



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

November 2023 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:
City of Cape Town

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

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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). This contract has been extended via a section 116 process until 31 December 2024. NCC are contracted to prevent designated 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 95.1% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 94.4% 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 22 occasions this month. While in these suburbs, they accessed numerous bins, particularly in Da Gama Park.
- DG20, a young adult male natal to the DG Troop who has recently been displaying dispersing behaviour, spent most of the month separate from the troop and in the vicinity of Welcome Glen and for a brief period in Glencairn Heights. He returned to the troop on 28 November after repeated competition with DG19 and DG21.
- The troop roosted mostly in the pine trees on 2nd Avenue this month.

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The GOB Troop spent 99.8% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 99.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved in and out of the CoGH section of the TMNP and spent most of their time in the southern and western sections of their ranging area.
- The troop continue to regularly visit Berg Farm at the bottom of Redhill.
- This month, the troop and individuals visited Scarborough. The battery for the GPS tracking collar on an individual of this troop is now depleted. As this troop spends the majority of their time within the CoGH of TMNP where the UBP does not operate, tracking capability is required to allow the field team to respond proactively to the troop's movement towards Scarborough.

A replacement collar is strongly recommended as soon as possible to prevent the troop from becoming habituated to visiting Scarborough.

2.3 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 90.3% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 90.9% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop again spent more time in the natural space this month due to their utilisation of natural over urban roosting sites although they did roost for a few nights on rooftops in Heron Park.
- A seasonal shift in plant phenology has increased the abundance of natural vegetation higher in the mountains within the troop's ranging area.

2.4 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 95.5% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 99.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent the majority of their time between Smitswinkel Bay corner, within the CoGH section of TMNP, and Rocklands Farm cliffs.
- The Black Marlin restaurant, the coffee shop at Rocklands Farm and the double bins at Miller's Point were significant attractants to the troop and individuals this month.
- The Kanonkop Troop was not seen out of the reserve this month.
- There has been some aggression and competition between SWB6 and UKP2 this month. This has resulted in them moving far apart from each other at times which presented challenges to the management of the troop.
- UKP2 continued to charge the field team on several occasions this month.

2.5 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 97.2% of the time out of the urban area.¹
- Individual baboons spent 99.3% 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 85.6% of time out of the urban area for the troop and 99% for individuals.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted predominantly at SANAD, the white Ladies' Flats at Waterfall Barracks and the Waterfall footpath this month. Fortunately, the troop only roosted on buildings along the Main Road on three occasions this month.
- This month the splitting in the troop between WF10 and WF11 continued but to a lesser degree. The troop appears to be favouring WF10, though WF11 and a few individuals roosted separately on a few occasions.
- The high percentage of time out of town this month was due to the success the field team has had in maintaining the troop in the natural area around SANAD. This is largely linked to the seasonal shift in plant phenology which has increased the abundance of natural vegetation higher in the mountains. However, it remains challenging to hold the line below SANAD when the shooting range is in use.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT1 Troop spent 99.1% 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 for most of the month around the wine farms and in the Price Drive stream.

3.2 MOUNTAIN ONE TROOP (MT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent the majority of their time above Buitenverwachting.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TWO TROOP (MT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The MT2 Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 99.1% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted mostly above The Range.

- The troop crossed Orpen Road and visited Cape Academy where they accessed waste from unprotected bins on a few occasions.
- A young adult male believed to be from the Tokai Troop joined the troop this month and appears to have taken over as alpha.
- The troop continues to regularly enter Constantia Uitsig.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop. The tracking collar on an individual in this troop which previously alerted the field team that the troop was moving towards Orpen Road, was recently removed. This has presented increased challenges to preventing the troop from moving into the urban space and we recommend the placement of a new collar.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The TK Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area.
- Individuals spent 83.9% of time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- TK62, a young adult male dispersing from his natal Tokai Troop, was captured on 13 November and released in a natural area in the southern Peninsula, after 3 weeks in Hout Bay.
- The low time out of town figure for individuals was largely due to an injured male hiding in the Zwaanswyk suburb during the last few days of November.

