

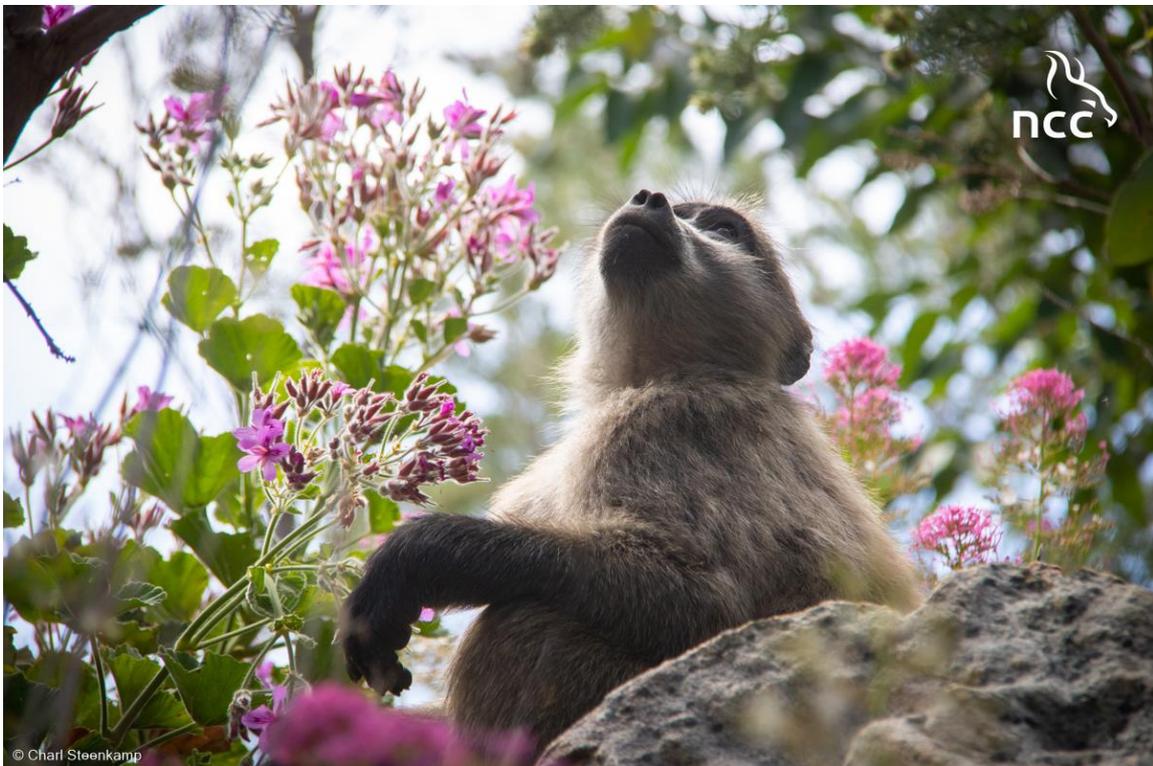


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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Urban Baboon Programme

March 2021 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

31 March 2021

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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 99.4% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 94.4% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Da Gama Troop moved through Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month. At the beginning of the month, the troop moved through Capri, but was encouraged back into the natural space by the field rangers.
- There were three occupied house raids during March, two in Da Gama Park and one in Welcome Glen.
- The troop dynamics continued to be 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, interacted with the Da Gama Troop on three occasions but was then chased away by one of the troop's adult males.

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 continued to use their sleep sites on the CoGH fringe (Wildschutsbrand & Perdekloof) as well as the pine trees behind Shamballah Tea House & Holistic Centre.

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 the road and deterring 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 the urban area was 100% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's movement patterns were again impacted by the troop of baboons (KJB Troop) 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. On one occasion, the alpha male of the Plateau Road Troop, chased and fought with males from the KJB Troop.
- 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 84.6% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 97.1% 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 conflicts 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 the South African Police Services and SANParks, when the activity occurred on their property.

