



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

February 2021 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:
City of Cape Town

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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 mandated to prevent baboon troops from entering and remaining in urban areas for at least 90% of daylight hours to minimise human-baboon conflict.

2 SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – CATH SHUTTE

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Da Gama Troop spent 98.6% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 96.4% 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 Welcome Glen than Da Gama Park.
- The majority of bin raids took place in Welcome Glen, but the majority of unoccupied and occupied house raids took place in Da Gama Park.
- The troop dynamics have again been affected this month. DG19, a young adult male, continued to challenge DG14, the current alpha male.
- TK57, a dispersing adult male from the Tokai Troop, who was relocated to the southern peninsula, was seen observing the Da Gama Troop on two occasions. There were no interactions between TK57 and troop members.

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 the majority of the month moving inside the Cape of Good Hope section (CoGH) of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP).

- They began using their sleep sites on the CoGH fringe (Wildschutsbrand & Perdekloof) as well as the pine trees behind Shamballah Tea House & Holistic Centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific recommendations.

2.3 PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR)

The Plateau Road Troop does not have dedicated staff with them as they 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 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 the 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.
- There have been instances where the two troops have been in close proximity, but no interactions took place.
- The troop spent the majority 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 90.9% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 98.6% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Slangkop Troop spent the majority of the month roosting in the pine trees behind Ocean View. This led to an increase in human baboon conflict along the urban fringe of Ocean View. 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 African Police Services and SANParks when the activity occurred on their property.

- The Slangkop Troop visited Heron Park on several occasions during the month but did not manage to gain access to human-derived food rewards.
- The Slangkop Troop used Heron Park to gain access to Imhoff's Gift on a number of occasions this month.
- During latter half of the month, TK57 and the alpha male of the Slangkop Troop (SK10), had interactions on two occasions. SK10 displaced TK57 away from the troop. Following these interactions, TK57 remained in the vicinity of Kommetjie.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation of electric fencing aprons on the 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 to reduce the presence of baboons in Heron Park.
- Environmental education with the youths of Ocean View is recommended in an attempt to reduce the level of conflict along the urban edge.
- A site meeting between the Imhoff's Gift HOA and Heron Park business owners should take place in order for both parties to find a solution and implement further baboon-proofing to reduce access to the properties by the baboons.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Smitswinkel Bay Troop spent 89% of its time out of town this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 95.7% this month.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop utilized its northern sleep sites for the majority of the month. This resulted in an increase of time spent in Murdoch Valley as the troop moved through the area almost daily this month. This behaviour was initiated by PR3, the previous alpha male of the troop who actively led the troop towards Murdoch Valley.
- Once in the urban area, the troop would split into small raiding parties and move through the area, often gaining human-derived food rewards. This has made it challenging for the field ranger team to encourage the baboons out of the urban 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 facility.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Waterfall Troop spent 97.4% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 93.4% 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 dockyard.
- The lack of waste management and baboon-proofing at Waterfall Barracks and the dockyard is a significant attractant to the baboons where individuals gain access to rooms and non-baboon proof bins.
- Towards the end of February, WF7 began to encourage a small group of individuals to move to the dockyard in the late afternoon. The small group would then use the roof of a building as a sleep site.

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 by baboons.
- 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.
- There has been a noticeable increase in snare activity on the Cape Peninsula of late. It is important for members of the public to contact the NCC Hotline if they see a snare in the natural space so that it can be removed.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One Troop spent 92.9% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 99.9% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT1 spent majority of their time during February on the Eagles’ Nest Wines property.
- The troop has been prevented from crossing Constantia Main Road during February however the troop continues to spend a considerable amount of time in close proximity to this road.
- This month a single male baboon, believed to be from the CT1 Troop, was seen following the CT2 Troop around. The male from CT2 has been seen chasing this new male away from the CT2 Troop.