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 97.7% of time out of the urban area this month (**Fig. 1**). All troops were out of town for over 90% of time this month. Overall individual time out of town was 94.2%. Factors that impacted the differing levels of success for these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

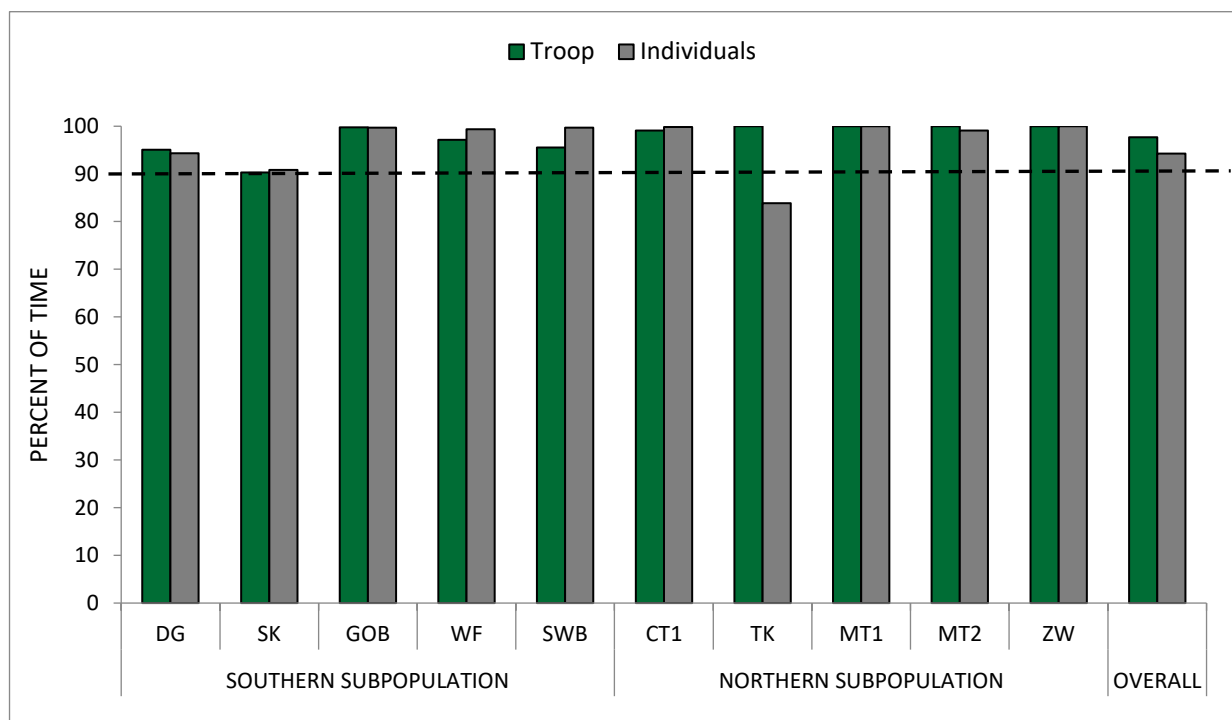


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of November 2023. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior section. The percent of time out of town is calculated using the same method as the previous service provider, based on an average 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 Constantia, Glencairn, Hout Bay, Imhoff's Gift, Ocean View, Simon's Town, Tokai and Zwaanswyk:

- Provided residents with information about the dispersal process for male baboons and advised on how they can assist baboon management by reducing attractants at their properties, calling the hotline, and alerting their neighbours when they spot a baboon in the area.

