

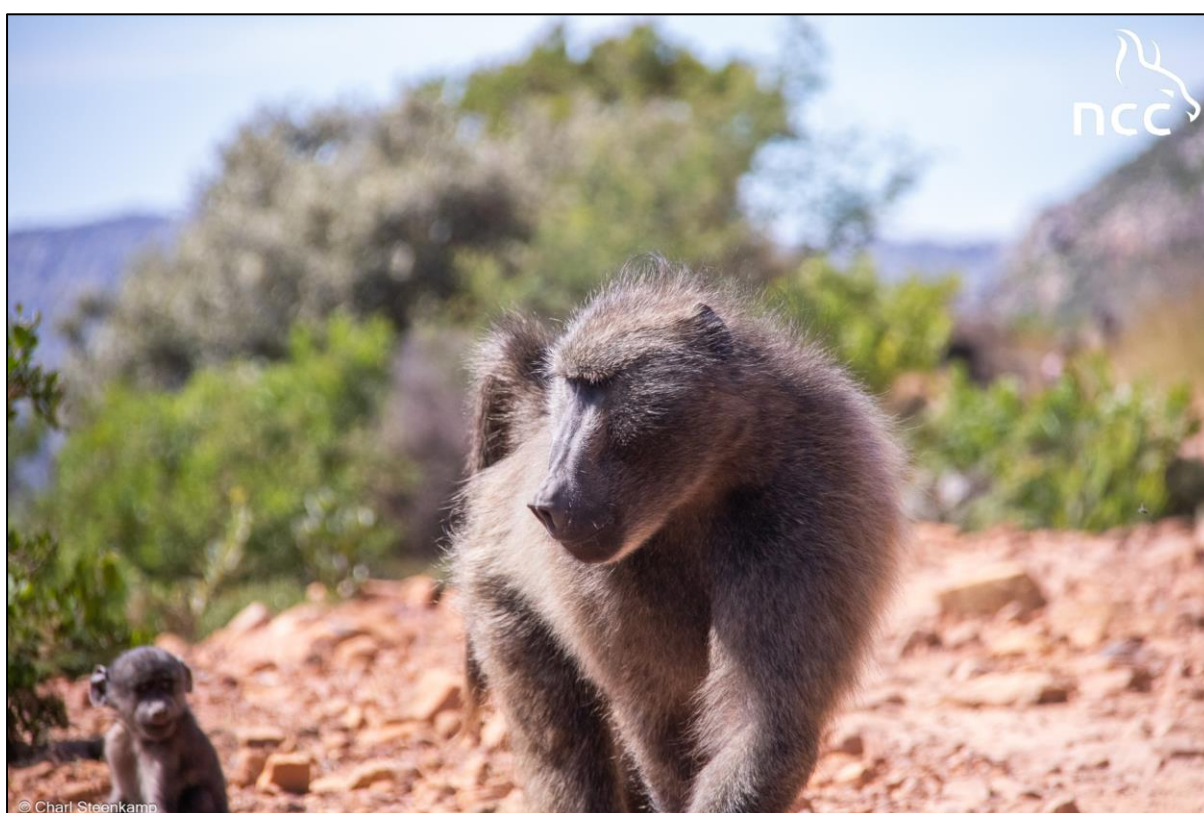


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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Urban Baboon Programme

May 2023 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:
City of Cape Town

DATED:
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PREPARED BY:
Joselyn Mormile, Project Manager
NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
E • joselynm@ncc-group.co.za

Making progress possible. Together.

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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 96.2% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 91.8% 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 bins and three occupied houses.
- Fruiting trees in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park continue to attract baboons to the urban area.
- DG19 and DG20 continue to fight for dominance.

