



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

January 2021 Monthly Report



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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 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 98.9% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 99.1% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Da Gama Troop moved through Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month. However, their presence was higher in Da Gama Park than Welcome Glen.

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 the urban area was 100% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent most of the month moving inside the Cape of Good Hope section (CoGH) of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP).

RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific recommendations.

2.3 PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR)

The Plateau Road troop is not a fully included in the Urban Baboon Programme as the troop do not enter urban areas. NCC has field rangers 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 urban area was 100% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's movement patterns were again impacted by the troop of baboons from the CoGH that spent time between Gate 6 and Klaasjagersberg this month.
- The troop spent most of the month moving through the agricultural farms along Plateau Road.

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 86.5% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 98.3% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Slangkop Troop spent several nights roosting on Slangkop Mountain and one night within the Kommetjie village, which led to an increase in time spent in the urban area and access to human-derived foods in the village.
- The Slangkop Troop visited Heron Park on several during the month but did not gain access to human-derived foods in this location.
- The presence of individuals with dogs behind Ocean View has impacted the movement of the troop in the natural space. On some occasions, these individuals have actively sought out the baboons and chased them with dogs. This caused the troop to scatter in several directions. These incidents were reported to South Africa Police Services, and SANParks when the activity occurred on their property.

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.
- Clearing the invasive alien vegetation from Kommetjie Vineyard Estate will increase the visibility for the NCC Field Ranger team and assist them in reducing the presence of baboons in Heron Park.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Smitswinkel Bay troop spent 99.1% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 99.1% this month.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals moved through the Black Marlin on several occasions. However, they did not access human-derived foods this month as the restaurant is currently closed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The troop often moves past the Black Marlin restaurant. An electric fence around the property would prevent baboons from accessing human-derived foods at this facility.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Waterfall troop spent 99.3% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 97.7% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons moved through various SA Navy facilities during the month. The most noteworthy being Waterfall Barracks and the Southern African Naval Ammunitions Depot (SANAD).
- The lack of waste management and baboon-proofing at Waterfall Barracks and West Yard is a significant attractant to the baboons where individuals gain access to rooms and non-baboon proof bins.
- Individual baboons visited the What's your Flava shop on Simonstown Main Road several times during January.
- A new untagged male began following the Waterfall Troop this month. It is unknown where this male originates from.

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 SK11

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA caught adult male baboon SK11 and relocated him to the Riverside Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Limpopo Province.

2.8 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 by baboons.
- Fruiting trees should be removed, or fruit removed from the tree to reduce the level of attractant to the urban area.
- Community education 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.
- There has been a noticeable increase in snare activity on the Cape Peninsula. It is important for members of the public to contact the Baboon Hotline (071 588 6540) or the Cape of Good Hope SPCA (021 700 4140) if they see a baboon with a snare.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One troop spent 96.3% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 99.5% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT1 Troop spent the month moving between Price Drive stream, Eagles' Nest Wine farm and the Vlakkenberg mountain area.
- At the end of the month, CT1 Troop crossed Constantia Main Road for the first time and moved towards Pear Lane. The troop was quickly pushed back towards the Eagles Nest Wine Farm side. This is concerning as CT1 may attempt to cross Constantia Main Road in the future on a more regular basis.

- At the end of the month, a few individuals from the CT1 Troop also entered Rhodes Drive for 20 minutes before being encouraged back towards the Vlakkenberg Mountain.

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 in the Constantia Area.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The CT2 Troop spent 90% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 100% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT2 Troop slept at De Hel Nature Reserve and along Southern Cross Drive during January.
- The troop entered Constantia Glen on a more frequent basis and has visited Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden less this month.
- The troop accessed food from bins and vegetable gardens from properties along Rhodes Drive in the Constantia Area on several occasions.
- The Urban Baboon Programme has no mandate to follow baboon troops into Table Mountain National Park (SANParks) north of Constantia Nek. Predicting where the troop will reappear from TMNP – and preventing them from entering the urban area – remains a challenge.

