



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

November 2020 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

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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 92.2% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 95.7% 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 continued to be impacted by an unknown troop of baboons from the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) section of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) that spent time between Gate 4 and Wildschutsbrand this month. The GOB Troop responded to this presence by predominantly moving further into the CoGH towards to the Olifantsbos coastline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific recommendations.

2.3 PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR)

The Plateau Road Troop is not a fully monitored troop as they do not enter urban areas. Field rangers are in place on Plateau Road for the purposes of keeping baboons off of the road and preventing passing motorists 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 again impacted by an unknown troop of baboons from the CoGH that spent time between Gate 4 and Wildschutsbrand this month.
- As a result of the unknown troop's presence, the Plateau Road Troop concentrated their movements within the southern section of their ranging area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The electricity line along Plateau Road should be removed and diverted underground to prevent electrocutions.

2.4 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Slangkop Troop spent 78.9% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 97.2% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent the beginning of the month in and around the residential village of Kommetjie.
- On 10 November, the troop moved off Slangkop Mountain and towards the Rooikrans Plateau above Capri.
- On 12 November, SK11 was relocated back to his natal area within the Slangkop Troop's range
- Individuals gained entrance to unoccupied and occupied houses on several occasions in Kommetjie.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Smitswinkel Bay Troop spent 100% of its time out of town this month.
- Individual time out of town was 99.9% this month.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- The alpha male of the troop (WF8) entered occupied and unoccupied houses in Smitswinkel Bay this month. This behaviour could escalate over the holiday season when more holiday makers frequent the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The troop often moves past the Black Marlin restaurant. An electric fence around the property would prevent baboons from accessing food at this property.
- 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 cage 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 97.6% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 96.8% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons moved through various SA Navy facilities during the month. The most noteworthy being Waterfall Barracks. Poor waste management and lack of baboon-proofing is an attractant to the troop. Once on the property, individual baboons were able to gain access to occupied and unoccupied rooms and non-baboon proof bins on many occasions.
- The Southern African Naval Ammunitions Depot (SANAD) has taken various measures to enclose their bins and have therefore reduced the level of attraction to the facility.

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. The City is addressing this via a pending tender.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access by baboons.
- Fruiting trees should be removed, or fruit removed from the tree to reduce the level of attractant to the urban area.
- Community engagement would help 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.
- There has been a recent noticeable increase in snare activity on the Cape Peninsula. We urge members of the public to be on the lookout for snares while out walking in the mountains. If you spot a baboon with a snare, please report it immediately to the Baboon Hotline (071 588 6540).

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One Troop spent 93.8% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 99.8% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT1 continued moving into Eagles' Nest wine farm and roosted here for majority of the month followed by Price Drive Stream. This raises concerns as the troop is getting more used to sleeping in this area which is much closer to the urban space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation and maintenance of baboon-proof electric fencing around wine farms and at the top of Price Drive would reduce baboon incursions into wine farms and surrounding areas.
- Baboon-proofing of bins around the Constantia area will also reduce the attractiveness of urban areas for baboons.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two troop spent 87.2% 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

- CT2 has not been sleeping in Eagles' Nest wine farm during November but slept around De Hel and along Constantia Main Road for the majority of the time.
- The troop continued to move further north during November and towards the end of November they entered Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden for the first time. This raises concerns as visitors to Kirstenbosch Gardens and residents living in the surrounding areas are unfamiliar with having baboons in the area.
- The terrain of the landscape and size of this area continues to present challenges in both locating and managing the troop.
- The troop has continued to cross roads such as Constantia Main Road, Rhodes Drive and Southern Cross Drive during November. This continues to raise concerns surrounding the possibility of a vehicle accident, which could be to the detriment of both baboons and motorists.

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 on the way forward with regard to 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 remained away from the urban edge above Buitenverwachting this month.
- There is an indication that the troop is slowly beginning to splinter into two groups.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop which could result in the troop, or a new splinter 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 98.7% 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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 recently reopened. 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 over the summer season.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Zwaanswyk 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.