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The GOB Troop spent 100% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 100% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope section (CoGH) of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) and spent most of their time in the southern and western sections of their ranging area and did not enter Scarborough.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 72.4% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 95.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent a considerable amount of time in the urban area though this amount did decrease slightly compared to last month. This time was largely attributed to their presence in and around Heron Park where access to attractants has continued.
- Ongoing competition between natal males SK13 and SK14 for alpha status has continued to result in weak 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 around Ocean View for the majority of the month.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 94.3% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons from the SWB Troop spent 99.7% of the time out of the urban area.
- The SWB splinter troop (Seaforth Troop) spent 90.1% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent a few days near Smitswinkel Bay and inside the Cape Point section of TMNP.
- The SWB splinter group has continued moving independently from the main SWB Troop through the Seaforth area and roosting mostly in the SA Navy East Yard though the field team managed to encourage them far south past Rocklands area for several days this month. Short-term contingency staff have remained with the group to assist with encouraging them out of the urban area and further south. The contingency funding for this group comes to an end in early June 2023.
- The Kanonkop Troop's movement as far north as the Black Marlin this month is of concern as this has naturally forced the main SWB Troop to move north as well.
- One of the Navy facilities where the SWB splinter troop spends time has reverted back to using non-baboon proofed bins and have also on occasion left their kitchen door open and was raided by the baboons.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 88.7% of the time out of the urban area.¹
- Individual baboons spent 95.7% of the time out of the urban area.¹

¹ There are several SA Navy facilities within the suburb of Simon's Town. These naval facilities act as human-derived feeding hubs within the built area. These hubs are dispersed across the urban area, facilitating easy baboon movement between them and into the urban space. When adjusting the time out of town figure to account for time spent on SA Navy property that falls within the urban space, this figure is reduced to 74.9% of time out of the urban area for the troop and 95% for individuals.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- UKP1 and one adult female have continued entering the urban space on their own.
- The troop spent time at SANAD and ventured over the mountain to the cliffs overlooking Shamballah.
- Inadequate waste management at SA Naval facilities continues to be a key factor attracting the troop to the urban area of Simon's Town. These attractants encourage the troop to roost on Navy property including the Waterfall Barracks and Ladies' flats. The condition of the Ladies' flats has worsened considerably and has become a significant health hazard to both humans and baboons.
- Recently tightened security on SA Navy properties has limited the field team's access to baboons while on these properties. This has impacted the team's ability to encourage the baboons out of the urban space.

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 99.9% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop mostly foraged and roosted around the wine farms and 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 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 97.8% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.8% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted above The Range for majority of the month and continued to enter Constantia Uitsig on a regular basis.
- Individuals crossed Orpen Road on a few 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 86.6% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals accessed food from a table at the Tokai picnic site on one occasion.
- A few individual natal males have begun showing signs of dispersal and moving deeper into the Tokai urban area on a fairly regular basis.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- None this month.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 94.9% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). The SK and WF troops did not reach 90% this month. Overall individual time out of town was 94.2%, however individuals from the TK Troop did not reach 90%. Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