- Engaged with community members who had concerns about individual baboons breaking away from the troop to enter the urban area. This has been a challenge in the Imhoff's Gift and Glencairn areas during this reporting period. Current troop dynamics and how these dynamics influence the frequency of urban incursions as well as how management techniques are adapted to mitigate this as far as possible were discussed. Manpower constraints often dictate that rangers cannot be allocated to individual baboons, and it is thus extremely important that residents are proactive in their baboon-proofing efforts.
- Spoke with residents who had significant baboon point source attractants on their properties but were reluctant to remove them. UBP staff members explained how urban attractants reduce the effectiveness of the ranger programme and increase the baboons' overall time in town. It was also emphasised that the baboons would continue to visit and opportunistically exploit these resources whilst they remained available.
- Addressed myths and misconceptions surrounding baboon behaviour and advised residents on the appropriate reactive behaviour if they are faced with a baboon on their property.
- Advised residents who had baboons enter their homes on how to prevent future incursions. Baboon-proofing advice was given, as well as ways in which existing infrastructure can be altered or strengthened to reduce the likelihood of it being damaged by baboons.
- Encouraged residents who are concerned about the future of the baboon programme to engage with the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team (CPBMJTT) and to attend the upcoming public meetings. Potential long-term baboon management solutions for their respective communities were also deliberated.
- Provided advice to potential home buyers on baboon activity in their areas of interest and suggested baboon-proofing measures that they could take if they were to proceed and buy a home in a baboon ranging area.

Baboon and dog altercations – Two incidents were reported during November. One incident occurred on private property and therefore no laws were contravened. Urban Baboon Programme staff provided the owners with advice to reduce the likelihood of future incidents. The second altercation occurred in a public space at Kallies Pines in Ocean View, the owner of the dogs was located, and the case was passed to the SPCA for further investigation. The SPCA also treated the dogs for wounds sustained in the altercation.

Residents are reminded that dogs must be under control in public spaces. Altercations with baboons can lead to legal action being taken against the owner under the following acts:

- Animal Keeping By-law, 2021 14. (1): *'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.'*

- Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 19 of 1974: *‘No person shall, Hunt or feed baboons. Definition of Hunt according to the Ordinance: in relation to any wild animal by any means whatsoever to hunt or search for, to kill, capture or attempt to kill or capture, or to pursue, follow or drive with intent to kill or capture, or to shoot at, poison, lie in wait for or wilfully disturb.’*
- Animal Protection Act No. 71 of 1962: 2.(1)(G): *‘Any person who save for the purpose of training hounds maintained by a duly established and registered vermin club in the destruction of vermin, liberates any animal in such manner or place as to expose it to immediate attack or danger of attack by other animals or by wild animals, or baits or provokes any animal or incites any animal to attack another animal.’*

Cape Point Farm Stall, Plateau Road – Site visit to provide baboon-specific environmental education posters to the owners of the property. These posters will be displayed at the farm stall to assist with tourist education. The main dining area is fully baboon-proofed and waste management is good at the property (**Fig. 2**).