- The troop spent time on Slangkop Mountain, which resulted in an increase in time spent in Kommetjie as the topography of this area makes holding the line along the urban edge particularly challenging.
- The troop visited Heron Park on several occasions during the month but did not manage to gain access to human-derived food rewards.
- The troop used Heron Park to gain access to Imhoff's Gift on a number of occasions this month and roosted on the Heron Park factory roof tops on several occasions.
- During the latter half of the month, TK57 spent time in close proximity to the Slangkop Troop. TK57 engaged in interactions with troop members but was eventually chased away by the alpha male.

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 visibility for the field ranger team and assist them in reducing the presence of baboons in Heron Park.
- Environmental education in 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 Homeowners Association (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 84% of its time out of town this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 94.1% this month.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop continued to utilise their 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 who actively led the troop towards the suburb.

- 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 made it very 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.
- The Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club should store all bins containing food waste inside the baboon-proof bin enclosure.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Waterfall Troop spent 92.9% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 95.5% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons moved through various SA Navy facilities during the month. The most noteworthy being the dockyard and Waterfall Barracks.
- The lack of waste management and baboon-proofing at the dockyard is a significant attractant to the baboons where individuals gain access to buildings and non-baboon proof bins.
- WF7 continued to encourage a small group of individuals to move to the dockyard in the late afternoon. The small group roosted away from the main troop on several occasions during March.
- On some occasions, the whole troop moved down from the Waterfall roosting site after sunset and through Simon's Town to the dockyard where they joined WF7 and his small group.

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.
- Baboon awareness traffic signs along Simon's Town Main Road would aid in alerting motorists to the possible presence of baboons on the road.

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 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 99.2% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- On two evenings this month, the troop was located sleeping in pine trees on Constantia Main Road. This is concerning as this was the first time this troop has slept north of Constantia Nek.

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 the wine farms and surrounding areas.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two 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

- The troop spent majority of their time in De Hel, Constantia Glen and Cecilia Forest resulting a reduction in time in town compared to previous months.

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.

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 March, 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, which could result in the troop, or splinter group, attempting to enter the urban area in the future.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Tokai Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 93.9% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons were recorded on two separate occasions during March entering the Constantia Uitsig area where they have access to food from non-baboon proof bins and restaurants. This will result in baboons returning to gain access to human-derived foods in future.

- Individual baboons were recorded at the Cape Academy on two occasions in March and gained access to food from a bin on one of these occasions.
- Baboons accessed food from picnickers inside the Tokai picnic area on three occasions this month.

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.
- Ensuring that full bins are kept in the bin room and the removal of fruit trees and/or the picking of fruit off trees would reduce the level of attractants at the Cape Academy.
- Repairing the electric fence surrounding the Tokai picnic area will prevent baboons from entering as picnicking increases.

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 factors that impacted management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop as their ranging area covers the same locations.

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 attractants 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.

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 96.1% of the time (**Fig.1**).

Nine of the eleven troops were out of the urban space for 90% of the time or more. 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 in town also did not reach 90% as they spent a portion of the month near Slangkop Mountain, which resulted in an increase in time spent in the suburb of Kommetjie due to the challenging topography of the area which makes holding the line along the urban edge particularly difficult.