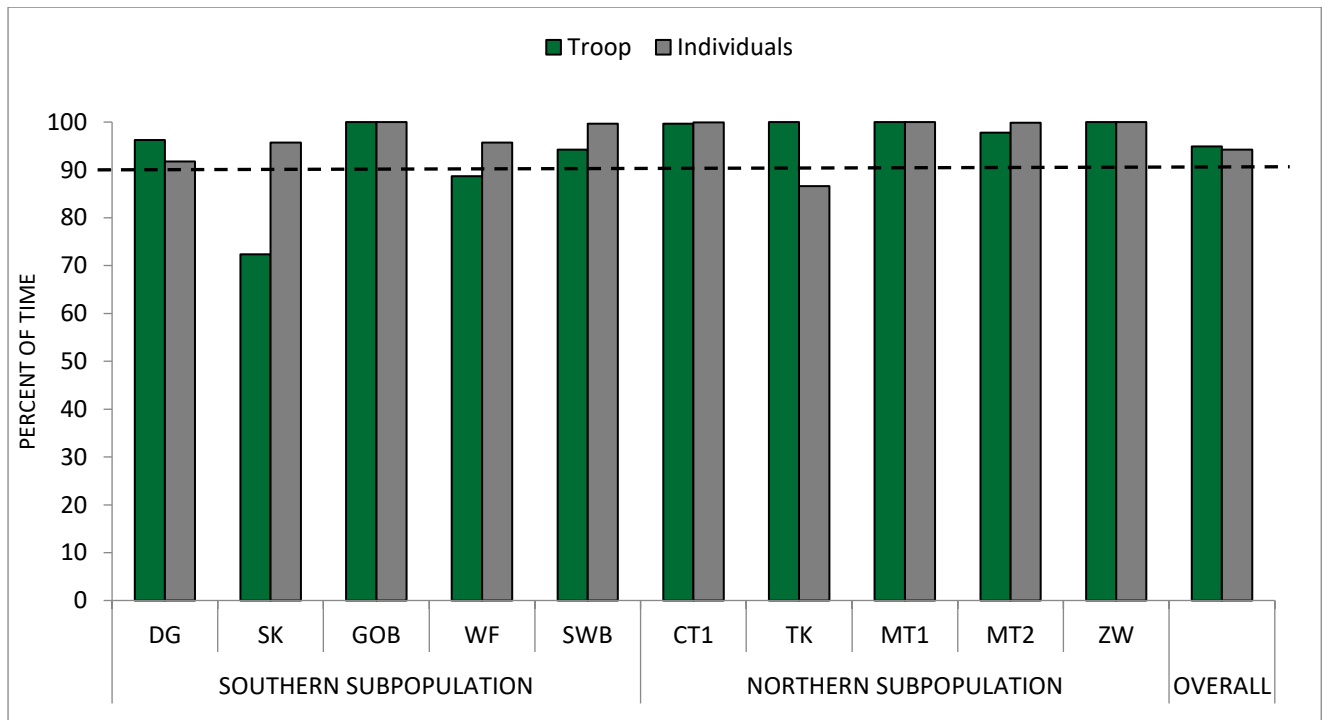


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of May 2023. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average of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

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Site visits, stakeholder liaison, and community engagement, including education initiatives, took place this month as follows.

SITE VISITS

Private properties in Capri, Castle Rock, Constantia, Da Gama, Murdock Valley, Seaforth, Simon's Town, Tokai and Welcome Glen:

- Encouraged residents to remove fruiting trees which are serving as baboon point source attractants and increasing baboon activity at these properties.

- Advised residents on the importance of not leaving accessible pet food and bird feeders out in baboon ranging areas as this increases the baboons' motivation to enter the urban area, compromises management success and increases the risk that residents will incur baboon-related property damage.
- Visited residents who had experienced baboon incursions into their homes and provided advice on how to minimise the likelihood of this occurring again in future. This included removing or enclosing attractants, baboon-proofing windows and doors where possible, joining neighborhood alert groups and contacting the Baboon Hotline when the troop or individual baboons are spotted in the urban area.
- Liaised with residents who have a home baking business and generate significant food waste which is being accessed by baboons. Tips on how to baboon-proof waste bins and potential bin cage designs were shared with the owners. Follow-up visits will be made.
- Engaged with residents regarding the presence of a young adult male baboon in an area of Constantia which is not typically visited by baboons. Tips on how to minimise attractants and conflicts were shared. The importance of contacting the Baboon Hotline was also communicated to residents.
- Engaged with residents to answer queries about current troop dynamics in their area and how this can influence management tactics and success. Points for collaboration were also identified.
- Advised residents and tourists on appropriate reactive behaviour should a baboon enter their house or guest house.
- Discussed potential area-specific long-term solutions to reduce human-baboon conflict with residents. The possibility of contraception use for free ranging baboons was brought up by several residents this month. Its limitations, ethical considerations, and the potential for it to be used as a management tool were all discussed. The residents were made aware that the option of contraception and its feasibility will be explored by the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team (CPBMJTT).
- Engaged with residents about personal safety around baboons including the importance of maintaining a safe distance from baboons when there is fighting amongst the troop.

Alleged paintball marker and pellet gun use by members of the public – Continued communication with CapeNature to facilitate investigations into contraventions of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974. Residents who were spotted with weapons were also approached by the Urban Baboon Programme's staff to inform them of the unlawful nature of their actions. Where available, video, photographic evidence and affidavits were submitted to the relevant authorities.