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.
- A collar should be placed on an adult individual in this troop, so that rangers can see when the troop is close to the urban edge, and prevent them from entering the urban areas.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TROOP (MT)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

- Individual time out of the urban area was 100% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop remained above Buitenverwachting during January and away from town.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific recommendations.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Tokai Troop spent 99.9% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 86.2% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons were recorded on several occasions entering the Constantia Uitsig area where they have access to food from non-baboon proof bins and restaurants. This acts as a significant attractant to the urban edge and encourages raiding behaviour.
- Individual baboons were recorded at the Cape Academy accessing bins on several occasions.
- Two incidents were recorded during the month of baboons accessing food from picnickers inside the Tokai picnic area.
- Untagged adult male baboon, TK57, started showing signs of dispersal during the month by spending more time away from the troop and sleeping in or near the urban area.
- Fruiting trees along the road verge on Orpen Road are a significant attractant for baboons, leading to the Tokai Troop feeding on fallen fruit close to the road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Baboon-proof bins and baboon-proofing of shops at Constantia Uitsig would reduce the attractiveness of the property and would reduce troop incursions into the urban space.
- 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.

- The removal of fruit from trees on the road verges along Orpen Road would assist the field team in keeping the Tokai Troop away from the road and urban edge.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

No incidents affected management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop above as they share the same ranging areas.

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 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.
- Community education 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.
- Contraception to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.
- There has been a noticeable increase in snare activity on the Cape Peninsula. It is important for members of the public to contact the Baboon Hotline (071 588 6540) or the Cape of Good Hope SPCA (021 700 4140) if they see a baboon with a snare.

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 97.2% of the time (**Fig.3**). Ten of the eleven troops were out of the urban space for 90% of the time or greater.

The Slangkop Troop's time out of town this month did not reach 90%. The reason for this situation is that for part of the month, the troop's area of use shifted back to Kommetjie as a result of being chased by individuals with dogs. When the Slangkop Troop is in the Kommetjie area, it is challenging to manage.

The CT2 Troop is challenging to manage as they move through large areas of densely vegetated areas with steep slopes.