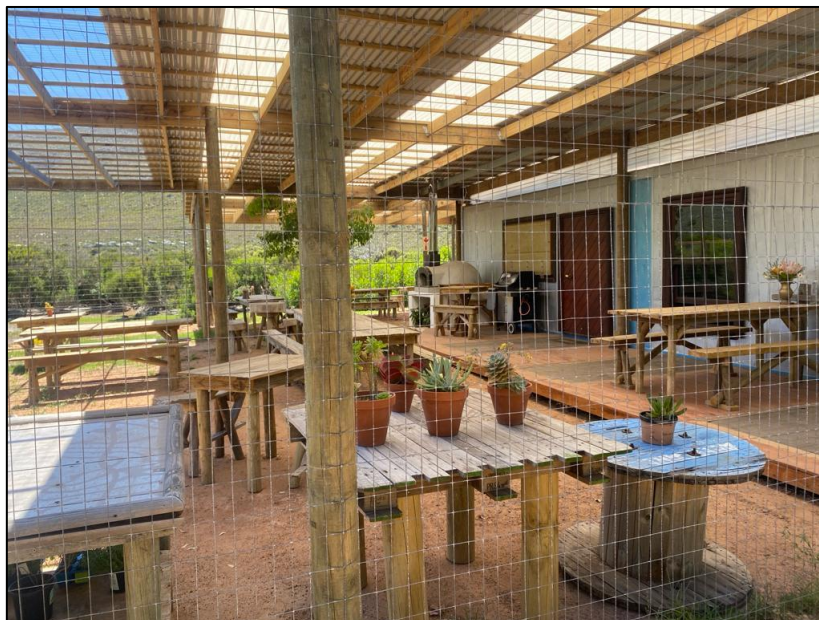


Figure 2. The main dining area at Cape Point Farm Stall is fully baboon-proof.

Cape Research Centre (CRC), Tokai – Waste compliance at the site improved at the beginning of the reporting period but has deteriorated again. The issue has been communicated to SANParks along with the need for the skip to be replaced, as baboons can access waste through the bent lid.

Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai Road – UBP staff have requested a follow-up visit by the City’s Environmental Health Department as the cage is often left open and accessible to baboons. The landlord has not made the requested modifications to the cage to ensure that it is fully baboon-proof when closed (**Fig. 3**).

Kogelfontein, Red Hill – Frequent site visits are undertaken to ensure that the skips are not serving as an attractant to the GOB troop. The skips were left open on one occasion. The lid was returned to the closed

position and UBP staff will continue to monitor the site to ensure that the skips remain closed. If the issue reoccurs, the SANParks section ranger will be alerted (**Fig. 4**).

Kronseil and Blue Fin Flats, Da Gama Park – All waste continues to be stored in the dedicated baboon-proof waste rooms. The locks on the doors are old and in need of replacement. This will be highlighted to the Navy Environmental Department.

Lluvia, Heron Park – No significant baboon attractants were noted at the time of the visit.

Miller's Point picnic and slipway, Miller's Point – Site visit to check for waste attractants. All was in order (**Fig. 5**).

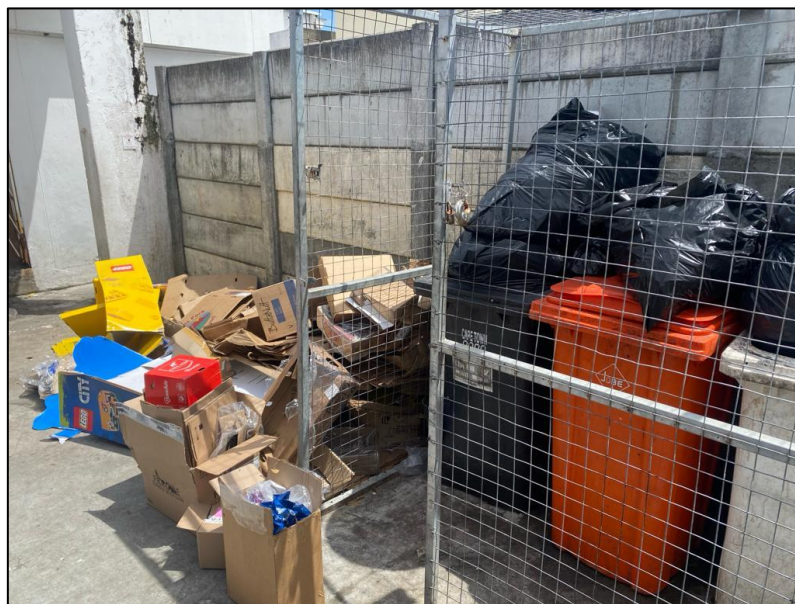


Figure 3. Open and problematic waste cage at Forest Glade Retail Centre.



Figure 4. Open skip and spilled waste at Kogelfontein.

Rocklands Centre, Murdock Valley South - Visit to speak about recent baboon activity at the centre. The centre has good waste management and protocols in place to limit baboon access to attractants and buildings on the property.