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 Constantia Two Troop spent 92.7 % 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 majority of their time in De Hel Nature Reserve, Constantia Glen and Cecilia Forest resulting in a reduction in time in town compared to the previous month.

- The troop accessed food from bins and vegetable gardens on several occasions during the month from properties along Rhodes Drive in the Constantia area.

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 to better understand the troop's use of this new area and how best to manage them.

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 February away from town.
- There are reports from the farms that the troop has started splitting into two groups and are utilizing separate sleep sites during the night.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The troop needs to be closely monitored to prevent one or both splinter groups from entering the urban area.

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 59.3% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons were recorded on several occasions during the month entering Constantia Uitsig where they have access to food from unsecured waste and restaurants. This serves as

an attractant to the urban edge and will result in an increase of raids and baboons seeking human-derived foods.

- Individual baboons were recorded at the Cape Academy on a few occasions during the month and resulted in a bin and occupied house raid.
- Three incidents were recorded - during the month - of baboons accessing food from picnickers inside the Tokai Picnic.
- Individual baboons accessed food from people carrying food around the property on a few occasions this month at Chrysalis Academy.
- This month TK57 continued to spend majority of his time in town as he dispersed from his natal troop. After crossing over the M3, he was caught and returned to his natal troop's home range. Shortly after, he crossed the M3 and was again returned to his natal troop.
- Showing no interest in remaining in his natal range and once again crossing the M3, on 15 February TK57 was captured released near the Lewis Gay Dam in the southern peninsula to assist his dispersal.

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.
- Removal of fruit trees and/or the picking of fruit off trees would reduce the level of attractants at the Cape Academy.
- The fence around the Tokai Picnic area has been damaged by fallen tree branches. Repairing the electric fence surrounding the picnic area will prevent baboons from entering as picnicking increases.
- Continued education of students and visitors at Chrysalis Academy to discourage the carrying food when baboons are in the vicinity would reduce attractants and the potential for negative interactions with baboons.

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

- Individual baboons gained access to food from garbage bags, occupied houses and from people carrying food around on a few occasions during the month at Chrysalis Academy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop as their areas of use overlap extensively.

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.
- 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.
- Contraception to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.
- Constantia Uitsig continues to be a significant attractant to baboons in the Tokai Area.

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 96.5% of the time (**Fig.1**). Ten of the eleven troops were out of the urban space for 90% of the time or more.

Due to intra-troop dynamics resulting in the splintering of the troop, the Smitswinkel Bay Troop did not reach 90% out of town this month and spent a considerable amount of time in the suburb of Murdoch Valley.

The Slangkop Troop's time out of town improved slightly this month as the troop's area of use shifted away from Kommetjie, where the troop is especially challenging to manage.

