



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

October 2020 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

31 October 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Cape Town appointed NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (NCC) on 1 October, 2020 as a service provider to the Urban Baboon Programme (UBP) on a three year contract. NCC are mandated to deter and prevent baboon troops from entering urban areas for at least 90% of daylight hours to minimise human-wildlife conflict on the urban edge.

2 SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – CATH SHUTTE

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Da Gama troop spent 90.8% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 97.9% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons accessed food from several bins, unoccupied and occupied houses in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- No specific recommendations.

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The GOB Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 100% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's movement patterns were impacted by an unknown troop of baboons from the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) Nature Reserve that spent time between Gate 4 and Wildschutsbrand this month.
- When this unknown troop moved towards Wildschutsbraand, the GOB troop responded by moving further into the CoGH or towards the Klaasjagersberg Mountain. If the unknown troop continues to stay in this area, it is likely to impact the GOB troop's area of use in the long-term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Preventing access to human-derived foods from houses, bins, vegetable gardens and fruit trees is especially important with regards to encouraging the unknown troop to stay out of urban areas.

2.3 PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR)

The Plateau Road troop is not fully part of the Urban Baboon Programme as they do not enter urban areas. The Urban Baboon Programme only manage baboons in the urban space. NCC has field rangers in place on Plateau Road for the purposes of keeping baboons off of the road and preventing passing tourists from feeding baboons.

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Plateau Road Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 100% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's movement patterns were impacted by an unknown troop of baboons from the CoGH that spent time between Gate 4 and Wildschutsbraand this month.
- If the unknown troop continues to stay in this area, it is likely to impact the Plateau Road troop's area of use in the long-term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The electricity line along Plateau Road should be removed and diverted underground to prevent electrocutions.
- Precluding access to human-derived foods from houses, bins, vegetable gardens and fruit trees is especially important with regards to preventing the unknown troop of baboons from becoming an urban foraging troop.

2.4 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Slangkop Troop spent 68.8% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 98.9% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved through the urban area of Kommetjie a number of times during the month. Individual baboons accessed food from bins as well as occupied houses on several occasions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation of electric fencing aprons on roofs of businesses within the Heron Park industrial area would discourage the baboons from utilizing the roofs as a roosting site.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Smitswinkel Bay troop spent 98.3% of its time out of town this month.
- Individual time out of town was 99.9% this month.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- No specific incidents this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The troop often moves past the Black Marlin restaurant. An electric fence around the property would prevent baboons from accessing food at this facility.
- This troop often moves past the Cape Boat & Ski-Boat Club. The installation of baboon-proof bins or the building of a baboon-proof bin room would prevent baboons from accessing human-derived food waste on this property.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Waterfall troop spent 98.9% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 98.9% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons gained access to the Waterfall Barracks and the South Africa Naval Ammunitions Depot (SANAD) on many occasions, gaining access to occupied rooms and accessing food from non-baboon proof bins.
- Individual baboons were successful in accessing food from the Whats your Flava shop on several occasions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The baboon-proofing of waste areas, windows and doors in facilities on South African Navy land 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 baboon access.
- A baboon-proof security gate to eliminate baboon access to 'What's Your Flava' shop would reduce the availability of human-derived food rewards, which encourage baboons to the area.