SA Navy Property – Job Maseko Wardroom, Seaforth – Site visit to check for waste compliance. The waste room is being used effectively and no significant waste-based attractants were noted at the time of the visits. The broken windows on the upper floors remain in need of repair to prevent baboon access. The Navy's Environmental Department are aware of this issue (**Fig. 6**).



Figure 5. The Smitswinkel Troop passing through Miller's Point picnic site.



Figure 6. The Seaforth baboon troop at Job Maseko Wardroom.

SA Navy Property – Signal School, Klawer Valley – Visit to check for baboon attractants. It was noted that waste was left accessible in an open garage. This has been highlighted to the Navy Environmental Department for their action (**Fig. 7**).

SA Navy Property – Waterfall Barracks, Simon’s Town – Site visit to check for waste compliance. Residents continue to store waste in the areas where the electrical DB boards are housed. These areas are often left unsecured and/or have inadequate bolts, allowing baboons to gain access to waste-based food rewards on a regular basis. This has been highlighted to the Navy Environmental Department for their action. Signage has been placed on the doors of all the electrical compartments by Navy officials and UBP staff, but compliance by residents is extremely poor. Derelict buildings at Waterfall Barracks continue to serve as sheltered sleep sites for the baboon troop. The Navy have indicated that they will secure these buildings, however the work has not been carried out to date (**Fig. 8**).



Figure 7. Unsecured waste at Signal School.



Figure 8. Waste accessed by baboons at Waterfall Barracks and educational signage to encourage better waste management.

Ski Boat Club, Miller's Point – Site visit to assess the property for baboon attractants. All waste was stored securely, and no other attractants were noted. Educational signage was placed in the outside shelters with the permission of the club staff (**Fig. 9**).

Tokai Picnic Site, Tokai – Waste compliance was good at the time of the visits and no significant baboon attractants were noted (**Fig. 10**).

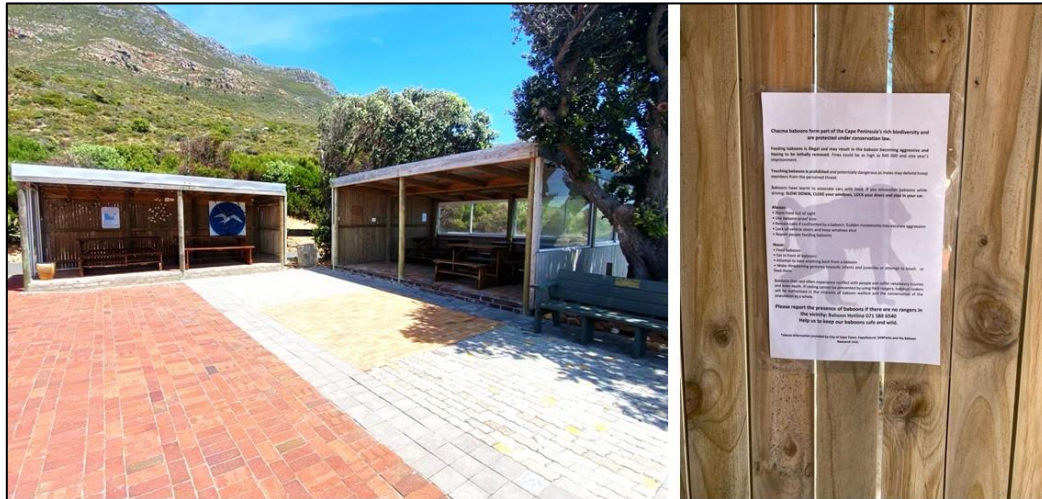


Figure 9. Good waste management at the Ski Boat Club. Educational signage was placed in the outside seating areas.



Figure 10. Waste management at Tokai picnic site remains of a high standard.

Total Garage / Mugg and Bean, Tokai Road – Waste management has become problematic again at this site. UBP staff members have given recommendations to the tenants and have requested that the City's Environmental Health Department visits the property to ensure that the waste is stored securely going forward (**Fig. 11**).