Cape Research Centre, Tokai – Site visit to check on waste compliance. The bent skip lid still needs to be replaced as the opening is large enough for juvenile baboons to access the waste. It has also been noted that the skip lid is often left completely open. Upon speaking to residents, it is apparent that this was done intentionally so that children and individuals who are unable to open the lid can still place their waste in the skip. If the skip is closed, waste is often left on the ground in front of the skip then subsequently accessed by wildlife and pets, and blown into the surrounding environment. Both scenarios are problematic. The Community Conservation Manager has reached out to the SANParks section ranger with potential solutions for their consideration (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. Open skip at Cape Research Centre

Cole Point Car Park, Simon's Town – All bins were stored neatly and those bins which had been baboon-proofed had their clips and ropes in place at the times of the visits. This area can be problematic and has been highlighted to Solid Waste Law Enforcement for inspection. It was encouraging to see improved waste management during the reporting period (**Fig. 3**).



Figure 3. Cole Point Car Park waste collection area

Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai Road – Engagement with the tenants at the centre to ensure that they were aware that baboons have been visiting the area. Advice was also provided on precautionary measures that can be implemented to reduce the chance of baboons entering shops and restaurants. The need to secure waste was specifically highlighted, as the baboons repeatedly accessed the waste cage during the reporting period. This issue has been escalated to the landlord on several occasions with tips on how to modify the cage to prevent this issue from re-occurring. The need to clean up and secure waste quickly after it has been accessed by baboons was also reiterated to tenants, as this reduces the chance of a return visit by the baboon(s) and will minimise conflicts at the centre.



Figure 4. Forest Glade Retail Centre waste cage - design issues and lack of user compliance are providing opportunities for the baboons to repeatedly access waste.

Heron Park, Unit 10, Kommetjie Road – Visit to ensure that baboon attractants at the property are mitigated. No significant issues were noted and the baboon-proof bin housing area is being used properly. It has been recommended that it is extended so that all waste bins can be housed there. It has also been recommended that the bins that stand outside the cage are baboon-proofed in the interim (**Fig. 5**).



Figure 5. Bin housing area at Unit 10 Heron Park

Happy Valley Home, Simon's Town – Visit to check for baboon attractants. No significant issues were noted.

Kogelfontein, Red Hill – Site visit to ensure that the skips are being used properly and are not accessible to baboons. All was in order.

Miller's Point Picnic Site and Slipway, Miller's Point – The main picnic area and slipway were neat and tidy at the time of the visits. On one occasion there was general waste left out close to the main road in black bags. It was not possible to ascertain the source of the waste at the time of the visit but the area will be monitored for dumping (**Fig. 6**).



Figure 6. Illegal dumping at Miller's Point

Miller's Point Resort, Miller's Point – No unsecured baboon attractants were noted at the campsite. Educational signage about baboons for holidaymakers remains in place inside the ablution blocks. A request for updated outdoor signage has been sent to the relevant City of Cape Town (CCT) department. This would help to reduce human-baboon conflict at the resort which is frequented by the Smitswinkel Bay Troop.

Miller's Point Ski Boat Club, Miller's Point – Visit to check for baboon attractants. All general waste was stored securely. It was noted that bins used to store garden waste had broken mechanisms. This specific baboon-proof bin design unfortunately appears to break frequently. The CCT Solid Waste Department is aware of this issue (**Fig. 7**).



Figure 7. Broken bin at the Ski Boat Club

SA Navy Properties, Simon's Town Area – Due to access control issues, NCC's baboon management teams were unable to enter Navy properties during the reporting period. An update is therefore not available for these areas.

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – The area was neat and tidy and all waste was stored securely. The problematic skip with the broken lid has not been replaced yet, but has been modified to prevent baboons from accessing the waste (**Fig. 8**).