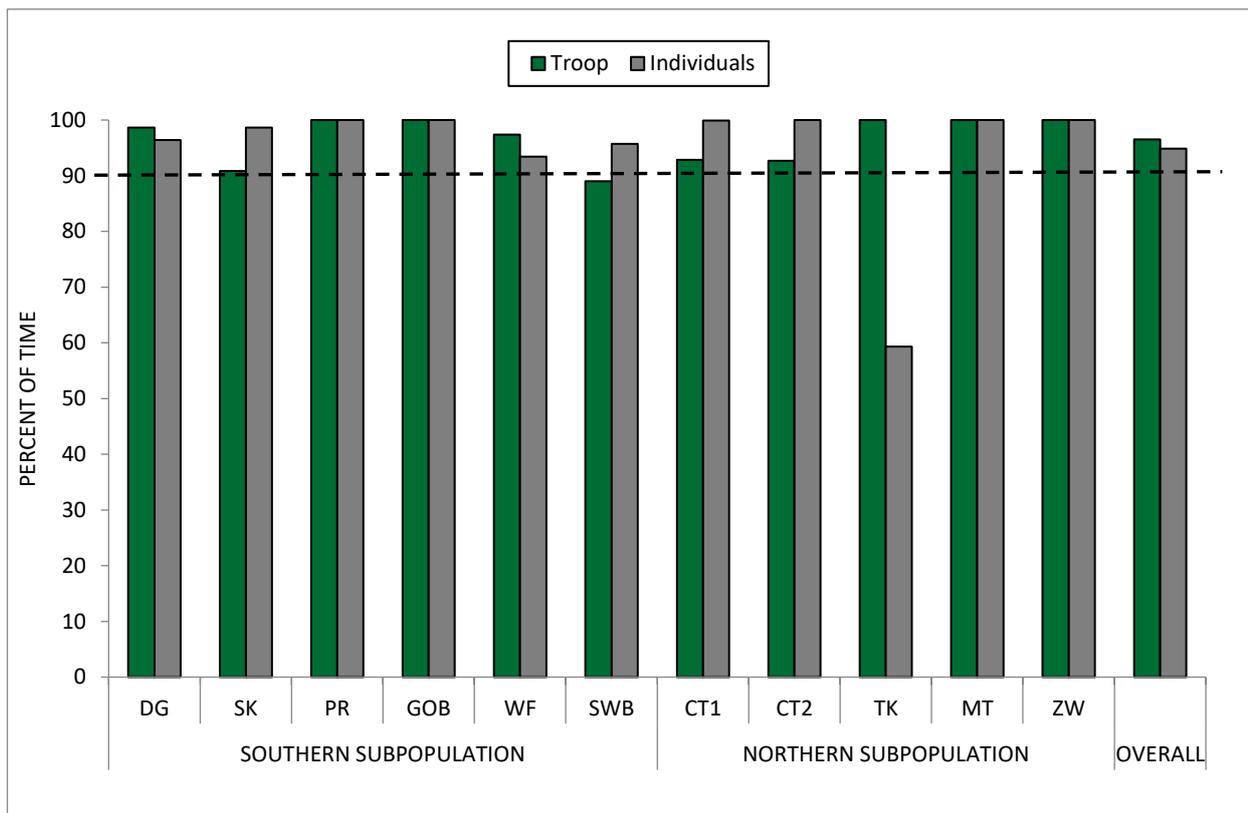


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of February. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. The percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider for uniformity. This 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, liaised with stakeholders, and participated in community engagement in the following areas.

Site visits:

- **Private residential properties in Tokai, Constantia, Simon’s Town, Murdoch Valley:**
 - Advised residents on the issues with vegetable gardens and non-baboon proof bins as point source attractants and the need to baboon-proof the area to reduce baboon presence. Distributed educational pamphlets.
 - Visited properties where reports of feeding had been received. No evidence of feeding was found. Communicated the legality and negative implications of feeding. Follow-up visits and monitoring will occur.
 - Visited properties where reports of pellet guns had been received. No evidence was provided but the properties are being monitored. Communicated the legality and

negative implications of shooting pellet guns. Methods such as spraying with water and making loud noises, in addition to phoning the hotline were recommended.

- **Forest Glade Centre:** Checked up on bin cage usage, which was not correctly in use. A photo was sent to management to request proper usage. A subsequent follow-up visit revealed that the issues had been addressed.
- **Main Road, Simon's Town:** Distributed educational pamphlets to Main Road businesses and restaurants. Requested the baboon-proofing of bins and properties.
- **Black Marlin Restaurant:** Followed up on reports of raiding that occurred during a private function and advised on methods to avoid such occurrences in the future.
- **Rastafarian Camp, Ocean View:** Assessed damage to vegetable garden and advised on processes to deter baboon presence.
- **SANParks Research Centre Skip:** Checked up on waste skip. Waste site was clean and the skip was not overflowing.
- **SANParks Tokai Picnic:** Followed up on request to repair the electric perimeter fencing. Fence still requires repair.
- **Cape Academy:** Checked up on bin room usage and found all to be in order.
- **Eagles' Nest Wines:** Checked on bin room and found all to be in order.
- **Heron Park:** Responded to a call reporting the dumping of food that was then consumed by the Slangkop Troop. The food reportedly fell off the vehicle that was on the way to the dumping site.
- **Ocean View:** Liaised with residents regarding the legality of stone throwing and use of dogs to hunt baboons. Plans to follow-up with the parents of the children involved have been made.
- **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 Kommetjie, Tokai, Firgrove, Denedal, Welcome Glen, Da Gama Park and Constantia have been inspected this month.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- **Cape Academy, Tokai:** Signs to alert bin users on proper usage were developed, printed, and erected in partnership with Cape Academy (**Fig. 2**).
- **Rastafarian Camp, Ocean View:** Conducted a site visit with building contractors to complete quote for enclosure of vegetable garden in this area.