Willow Wood Estate, Kommetjie Road – Site visit to speak to the security staff following recent baboon visits to the property. The efficacy of the electric fence was discussed, and educational leaflets were provided for distribution to homeowners and tenants.

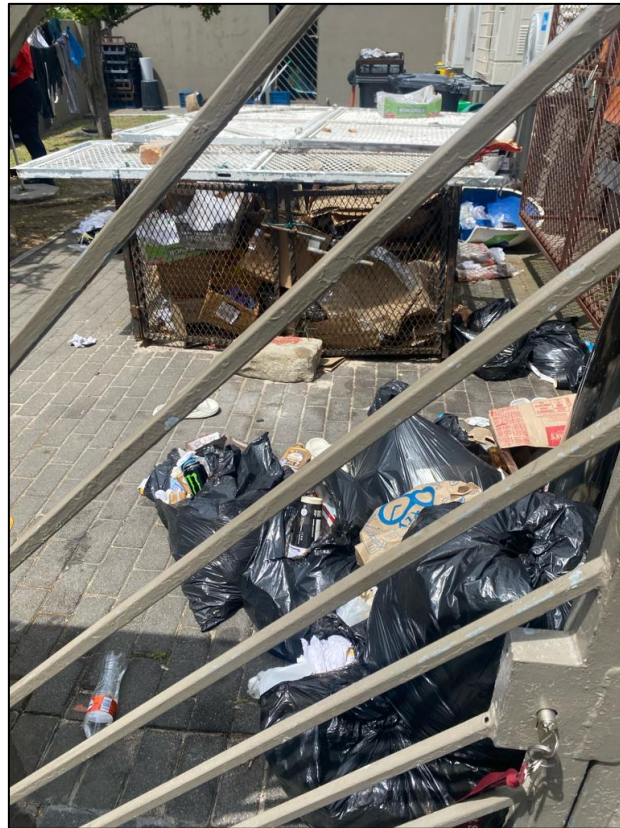


Figure 11. Poor waste management at the Total Garage/Mugg and Bean on Tokai Road.

STAKEHOLDER LIASION

Meetings with individual residents and baboon interest group representatives to facilitate open communication, answer queries and identify points for collaboration.

Frequent engagement with the Groot Constantia, Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms to encourage collaborative management of the baboons.

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. This collaboration includes engagement with the Wildlife Forensic Academy who assist in determining the cause of death for baboons when the reason is not readily apparent.

Ongoing dialogue with the SA Navy to address issues on Naval property and to identify solutions.

Engagement with the City's Biodiversity Management Branch (BMB) to highlight problematic electrical infrastructure. This is then escalated internally by the BMB to the City's Electricity Department. Known problematic lines are inspected on a regular basis and requests for poles to be regreased are submitted accordingly (**Fig. 12**).

Liaison with the City's Solid Waste Department facilitated by the Biodiversity Management Branch (BMB). Waste related issues are reported on an ongoing basis (**Fig. 13**).



Figure 12. Potentially problematic electrical infrastructure, such as this H pole, is inspected on a regular basis.



Figure 13. Non baboon-proof bins which were placed along the road to Scarborough. Residents and UBP staff have requested that these be removed to prevent them from serving as an attractant to the GOB troop.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Da Gama Park Nature Club: The Da Gama Park Nature Club is a youth development project for the children of Da Gama Park, founded by Cape Peninsula Civil Conservation (CPCC). The Nature Club meets every Saturday and provides opportunities for children and young people to connect with and learn about the natural world around them. NCC representatives attended a nature hike and provided an environmental education session for the children about the local flora and fauna. The session was highly interactive, and the children were encouraged to ask questions to facilitate learning (**Fig. 14**).



Figure 14. NCC and CPCC representatives with children from the Da Gama Park Nature Club.