2.7 SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The erection of strategically placed baboon-proof fences in specific communities would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available home ranges.
- The availability of baboon-proof rubbish and recycle bins in baboon-impacted suburbs would minimize the troop's access to human-derived food waste.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.
- Fruiting trees should be removed, or fruit removed from the tree to reduce the level of attractant to the urban area.
- A community education plan would refresh residents and businesses on how to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants as well as how to respond when baboons enter the urban area.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One troop spent 91.7% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 99.2% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT1 started moving onto Eagles' Nest wine farm and roosting in this area. This raises concerns as the troop can easily enter the urban space if they are moved out of Eagles' Nest, or they could move down to the De Hel Nature Reserve. The troop's potential movement onto this difficult terrain presents challenges to their effective deterrence from the urban space.
- The growing northern subpopulation, in addition to limited access to undeveloped low-lying land in the Constantia area, has caused the Constantia troops to laterally shift their areas of use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation and maintenance of baboon-proof electric fencing around wine farms and at the top of Price Drive would reduce baboon incursions onto wine farms and surrounding areas.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two troop spent 80.1% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 97.2% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT2 have been sleeping in Eagles Nest wine farm and moving towards areas such as De Hel Nature Reserve and Cecilia Forest. This is challenging to manage as there are currently no field rangers allocated exclusively to their deterrence from the urban space. The terrain of the landscape and size of this area also presents challenges to preventing access to the urban space.
- The troop has also frequently been spotted crossing Constantia Main Road, Rhodes Drive and Southern Cross Drive. This raises concerns surrounding the possibility of a vehicle accident, which could be to the detriment of both baboons and motorists.
- The troop is very difficult to locate. As they are currently navigating a new landscape and establishing a new area of use, it would be valuable to understand their movements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Signage erected along Constantia Main Road, Rhodes Drive and Southern Cross Drive would assist in alerting motorists to the presence of baboons along the roads.
- Signage erected in the northern portion of the Table Mountain National Park would assist in alerting recreational users to the presence of baboons in the area. Baboon-proofing of bins and facilities in this area would assist in preventing baboons from gaining access to human-derived food.
- Discussions to continue with CapeNature and SANParks as to the way forward with this situation.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TROOP (MT)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Mountain troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop was spotted twice during the month a short distance from Orpen Road. There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop which could result in the troop attempting to enter the urban area in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- No specific recommendations.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Tokai troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 98.8% of time out of the urban area this month.
- SK11 spent 83.1% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons occasionally entered the Constantia Uitsig area where they accessed food from non-baboon proof bins.
- This month individual baboons accessed bins at the Cape Academy on a few occasions. Fruit trees on this property are also a potential attractant for baboons in the area.
- An individual baboon accessed food on a picnic table in the Tokai picnic area.

RECOMMENDATION

- Baboon-proof bins in the restaurant area of Constantia Uitsig would prevent baboons from accessing human-derived food waste and attracting them to this property.
- The Cape Academy has a baboon-proof bin room for the storage of full bins. Signage outside of the bin area would assist residents and staff members on how to efficiently utilize this facility. Removal of fruit trees and/or the picking of fruit off trees would reduce the level of attractants on the property.
- The Tokai picnic area re-opened this month. The fence in this area has been damaged by fallen tree branches. Repairing the electric fence surrounding the picnic area will prevent baboons from entering as picnicking increases.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Tokai troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons occasionally entered the Constantia Uitsig area where they accessed food from non-baboon proof bins.
- This month individual baboons accessed bins at the Cape Academy on a few occasions. Fruit trees on this property are also a potential attractant for baboons in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Baboon-proof bins in the restaurant area of Constantia Uitsig would prevent baboons from accessing human-derived food waste in this area.
- The Cape Academy has a baboon-proof bin room for the storage of full bins. Signage outside of the bin area would assist residents and staff members on how to efficiently utilize this facility. Removing of fruit trees and/or the picking of fruit off trees would reduce the level of attractants on the property.

- The Tokai picnic area re-opened this month. The fence in this area has been damaged by fallen tree branches. Repairing the electric fence surrounding the picnic area will prevent baboons from entering as picnicking increases.

3.6 NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The erection of strategically-placed baboon-proof fences on Price Drive and wine farms would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranges.
- The availability of baboon-proof rubbish and recycle bins in baboon-impacted suburbs would minimum the troop's access to human-derived food waste.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.
- Fruiting trees should be removed, or fruit removed from the tree to reduce the level of attractant to the urban area.
- A community education plan would refresh residents and businesses on how to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants as well as how to respond when baboons enter the urban area.
- Methods to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered in discussion with SANParks and CapeNature.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

This month the baboon troops overall were out of the urban space for 93.5% of the time (**Fig.1**).