Figure 2: Newly erected bin usage sign that has been put up at the Cape Academy premises.

- **Meeting with CARBS members, environmental groups, and non-profit organizations:**

Various meetings with CARBS members, environmental groups and non-profits were held to facilitate open lines of communication, address local challenges, and discuss conservation-orientated activities and interests overlapping with those of the Urban Baboon Programme.

Community Engagement:

- **Happy Valley Shelter Home, Simon's Town:** An educational talk on how to behave responsibly around baboons was given by NCC's Community Conservation Manager.
- **Educational Evening, Tokai and Zwaanswyk Communities:** A public educational talk on baboon behaviour, ecology and the causes and consequences of conflict was given by NCC's Project Manager with a question-and-answer session.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 432 hotline calls during the month of February. 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).

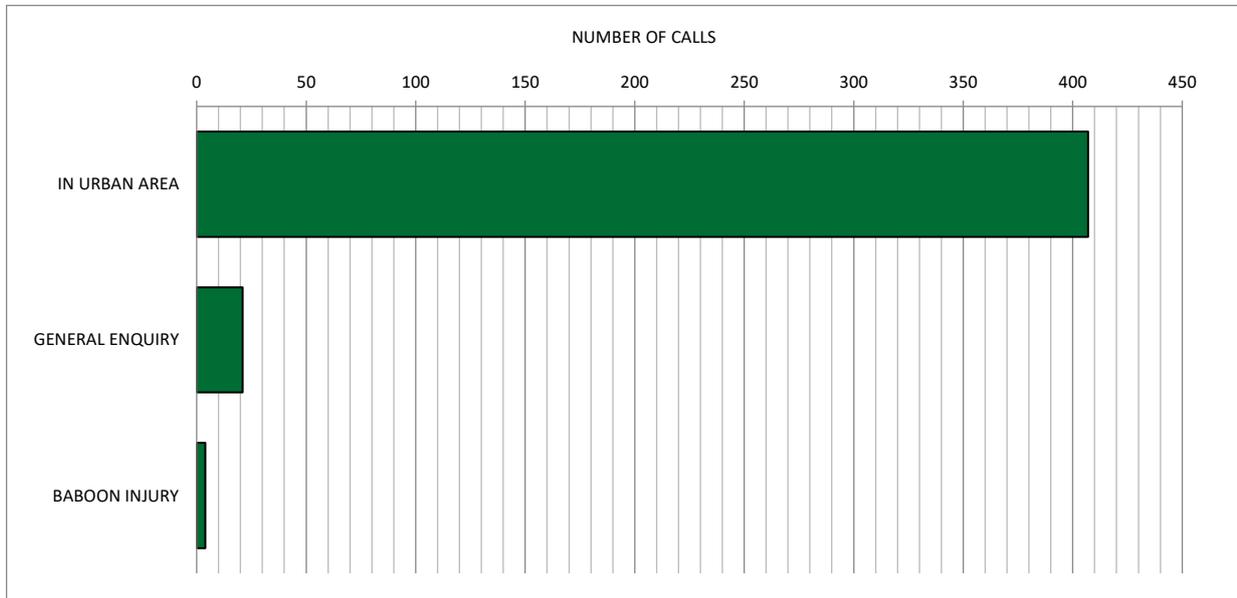


Figure 3. The number of hotline calls by type during February 2021.