Rocklands Centre, Environmental Education Sessions: Three separate educational talks were presented to groups of children attending the centre. A total of 210 Grade 4 and 5 learners were educated in baboon ecology and behaviour. The focus of these presentations was to foster a greater understanding of baboons and to educate the learners on how to behave if the baboons visited the centre during their stay. Students were provided with 'golden rules' to ensure their safety and that of the baboons. Educational activities were also provided to the children to assist with learning. Children attended from Fish Hoek Primary School, Micheal Oak Waldorf School and Somerset College (**Fig. 15**).



Figure 15. Baboon behaviour training for Fish Hoek Grade 4 learners at Rocklands Centre.

Electronic distribution of educational material: Informational posters and leaflets are distributed on an ongoing basis in baboon-affected areas. Specific signage to encourage visitors to close doors and windows was also designed and supplied to meet the needs of individual businesses and properties (**Fig. 16**).



Figure 16. Signage provided to Rocklands Centre.

Distribution of educational posters: Posters and infographics were placed in tourist hotspots to promote responsible behaviour around baboons and reduce the likelihood of human-baboon conflict over the holiday period. UBP staff also opportunistically engage with and educate visitors whenever possible.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 477 hotline calls during the month of October. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (424), followed by general enquires (29) and reports of injured baboons (24) (**Fig. 17**). The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from Welcome Glen in response to the DG Troop and individual males displaying dispersing behaviour in that area. The second highest number of calls came from Tokai and Hout Bay in response to the movement of dispersing males into these areas (**Fig. 18**). Factors which impacted the management of these troops and individuals can be found in their above respective summary.