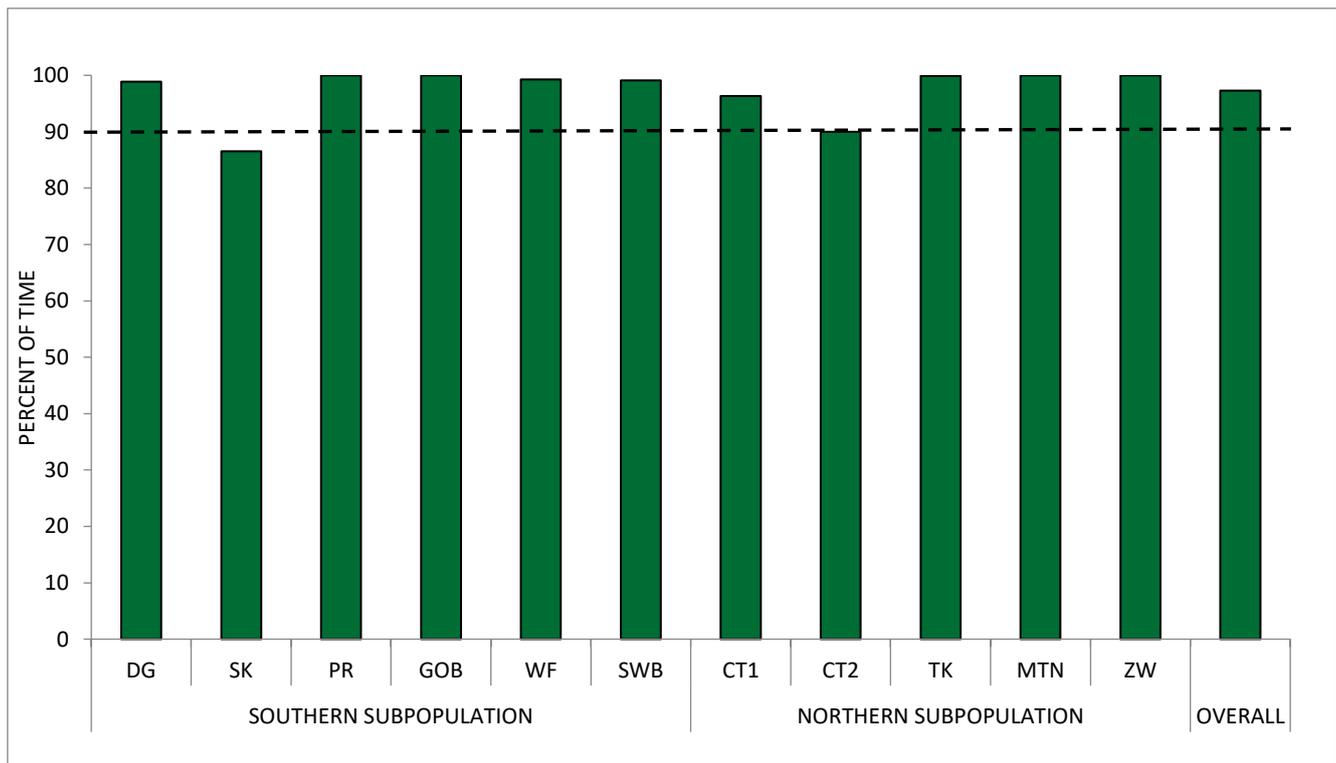


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop included in the programme for the month of January. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. The percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider for uniformity.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

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Site visits, stakeholder liaison and community engagement were undertaken in the following areas.

Site visits:

- **Cape Academy** – followed up on the progress of erecting signage at the bin room. Found some full bins outside the bin room. Alerted management who secured the bins. Conducted a site visit a few days later and found the bin room to be in order.
- **Eagles' Nest Wines** – inspected the waste room area. Inadequate waste management was reported to management who quickly addressed the issue by securing the waste area. A follow-up site visit revealed that all was in order.
- **Forest Glade Centre** – followed up on waste management, which was found to be in order except for one restaurant. Waste management was addressed with the property manager.
- **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden** – followed up on waste management after receiving reports that baboons accessed bins on the property. Bins were found to be in order.
- **Private residential properties** – addressed attractants on several properties that have been flagged as hotspots for baboon activity. Recommended that residents reduce the attractants (e.g. remove sugar water bird feeders, secure vegetable gardens) on their properties.
- **SANParks Research Centre and cottages** – found an overfilled skip and requested proper waste management.
- **The Range** – followed up on waste management, which was found to be in order.
- **What's Your Flava shop** – vegetables and other foods have been removed from the entrance of the shop. Recommended the installation of a baboon-proof gate at the front of the shop as the baboons continue to enter through the open door.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- **In2Foods** – met with health and safety managers to discuss ongoing measures to prevent attracting baboons to their property.
- **Ocean View Community** – met with members of the Rastafarian camp above Ocean View. A large community farming initiative was identified with vegetable and fruit tree attractants at the urban edge. A proposal is being put together for the greater community to help fund baboon-proofing of this garden that provides food security to members of an economically marginalized community.
- **Public bin audit** – staff are presently carrying out an audit of all public bins in baboon range areas to determine those that require replacement with the baboon-proof alternative or

require repairs. Public bins in Tokai, Firgrove, Dennedal, Welcome Glen, Da Gama Park and Constantia have been inspected this month.