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 and maintenance 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 minimize the troop's access to human-derived food waste. The City is in the process of procuring baboon proof bins via a pending tender.
- 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.
- Community engagement would help 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 to be discussed with CapeNature and SANParks.
- There has been a recent noticeable increase in snare activity on the Cape Peninsula. We urge members of the public to be on the lookout for snares while out walking in the mountains. If you spot a baboon with a snare, please report it immediately to the Baboon Hotline (071 588 6540).

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 95.4% (Fig.3). Nine of the eleven troops were out of the urban space for at least 90% of the time. The Slangkop Troop's time out of town improved this month as their area of use has shifted away from Kommetjie where it is especially challenging to manage the troop.

The CT2 Troop continued to prove challenging to manage by moving to new areas throughout the month. These areas are spread over a large, densely vegetated landscape with steep slopes making the troop difficult to locate, follow and encourage back into the natural space.

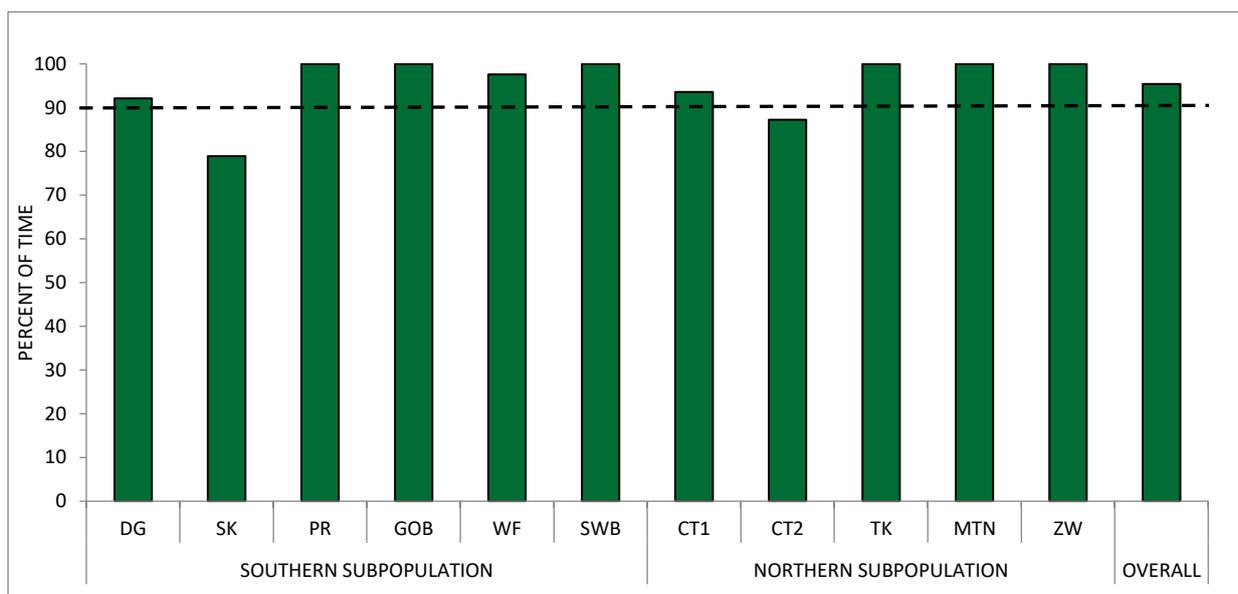


Figure 3. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop included in the programme for the month of November. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. The percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider for uniformity. This calculation is based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per month.

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This month we conducted site visits, attended meetings and partook in community outreach in the following areas.