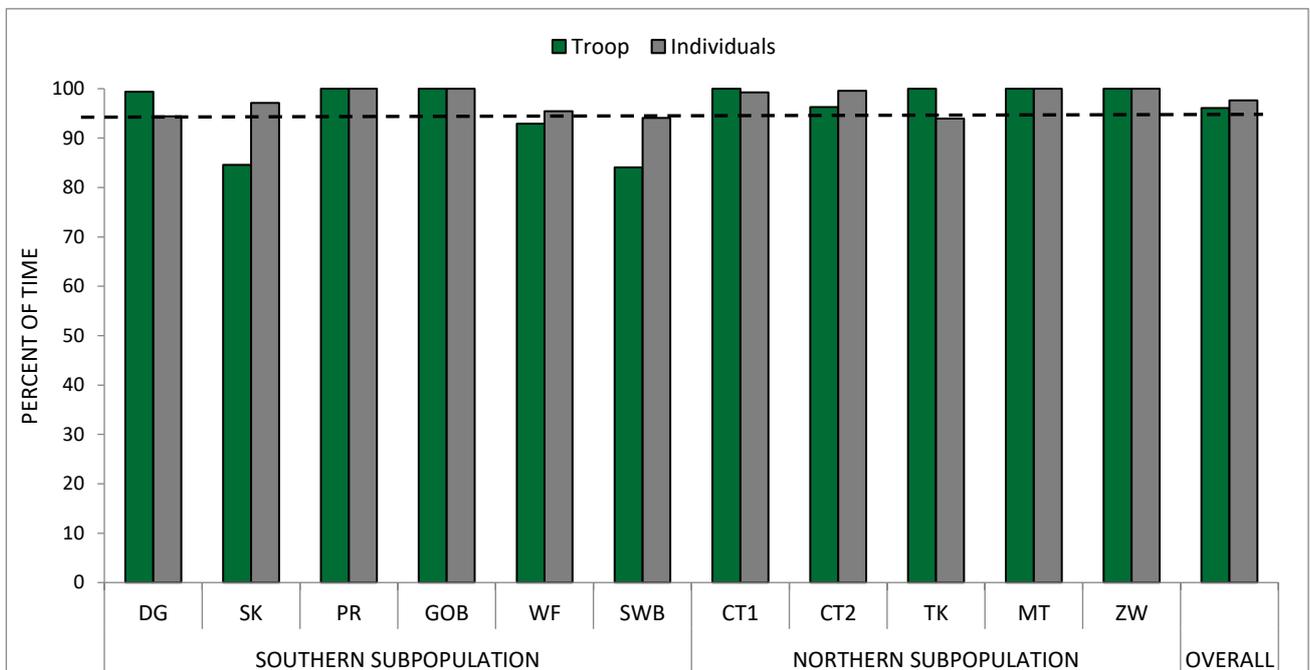


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of March. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. The percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider for uniformity. This 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 properties in Constantia, Simon's Town, Ocean View, Murdoch Valley North and South:**
 - Advised residents on the issues with vegetable gardens and non-baboon proof bins as point source attractants and the need to baboon-proof properties to reduce baboon presence.
 - Facilitated baboon-proofing/removal of 23-point source attractants.
 - Visited properties where reports of feeding had been received. No evidence of feeding was found but the legal consequences and negative implications of such actions were communicated. Follow up visits and monitoring will occur.
- **SANParks Research Centre and Picnic Area, Tokai:** Electric fencing around the picnic area requires repair. Inspected skips and picnic bins and all was found to be in order.
- **Cape Academy, Tokai:** Checked up on bin room usage and found all to be in order.
- **Chrysalis Academy, Tokai:** Observed baboon behaviour around staff, students and buildings to evaluate current challenges and determine methods to prevent baboon access to food.
- **Simon's Town Country Club, Simon's Town:** Visited property to investigate the cause of recent baboon access to food. The problem was identified as an ill-fitting kitchen security gate that did not close properly. A subsequent site visit revealed that the security gate was repaired, preventing baboon access.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- **Meeting with individual CARBS reps, committee members of ratepayer's associations, environmental groups and nonprofit education organizations:**
 - Informal meetings were held with CARBS representatives to facilitate open dialogue and to assist in addressing local challenges.
 - Meetings with ratepayer's associations and environmental group were held to facilitate open lines of communication with organizations conducting conservation-orientated work with activities and interests that overlap with those of the Urban Baboon Programme.
 - Nonprofit organization meetings were held to facilitate future education programs.

- **Murdoch Valley Neighborhood Watch Community Meeting:** A meeting with representatives of the neighborhood watch was held to discuss and implement measures to prevent baboons accessing houses and discourage time spent in urban area.
- **Southern and Northern Peninsula Councillor Appointed Representatives for Baboon Affected Suburbs (CARBS) meeting:** The official bi-annual CARBS meetings were held at municipal offices in Fish Hoek and Constantia with City officials, CARBS reps, SPCA, researchers and NCC providing a formal avenue for public feedback on local challenges in each baboon-impacted suburb.
 - **Imhoff Farm and Heron Park:** Met with residential and business representatives to determine how the Slangkop Troop is accessing Imhoff Estate and to inform effective mitigation strategies. Removal of trees on City land was requested and measures within Heron Park are underway to reduce access points.