Community Engagement:

- **Sun Valley, Glencairn, Fish Hoek** – door to door visits were made to residents to alert them to the baboon presence in their area. Measures were recommended measures to reduce attractants on properties.
- **Capri** – pamphlets on living responsibly in baboon-impacted areas were distributed throughout the suburb.
- **Chrysalis Academy** – a presentation on baboon behavioral ecology, correct waste management and how to behave around baboons was given to the new students at the academy.



Figure 2. Members of the Rastafarian camp above Ocean View posing with their community farming initiative which feeds the local community. The farming area is an attractant to baboons. A community proposal is being developed to assist this community with baboon-proofing.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

During the month of January, 373 hotline were received. 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. 3**).

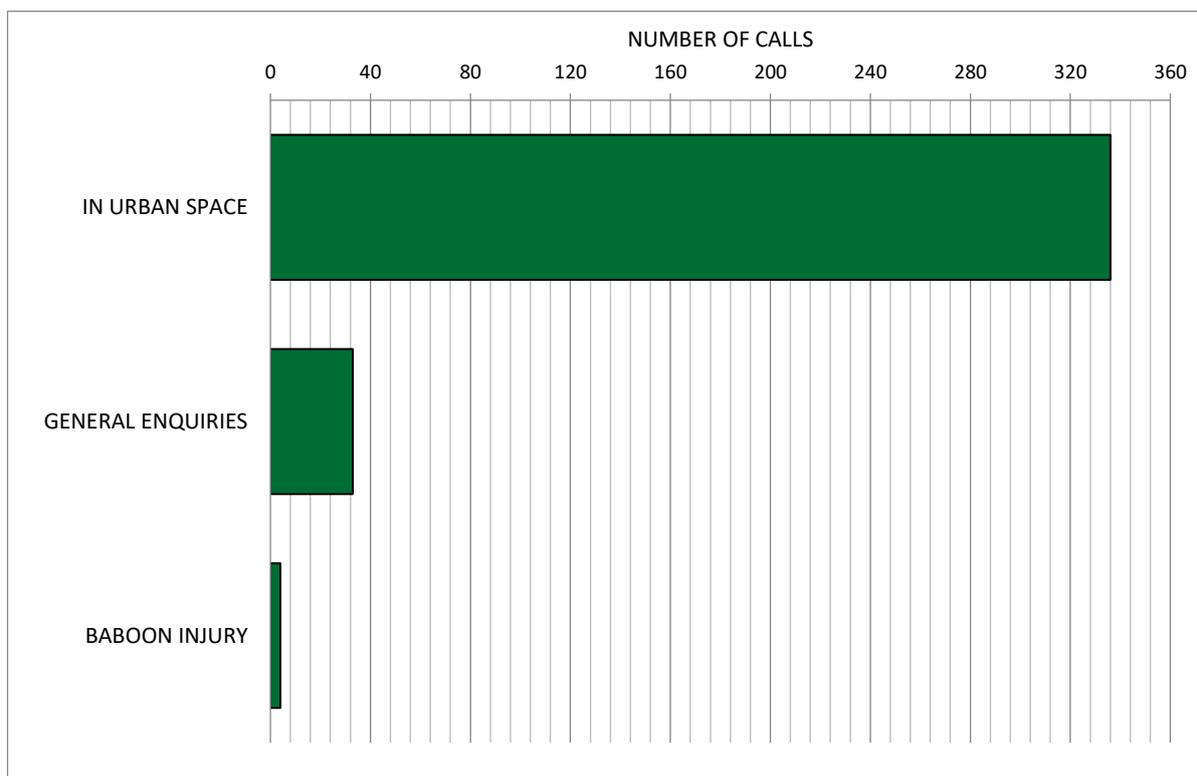


Figure 3. The number of hotline calls by type during January 2021.

The majority of hotline calls regarding baboon(s) in urban area came from Tokai and Simon’s Town (**Fig. 4**). The calls from Tokai were predominantly regarding the movement of adult male baboon TK57 who began showing signs of dispersal behaviour this month and the presence of the Tokai Troop along Orpen Road as they foraged for fallen fruit on the road verge.

