness on site (**Fig. 8**). It has also decreased the number of potential point source attractants for the baboons.



Figure 8. Each picnic place no longer has a dedicated waste bin at Tokai Picnic Site.

STAKEHOLDER LIASION

- Continued engagement with the Groot Constantia, Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms to facilitate more collaborative management of the local baboon troops.
- Ongoing liaison with the City's Solid Waste Management Department to discuss waste related challenges on the Peninsula. This dialogue is facilitated by the City's Biodiversity Management Branch. The non-baboon proof bins outside Simon's Town School were removed this month as they were serving as potential conflict hotspots. The Cleansing division will replace these bins with a more suitable design as soon as possible.
- Continued collaboration 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.
- Meetings with individual residents to discuss baboon management, education, challenges, and solutions for their communities.
- Ongoing discussions with the SA Navy to address issues on naval property and to identify solutions.
- Collaboration with the Wildlife Forensic Academy regarding baboon deaths and injuries. The academy's aim is to 'mobilise wildlife forensic knowledge to increase wildlife crime prosecution levels'. It is hoped that this collaboration will lead to increased legal accountability for those who seek to harm the baboons. Further information on the Wildlife Forensic Academy is available via the following link <https://www.wildlifeforensicacademy.com/>

EDUCATION INIATIVES

Continued distribution of educational material: Electronic educational pamphlets are distributed to residents and businesses on an ongoing basis.

Simon's Town School: Discussions are ongoing with the staff to reduce baboon attractants at the school grounds. Educational posters, which guide the learners on how to behave when baboons are at the property, have also been issued to the school (**Fig. 9**). NCC are awaiting dates to speak directly to the learners in the classroom setting.

Meet the Experts Panel Discussion, Kommetjie: A 'Meet the Experts' panel discussion was convened for the residents of Kommetjie and was attended by approximately sixty community members. The Project Manager of the Urban Baboon Programme, Joselyn Mormile, joined a panel of experts to answer residents' questions about the challenges of managing and mitigating conflict in the Kommetjie area and potential future solutions. Attendees were encouraged to submit their comments on the Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan before the closing date of 31 March 2023.



Figure 9. An example of some of the educational material provided to Simon's Town School.

Seaforth Community Meeting, Simon's Town: A meeting was held for the residents of Seaforth to discuss the presence of baboons in the area and how community members can assist in reducing human-baboon conflicts. A series of FAQs were presented to Joselyn Mormile and Dr Dave Gaynor for comment before the floor was opened for residents to pose additional questions. Approximately twenty Seaforth community members attended the meeting. Attendees were again invited to submit their comments on the Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan before the closing date of 31 March 2023.

NCC Baboon Rangers, ongoing training: NCC regularly holds training and refresher courses for the baboon rangers. Activities this month included the rangers brushing up on their baboon ecology and behaviour knowledge and increasing their awareness of local snake species (**Fig. 10 and 11**).



Figure 10. NCC Rangers attending snake awareness training with a facilitator from the African Snakebite Institute.



Figure 11. Baboon ecology and behaviour refresher course.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 574 hotline calls during the month of March. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (523), followed by general enquires (42) and reports of injured baboons (9) (**Fig. 12**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Capri in response to visits from the SK Troop or individuals. The second highest number of calls came from Murdock Valley in response to visits from the SWB Troop or individuals (**Fig. 13**). Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