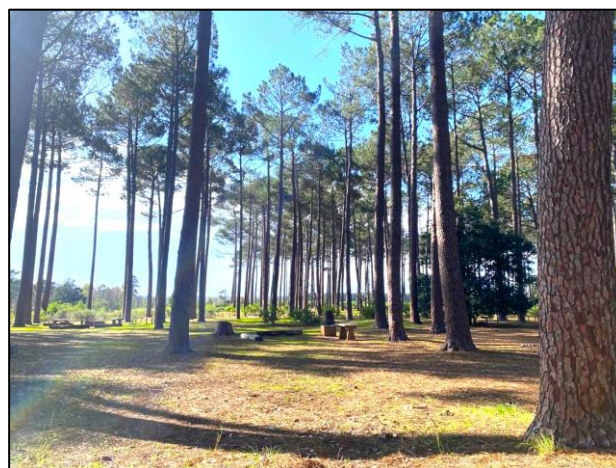


Figure 8. Tokai Picnic site in a neat and tidy state.

Tokai Tea Garden and Old Manor House, Tokai – Site visit to check for waste-based baboon attractants. No problems were noted.

Total Garage / Mugg and Bean, Tokai Road – Site visit to speak to the manager about baboons accessing the waste cage at the rear of the building. Advice has been provided to the staff to assist them in further baboon-proofing the waste. A follow up visit will be made to ascertain if any further advice or assistance is required (**Fig. 9**).



Figure 9. Total Garage/Mugg and Bean waste storage area. The central cage has been accessed by baboons.

STAKEHOLDER LIAISON

Ongoing engagement and face to face meetings with interested and affected community members. Topics such as troop movements, general management techniques, road safety, educational initiatives and other points for collaboration were all discussed.

Continued liaison with the City's Electricity department to discuss issues with electrical infrastructure in baboon ranging areas. This includes helping to identify poles that require regreasing to prevent baboon injuries and deaths through electrocution. This dialogue is facilitated by the City's Biodiversity Management Branch.

Regular engagement with the Groot Constantia, Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms to encourage collaboration and effective management of baboon troop movements in the Constantia area. Ongoing collaboration with the Cape of Good Hope SPCA on all baboon welfare matters and violations of the Animals Protection Act by members of the public.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Happy Valley Home, Simon's Town – An educational talk on baboon behaviour and ecology was presented to the residents followed by an interactive question and answer session. Residents were also provided with printed infographics detailing legislation and guidelines for responsible human behaviour around baboons. These infographics were then posted on the walls in key communal areas.

Black Marlin Restaurant, Millers Point – Presentation on baboon behaviour and ecology and the steps that staff members should take if a baboon visits the restaurant. This was a duplication of earlier staff training to ensure that all new employees are aware of the correct procedures.

Student Training (SANBI Interns) – NCC hosted six SANBI nature conservation students for a week during the reporting period. Integrated learning and internships form a key part of their studies and the Urban Baboon Programme assisted in fulfilling this requirement. Students were presented with lectures on the programme, its challenges and successes and legislation pertaining to the protection of chacma baboons on the Cape Peninsula. The students also joined our teams in the Simon's Town area to observe how the programme is applied in the field. We wish these aspiring young conservationists all the best with their future careers (**Fig.10**).



Figure 10. SANBI Nature Conservation Students assisting NCC rangers with alerting motorists to the presence of baboons.

Wildlife Forensic Academy, Buffelsfontein – NCC staff attended a full day training with the Wildlife Forensic Academy (“WFA”) at Buffelsfontein Nature Reserve. The WFA is a state-of-the-art facility which aims to mobilise forensic knowledge to help combat wildlife crimes. The purpose of the training was to learn to expertly analyse wildlife crime scenes and safeguard forensic evidence to increase prosecution

levels. The training involved a half day of lectures by a one of the WFA directors, a WFA student and the former Commander of SAPS Forensic Unit. The second half of the day involved running through three separate mock scenarios where baboons had been found dead. Staff were required to cordon off the scene, photograph and sketch the scene, collect evidence including DNA, and run the entire process as would be formally done in the field. It is hoped that this will assist NCC with their work in the community and facilitate successful prosecutions where legal contraventions have occurred (**Fig.11**).



Figure 11. NCC staff training at the Wildlife Forensic Academy.