A high number of calls from Simon’s Town were received at the same time as the troop was moved along the road in one location. The majority of the calls from Fish Hoek, Capri, Sunnysdale, Sun Valley and Glencairn were regarding the movement of adult male baboon SK11.

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.

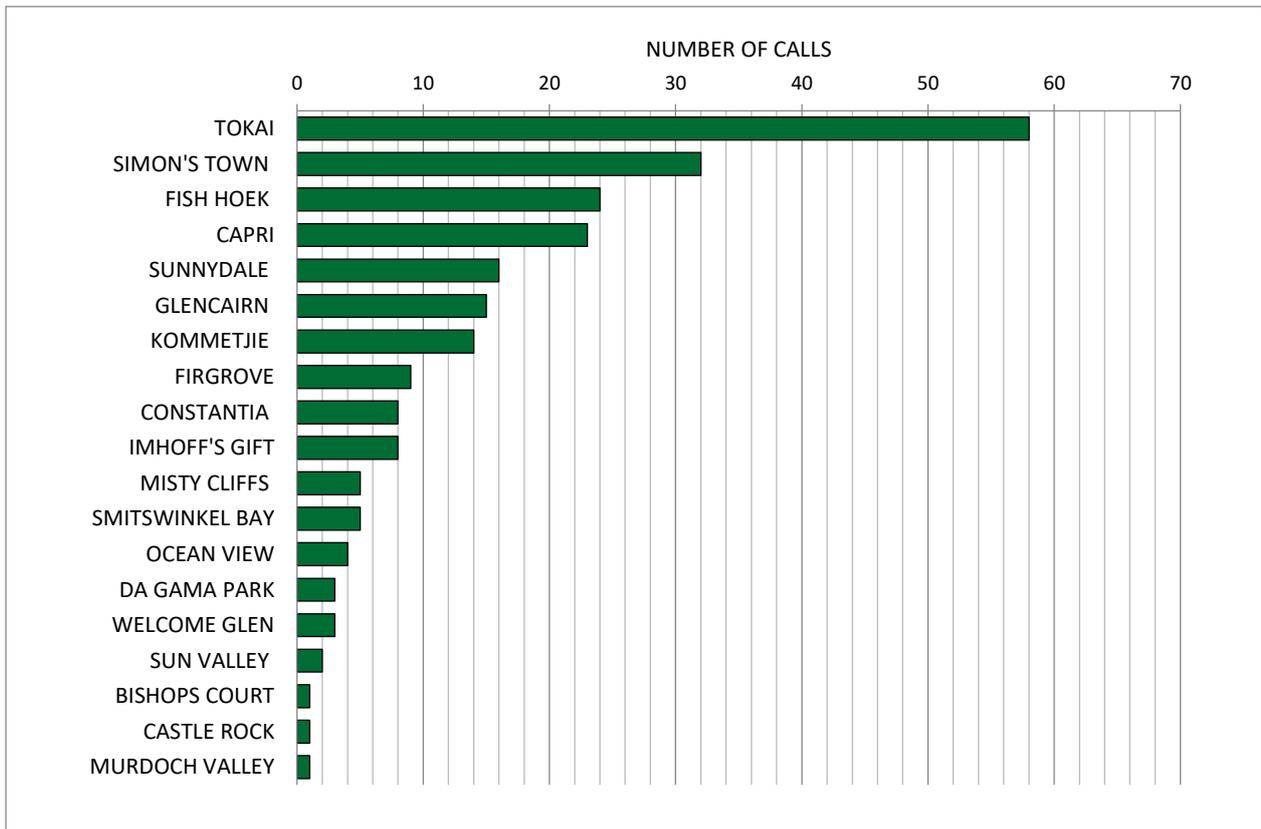


Figure 4. The number of calls received from specific communities reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area during January 2021.