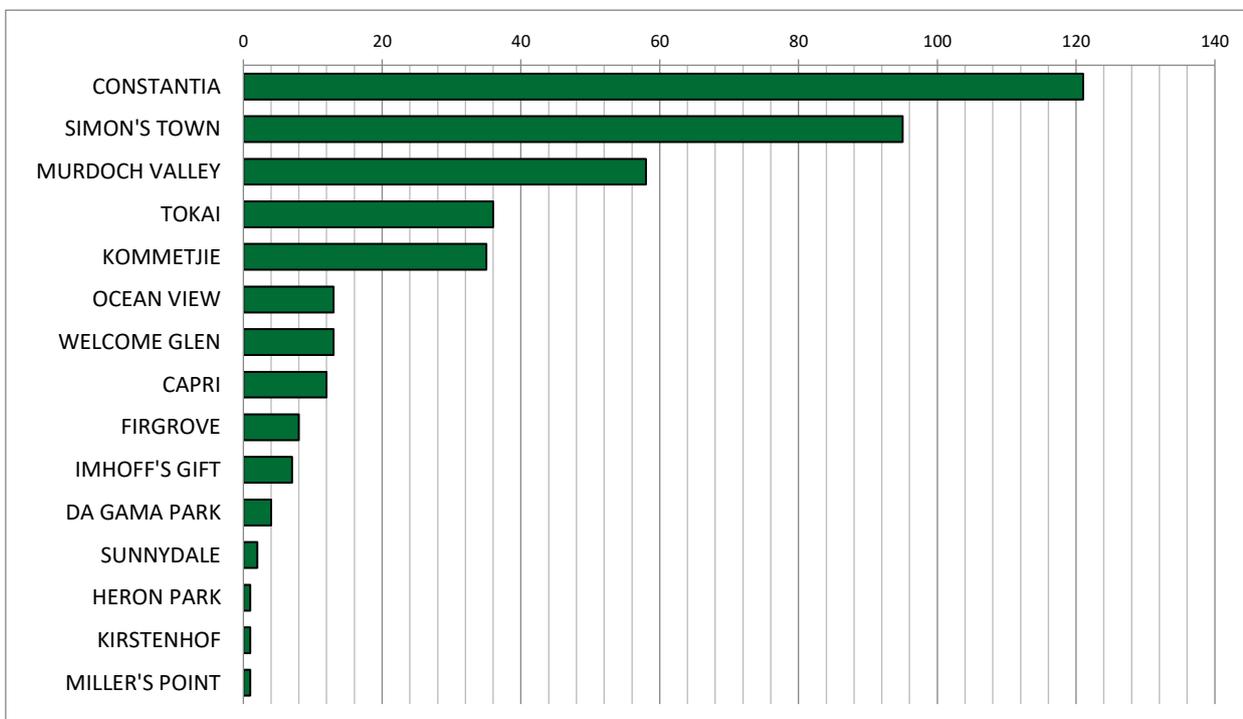


Figure 4. The number of calls received from specific communities reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area during February 2021.

The majority of hotline calls regarding baboon(s) in urban area came from Constantia and Simon's Town this month (**Fig. 4**). The calls from Constantia focused primarily on the presence of the CT1 Troop near Ou Wingerd Road as well at CT2 Troop's presence along Rhodes Drive.

The high number of calls received from Simon's Town were focused on the presence of the Waterfall Troop along the main road in Simon's Town and a group of baboons moving to and from the dockyard.

We also received many calls reporting unusually high baboon activity in the suburb of Murdoch Valley. 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 residents in these areas.