Western Cape Snare Response Plan Workshop – NCC staff attended a half day workshop led by the Cape Leopard Trust, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Cape Nature. The workshop was an introduction to the new Snare Free initiative which will involve a multiple stakeholder network of conservation, animal welfare and volunteer organisations. The aim is to provide a coordinated response to wildlife snaring events through streamlined reporting, deployment of trained emergency team members, and follow-up for animals caught in snares. Additional goals for the programme are to also improve training, data collection and increase public awareness to reduce the frequency of snaring incidents. Snaring is a major threat to biodiversity on the Cape Peninsula. Since the start of NCC’s contract, NCC staff and the SPCA have removed snares from five baboons, two of which were unfortunately already deceased. NCC looks forward to assisting with the programme when it goes live, through actively assisting with response, spreading the word amongst local communities, and encouraging members of the public to participate in the initiative (**Fig.12**).



Figure 12. Delegates at the Snare Free Workshop.

Social media and development and distribution of electronic educational material – Content is created on an ongoing basis to assist with community education. Relevant infographics are also distributed directly to residents and business and are available on the NCC website. Infographics covering the topics of ‘Baboon and Dogs’ and ‘Reporting Illegal Activities’ were also shared on social media platforms during the month of May (Fig. 13).



Figure 13. New educational content created and distributed in the reporting period.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 438 hotline calls during the month of May. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (410), followed by general enquires (19) and reports of injured baboons (9) (**Fig. 14**). 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. The second highest number of calls came from Welcome Glen in response to the Da Gama Troop and third highest number of calls came from Imhoff's Gift in response to the SK Troop or individuals from the troop (**Fig. 15**). Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

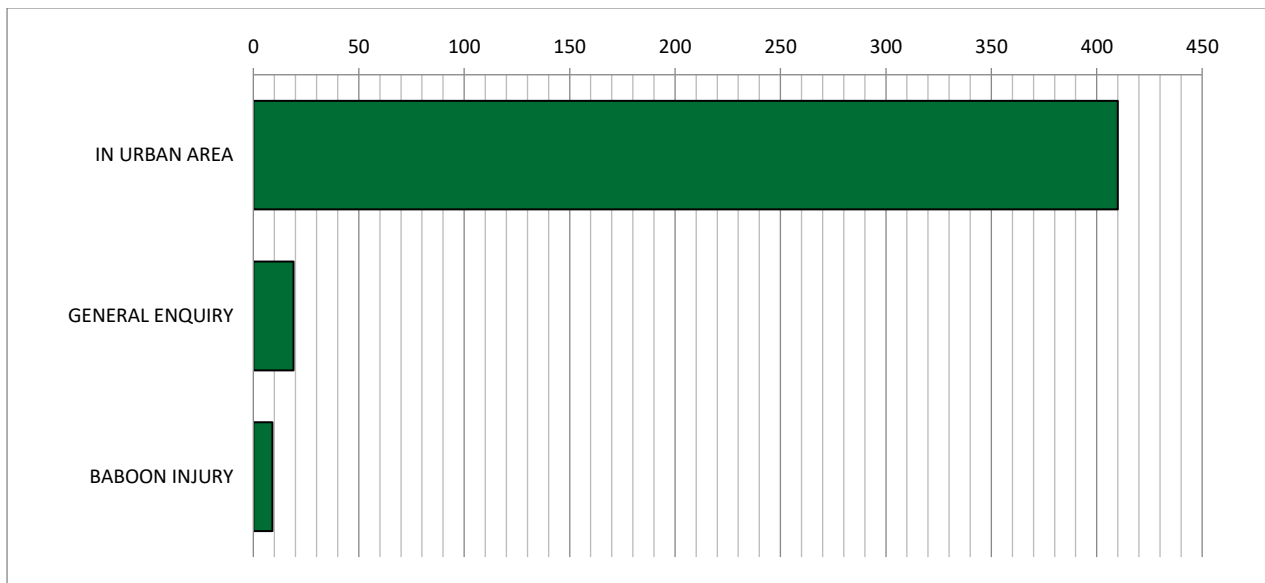


Figure 14. The number of hotline calls by type in May 2023.