Nine out of eleven troops were out of the urban space for at least 90% of the time. The Slangkop troop spent a considerable amount of time within the urban area during the second half of the month due to their location in and around Kommetjie.

The topography in this location consists of short slopes which abut the residential area. This difficult landscape, combined with abundantly accessible human-derived food rewards in the community, presents significant challenges to the management of the Slangkop troop. The CT2 troop proved challenging to manage by shifting their area of use to densely vegetated areas along steep slopes in areas where baboon troops have not spent time in recent years.

For the first couple of weeks this month, we trialled alternative tactics to keep the baboon troops out of the urban area. Strategic deterrence manoeuvres, the carrying of sticks and use of whistles were trialled in lieu of paintball markers. Trialling this approach has proven valuable.

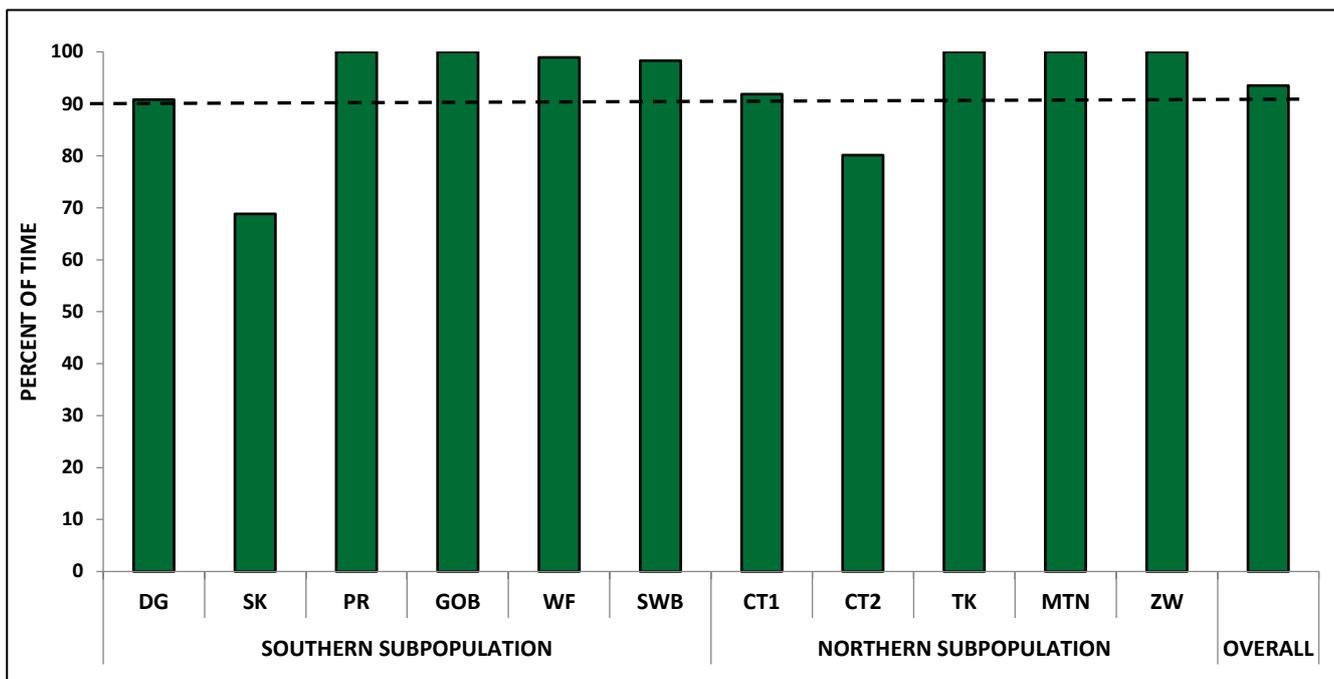


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop included in the programme for the month of October. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. The percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider for uniformity. This calculation is based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per month.

It is apparent that factors including troop size, composition and level of habituation, landscape topography, amount of available low-lying natural land as well as the abundance of easily accessible human-derived foods create unique challenges to deter each troop from the urban space, therefore necessitating varying approaches. The alternative tactics trialled during this time have been incorporated into daily practice in addition to the use of paintball markers where necessary.