Site visits:

- Koggelfontein Skips: Site visits were carried out during the month to ensure that the skips were being well managed. It was noted that they have been fitted with padlocks on both corners of the skip to keep them locked at all times.
- Miller’s Point Boat and Ski Boat Club: A site visit was carried out to monitor waste management. There is a cage at the club but the cage does not have a roof and is thus not baboon-proof. This is currently being addressed.
- Miller’s Point Picnic site: A site visit was carried out following last month’s meeting. All of the braai pits have since been filled in and bins removed in an effort to deter eating at the site and reduce baboon access to food at the site.
- South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD): Site visits were carried out to follow up on waste management. There have been various measures taken to manage their bins. The bins are now kept in locked area to prevent baboon access. This has helped to reduce the level of attraction to the facility.

- The Range: A site visit was done to check on waste management. Food waste is being kept in a secure bin room. Recyclable waste is being kept outside.
- Forest Glade Centre: A site visit was done to check on waste management. Several businesses in this center utilize a shared lockable bin room. At the time of the site visit, the bins had just been emptied and were standing outside of the bin room.
- Total Garage: A site visit was done to check in on the bins. We found that the bins are still baboon-proofed to prevent baboon access.
- Chrysalis Academy: During the month Chrysalis management was informed that baboons were seen pulling rubbish bags through the mesh fence surrounding their skip. This has since been resolved and site visits have revealed that rubbish bags are being kept at a distance from the fence preventing the baboons from gaining access.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- A meeting was held with Beau Constantia, Eagle's Nest and Constantia Glen wine farms to introduce ourselves and discuss issues of common interest affecting baboon management on the urban edge.
- A meeting was held with the Cape Academy to address waste management. They have recently implemented a system where all full bins are to be placed inside the lockable bin room. They have put up security cameras near the bin room to identify people who are not complying and follow up.

Community Outreach:

- Zwaanswyk Annual General Meeting: This month we were invited to give an overview of the Urban Baboon Programme to the Zwaanswyk community. Information included the history, size and movement of the northern baboon troops as well as the success of Zwaanswyk's strategic baboon-proof fence.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 172 hotline calls during the month of November. 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. 4**).

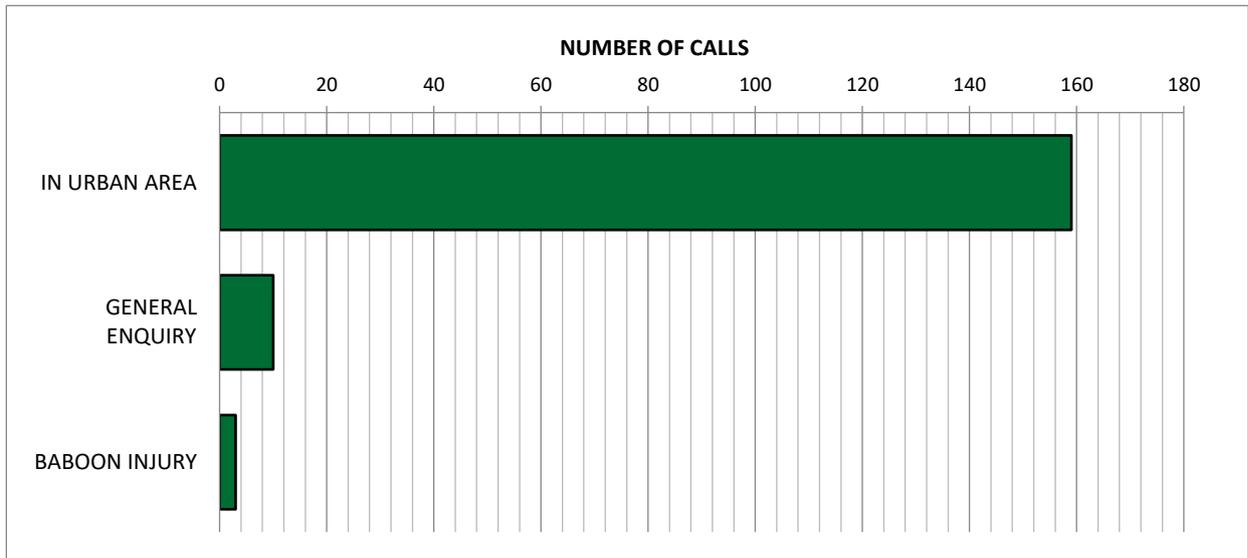


Figure 4. The number of hotline calls by type during November 2020.