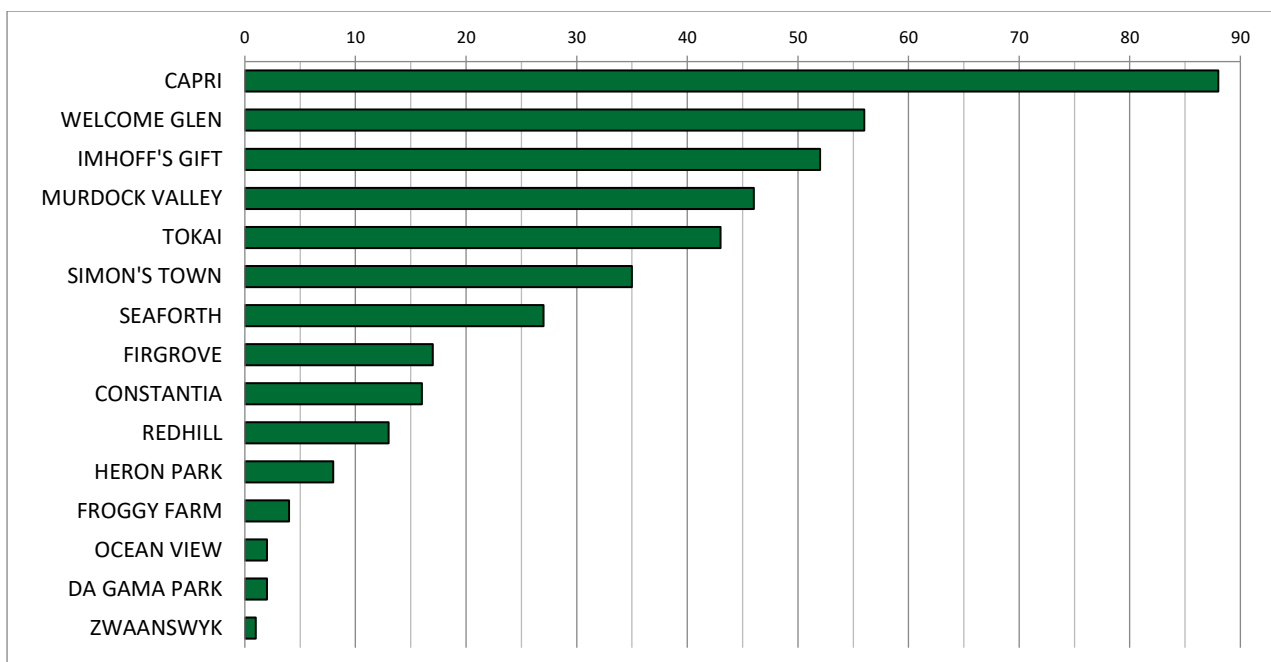


Figure 15. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in May 2023.

4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

4.4.1 Troop Specific Recommendations & Actions

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
DG	There is a 3km above ground electricity line running through a section of the DG Troop's natural ranging area. This line should be diverted underground to protect baboons and other wildlife from further electrocutions.	NCC and members of the CCT Biodiversity Management Branch are engaging with CCT Electricity Department regarding short-term mitigation measures for electricity poles and power lines in baboon ranging areas while long-term measures are put in place.	Ongoing engagement.
DG	The alien invasive vegetation surrounding Da Gama Park is extensive, dense, and overgrown. This vegetation should be removed as it obscures the troop's movements and allows them to enter the urban area undetected. It also poses a fire risk to the built-up area.	No known clearing this month.	Continued clearing.
GOB	Residents of Scarborough should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	None this month.	Ongoing community engagement.
GOB	Owners of rental properties should alert their guest to the possible presence of baboons and proper conduct required to mitigate against conflicts.	None this month.	Ongoing community engagement.
GOB	Both skips at Kogelfontein should be kept locked to reduce this troop's access to human-derived foods.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	Ongoing monitoring & reporting.

TROOP	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION UNDERTAKEN THIS MONTH	ACTION STILL REQUIRED
SK	Though baboons do not move through Kommetjie often, residents of Kommetjie should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties.	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.	See section 4.2, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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, 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. See section 4.2, EDUCATION INITIATIVES	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.