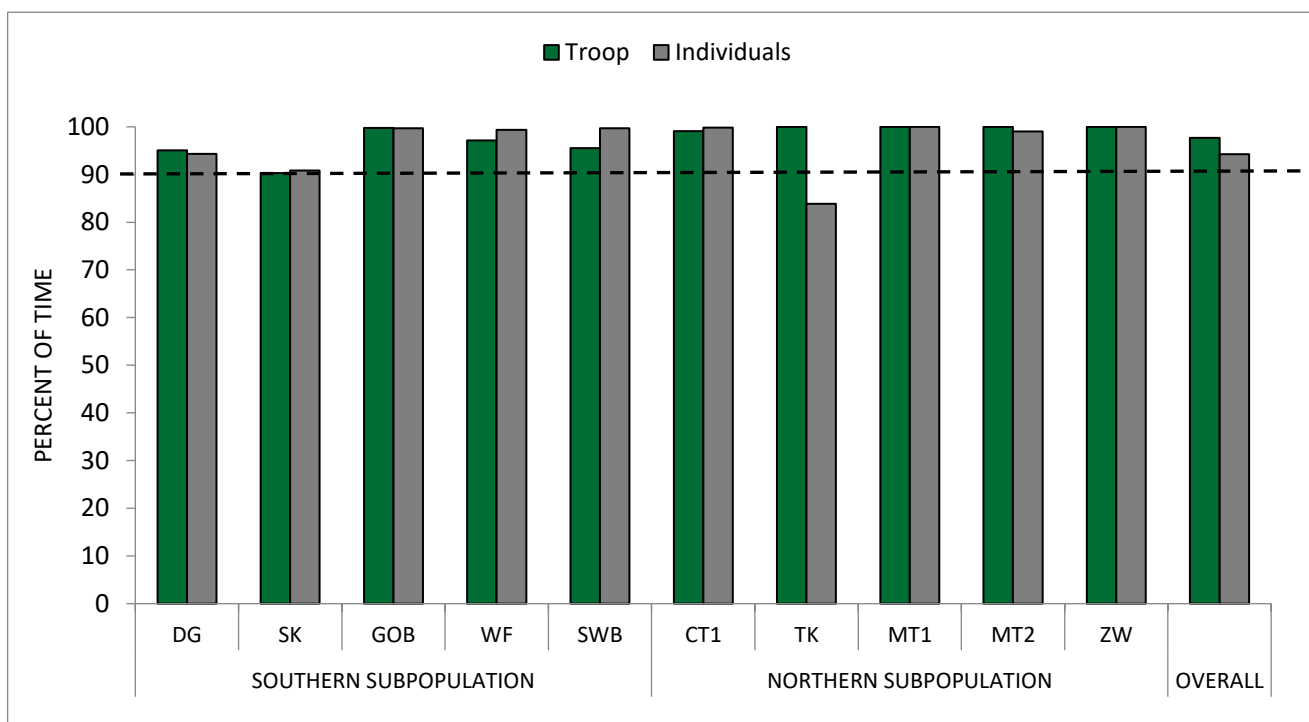


Figure 17. The number of hotline calls by type in November 2023.

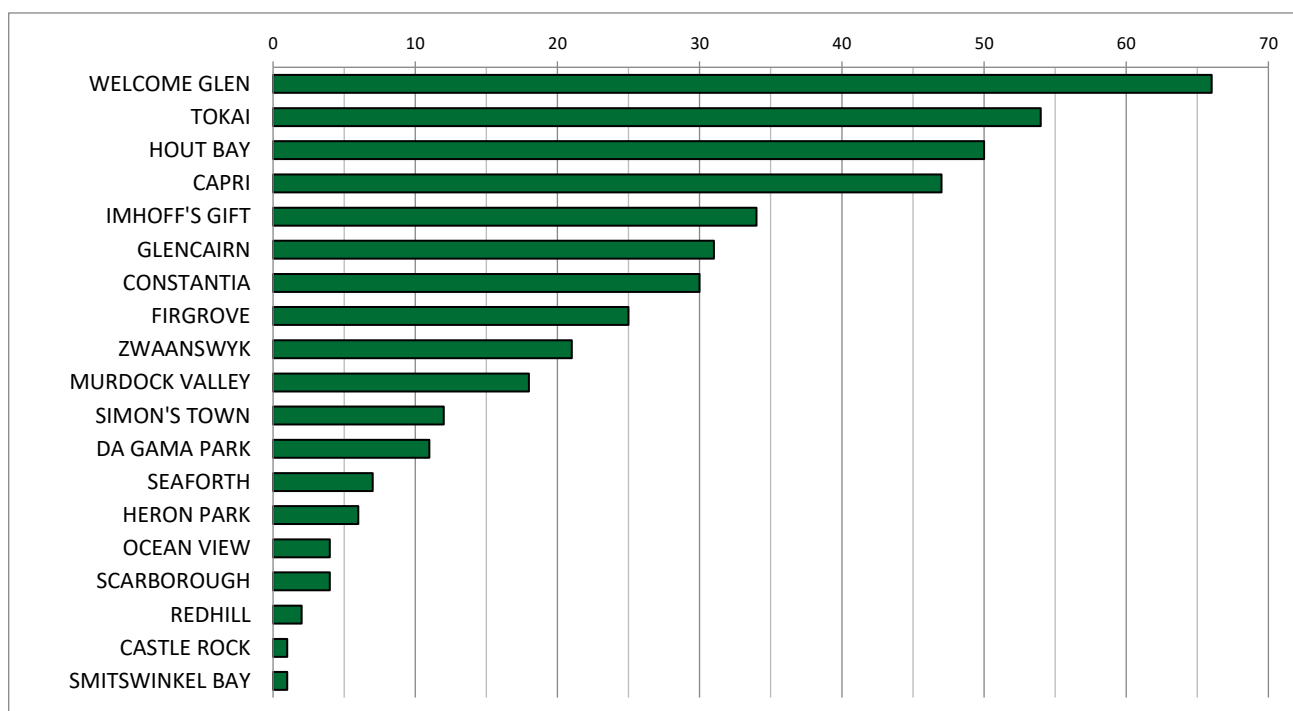


Figure 18. The number of hotline calls reporting baboon presence by suburb in November 2023.

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, <i>SITE VISITS</i>	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.	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, 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 & the Snare Free initiative at 076 127 8485	A request that the public alert the Baboon Hotline & the newly formed 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.