Community Engagement:

- **Private properties in Tokai, Constantia, Simon's Town, Ocean View, Murdoch Valley North and South:** Distributed 275 educational pamphlets to residents and communicated appropriate responsive behaviour if visited by baboons.
- **Ocean View:** Liaised with residents regarding the legal implications of stone throwing and use of dogs to hunt baboons.
- **Chacma Champions Environmental Education:** Met with multiple stakeholders to plan the April school holiday education programme.
- **Chrysalis Academy, Tokai:** Communicated methods to prevent baboons from accessing buildings including only opening windows to a maximum of 6cm and closing doors after students enter and exit buildings.
- **Education Evening, Simon's Town and Murdoch Valley:** Gave a presentation on baboon behaviour, ecology, myths, misconceptions and baboon-proofing tactics. 50 residents attended and were given the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session on the topics covered in the presentation.
- **Simon's Town Country Club, Simon's Town:** Following on from a recent event where baboons gained access to a building on the property, a meeting was held to educate staff on baboon behaviour and best practice methods to facilitate swift exit of baboons if they enter buildings.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 649 hotline calls during the month of March. 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**).

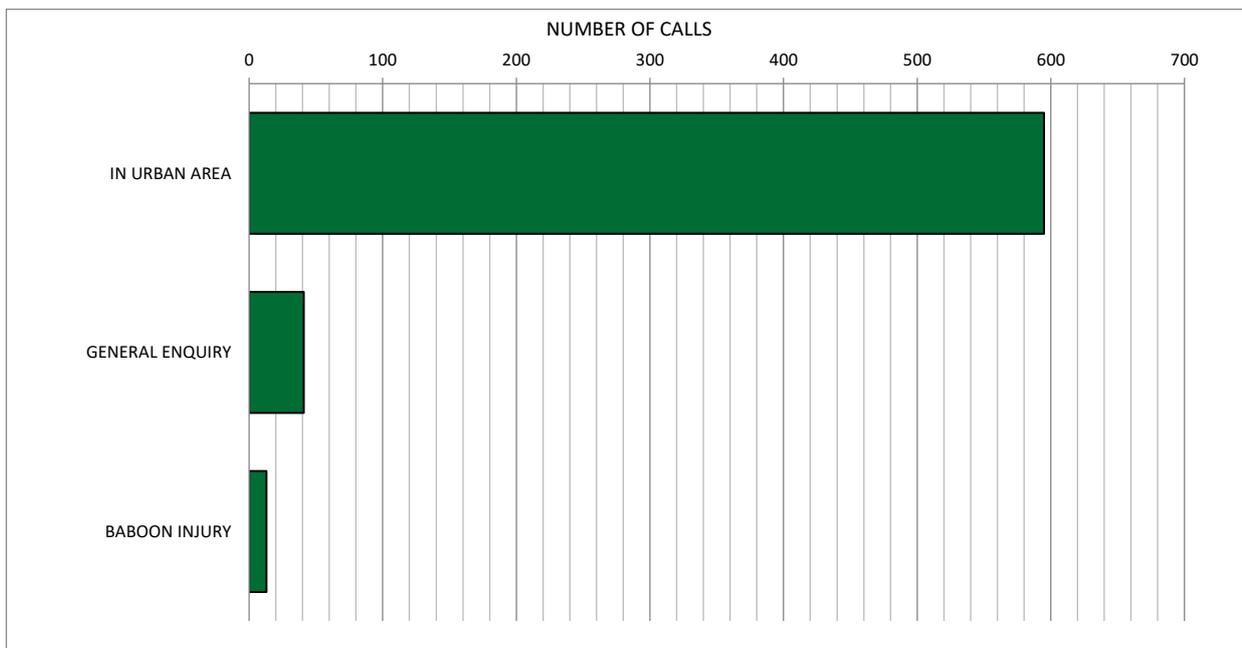


Figure 2. The number of hotline calls by type during March 2021.