4.2 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Time constraints associated with the initiation of our programme prevented a greater focus on community outreach this month. We conducted site visits and attended the following meetings in October.

- Miller’s Point picnic site: a meeting was held to discuss removing bins and braai facilities in order to prevent baboons from accessing food as well as preventing fires in the area prior to the start of the holiday season. Signage alerting picnic site users to the presence of baboons in the area is planned for installation.
- Welcome Glen CARBS: a meeting was held to introduce ourselves and discuss the specific challenges being faced in the community.
- Klein Constantia wine farm: a meeting was held to introduce ourselves and discuss instituting a more cohesive baboon deterrence strategy.
- Groot Constantia wine farm: a meeting was held to introduce ourselves and discuss instituting a more cohesive baboon deterrence strategy.

- Buitenverwachting wine farm: a meeting was held to introduce ourselves and discuss instituting a more cohesive baboon deterrence strategy.
- Soetwater Resort: an opportunistic meeting took place to discuss potential preventative measures to keep baboons from accessing food at the camp site prior to the start of the holiday season.
- Total Garage in Tokai site visit: bins were found to be baboon-proofed.
- Forest Glade centre in Tokai site visit: bins were found properly stored in a baboon-proof bin room.
- Cape Academy site visit: bins filled with waste were standing outside of the baboon-proof bin room and were recently accessed by baboons. A meeting with the school principal was scheduled to discuss how to best ensure the proper use of the baboon-proof bin facility by residents and staff members.

An emphasis on education and awareness in the form of community meetings and presentations, the development of widely accessible online educational resources and site visits to hotspot areas forms a significant component of the programme. An increased focus on a community education scheme is planned for the near future.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

The hotline number was received from the previous service provider on 10 October, 2020.

The following information includes hotline calls from this date onwards only.

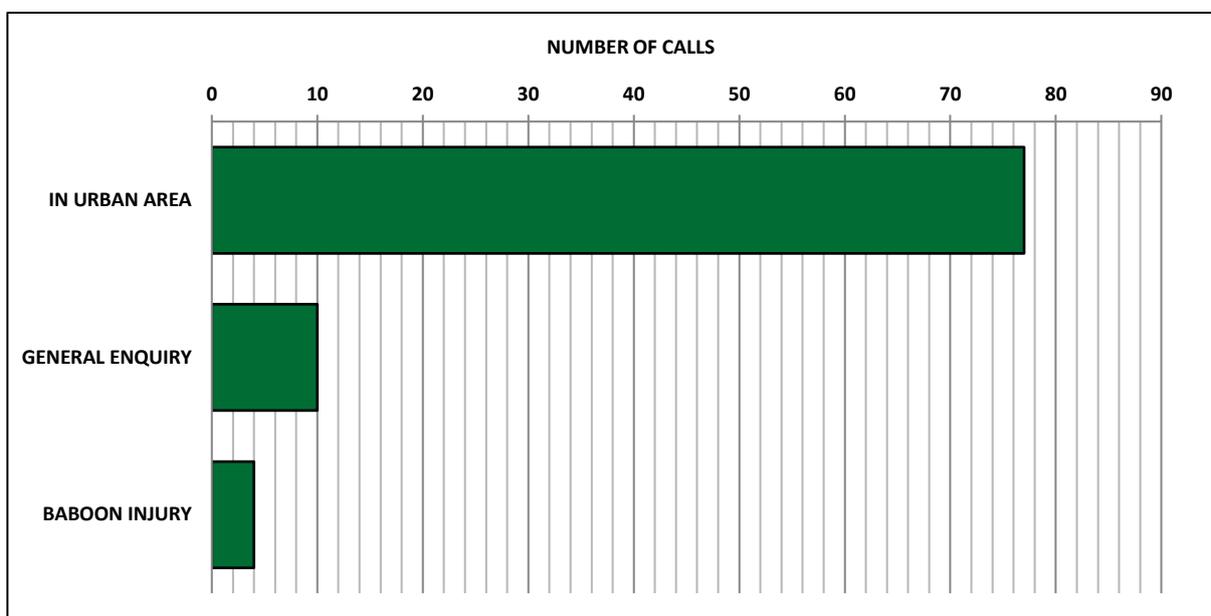


Figure 2. The number of hotline calls by type from 10-31 October, 2020.