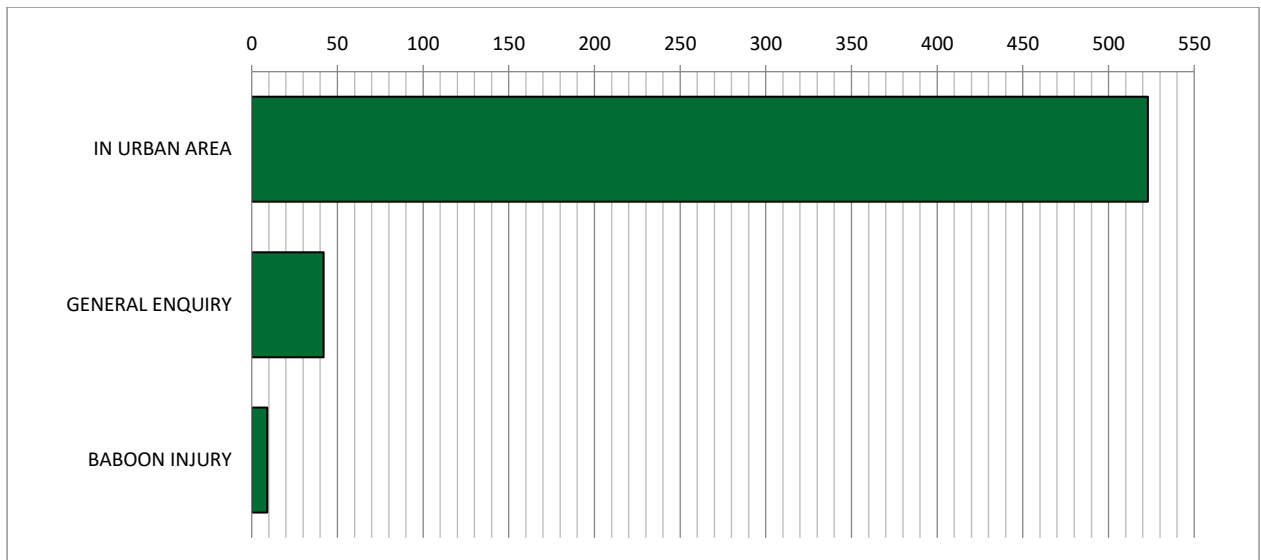


Figure 12. The number of hotline calls by type in March 2023.

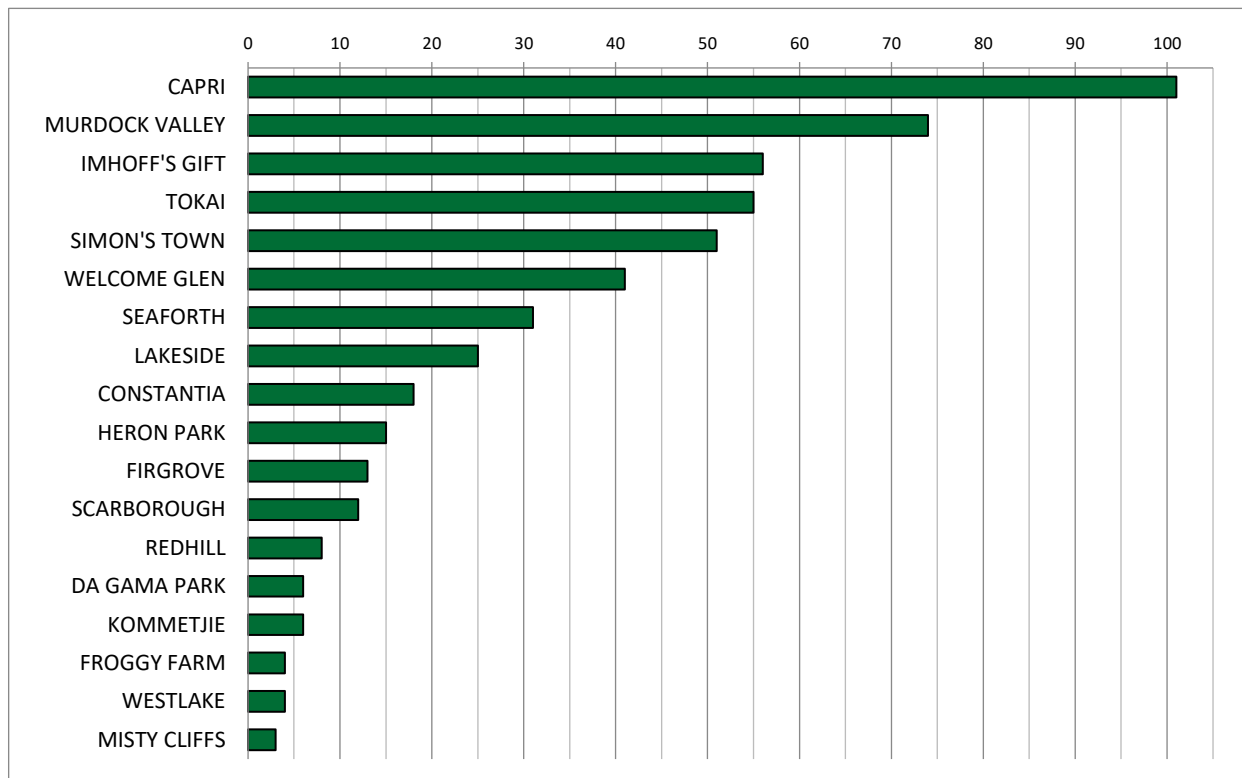


Figure 13. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in March 2023.

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.	See section 4.2, SITE VISITS	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.	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.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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 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.	See section 4.2, <i>STAKEHOLDER LIAISON</i>	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.	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.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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.