The majority of hotline calls regarding baboon(s) in the urban area came from Murdoch Valley and Simon’s Town this month (**Fig. 3**). The calls from Murdoch Valley were the result of unusually high baboon activity in the suburb.

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.

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.

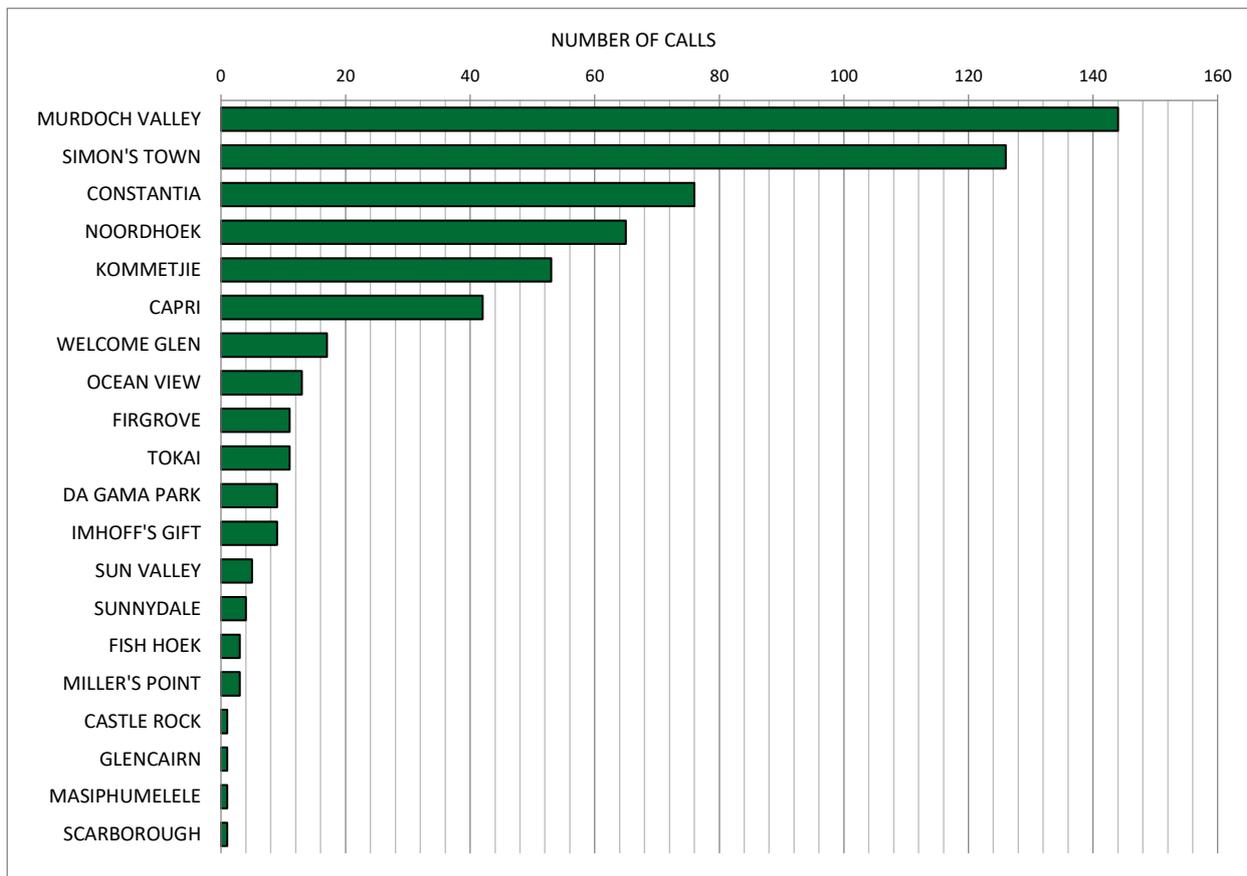


Figure 3. The number of calls received from specific communities reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area during March 2021.