A total of 91 hotline calls was received during the month of October. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area, followed by general enquiries and reports of injured baboons (**Fig. 2**).

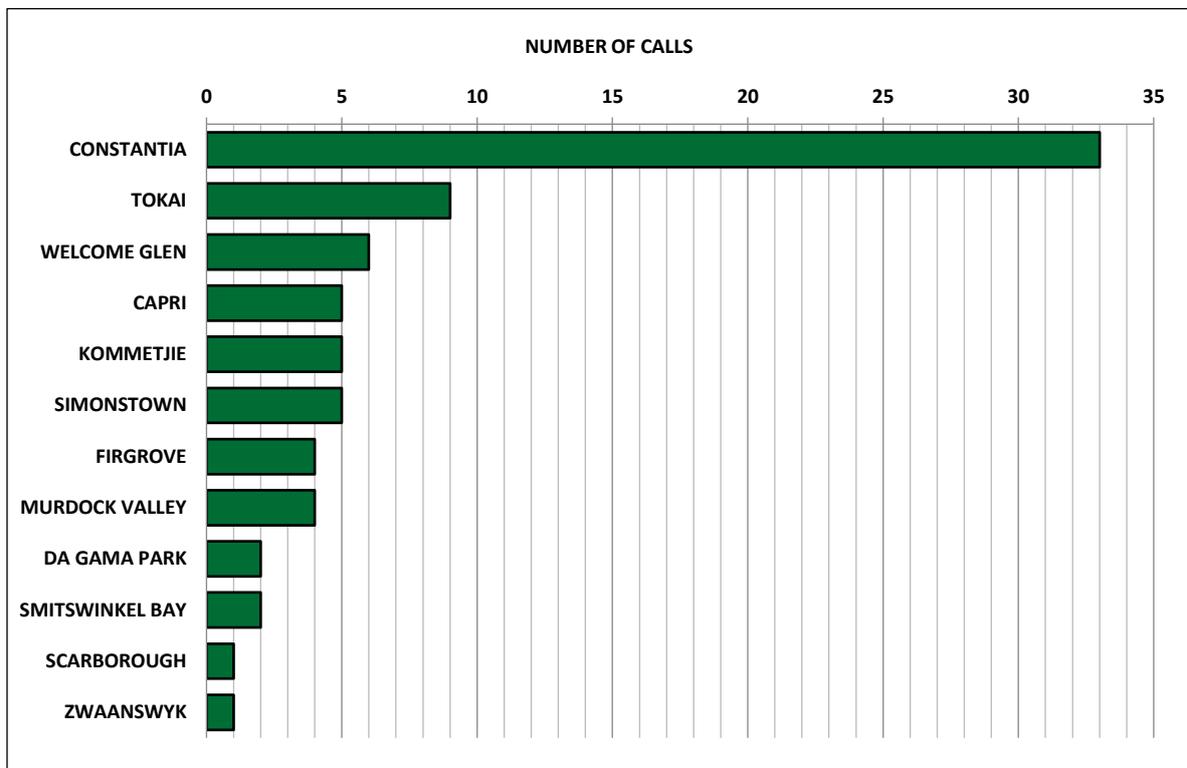


Figure 3. The number of hotline calls from specific communities reporting the presence of baboons in urban areas between 1-31 October, 2020.

The highest number of hotline calls reporting baboon(s) in urban areas came from Constantia (**Fig. 3**). These calls focused predominantly on the presence of the baboons in the residential areas surrounding the wine farms and the movement of baboons to areas where they have not been seen in recent years.

The use of the hotline is encouraged to report incursions into residential areas for the safety of the baboons and to aid in assisting the public in these areas.