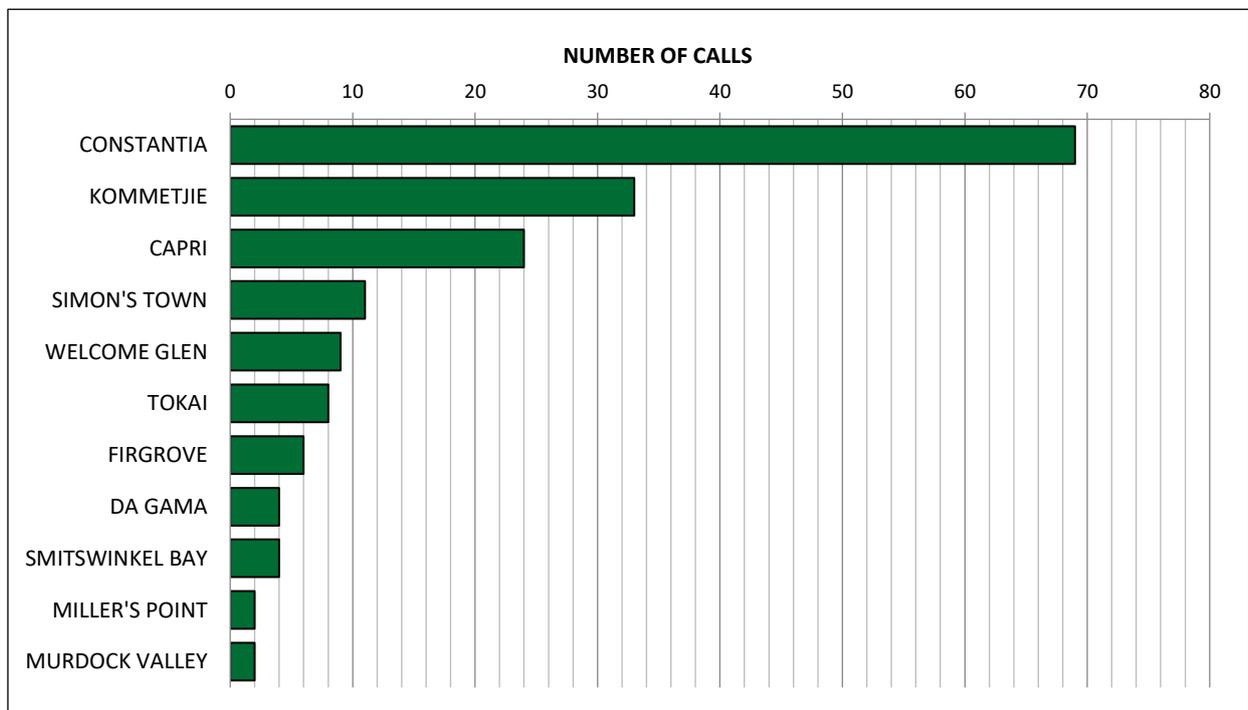


Figure 5. The number of calls received from specific communities reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area during November 2020.

The majority of hotline calls regarding baboon(s) in urban area came from Constantia, Kommetjie and Capri (**Fig. 5**). The calls from Constantia were predominantly focused on the presence of the CT2 Troop in the residential areas and on main roads where there have not been baboons in recent years.

Several calls from Kommetjie took place early in the month prior to the Slangkop Troop's movement to the Rooikrans Mountain area. Reports of a single adult male baboon in Kommetjie and Capri began after SK11's relocation back to his natal range adjacent to these residential areas.

The Urban Baboon Programme encourages the use of the Baboon Hotline (071 588 6540) to report incursions into residential areas for the safety of the baboons and to aid rangers in assisting the public in these areas.
