

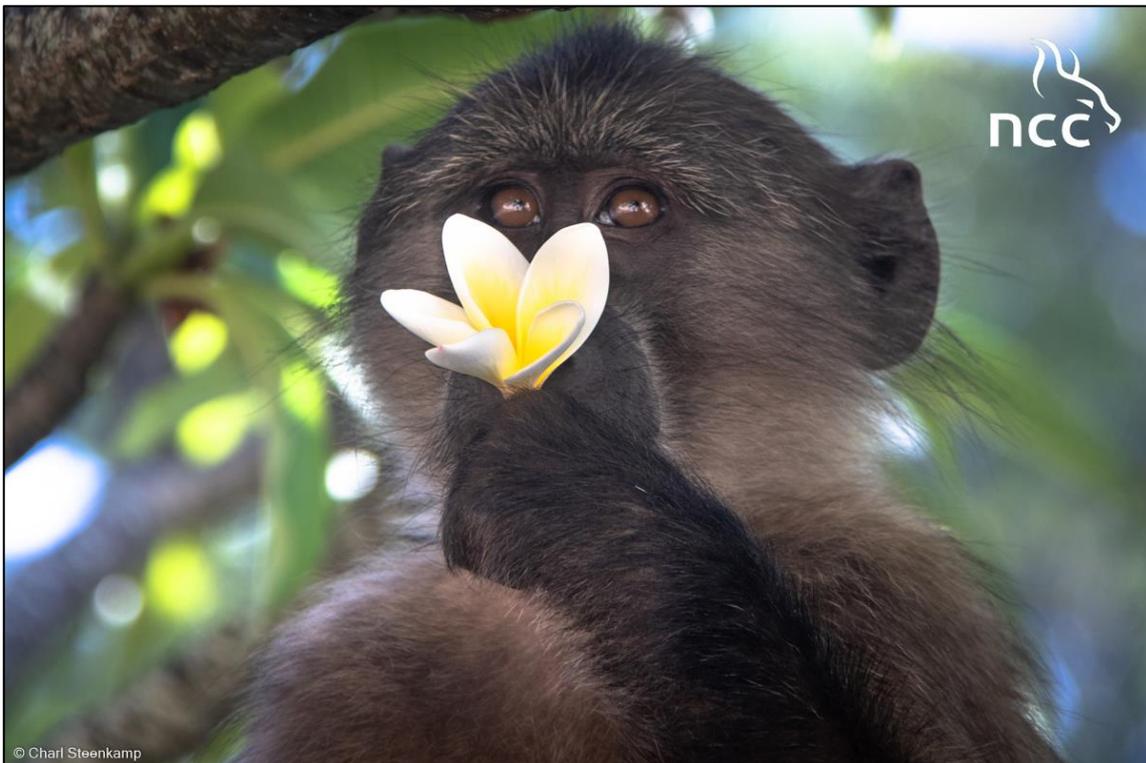


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

April 2021 Monthly Report



© Charl Steenkamp

PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

30 April 2021

PREPARED BY:

Joselyn Mormile, Project Manager
NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

E • joselynm@ncc-group.co.za

Making progress possible. Together.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION	3
2.1	DA GAMA TROOP (DG)	3
2.2	GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB).....	3
2.3	PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR).....	4
2.4	SLANGKOP TROOP (SK).....	4
2.5	SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB).....	5
2.6	WATERFALL TROOP (WF).....	6
2.7	SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	7
3	NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION	7
3.1	CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)	7
3.2	CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)	8
3.3	MOUNTAIN TROOP (MT)	8
3.4	TOKAI TROOP (TK).....	9
3.5	ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)	9
3.6	NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	9
4	MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY	10
4.1	OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN.....	10
4.2	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	11
4.3	HOTLINE REPORTS.....	12

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 the urban area 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% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 95.2% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals were attracted to a fruiting grape vine in Glenoak Road, Welcome Glen and visited the area several times during the month.
- Entries into occupied houses took place in Da Gama Park this month.
- The troop dynamics continued to be affected this month. DG19, a young adult male, continued to challenge DG14, the current Alpha Male.
- The troop spent time, during the month, in the natural space around Kleinplaas Dam, foraging on flowers, bulbs and seeds.

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 99.9% 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 within and on the fringe of CoGH, Wildschutsbrand and near Shamballah Tea House & Holistic Centre.

- Individuals from the GOB Troop managed to gain access to waste from the blue skips at Koggelfontein.
- An unidentified male and female entered Scarborough. The individuals entered the suburb for less than ten minutes but managed to gain entry to an unoccupied house that was being rented out as an Airbnb during that time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Though baboons have not been present in Scarborough for some time, residents of Scarborough should remain alert to the possibility that baboons may visit the village and maintain baboon-proofing of their properties. Owners of Airbnb's should also alert their guests to the possibility of visits and advise on how to behave accordingly.

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 spent the majority of the month moving through the agricultural farms along Plateau Road from Gate 4 through to South Point Farm.
- The Plateau Road Troop observed the KJB Troop on 3 occasions, but no interactions took place.

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 85.6% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 96.1% this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Slangkop Troop spent the majority of the month roosting in the pine trees behind Ocean View. NCC staff continued to concentrate on community engagement in this particular area this month. Several community meetings with affected parties were held in April in an attempt to educate and create awareness surrounding baboons. As a result, the level of conflicts between residents and baboons were reduced this month. When incidents did occur, they were still reported to South African Police Services, and SANParks when the activity occurred on their property.
- The Slangkop Troop visited Heron Park on several occasions and roosted on factory roof tops during the month but did not manage to gain access to human-derived food rewards.
- TK57 was seen moving on the periphery of the Slangkop Troop on several occasions this month but was often kept at a distance by the alpha male SK10. He did engage in grooming behaviour with an adult female and roosted with the troop on two evenings before being chased away by SK10.

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 field ranger team and assist them in reducing the presence of baboons in Heron Park.
- Continued environmental education with the younger generations of Ocean View is recommended to 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 would assist in helping 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 85.6% of its time out of town this month.
- Individual time out of the urban area was 97.3% this month.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop utilised their northern sleep sites for the majority of the month. However, they increased their usage of the Miller's Point and Castle Rock sleep sites towards the end of April.

- On 08 April 2021, PR3, an adult male from the Smits Troop, was euthanised in terms of the Baboon Management Guidelines for raiding and splintering behaviour:
http://www.baboons.org.za/images/Protocols/Guidelines_for_Baboon_Management_Nov_2019.pdf
- The Smits Troop and/or individuals moved through Murdock Valley on 28 occasions during April. This is a significant reduction, in visits to Murdock Valley, in comparison to last month where they moved through Murdock Valley on 62 occasions.

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 installation of a baboon-proof bin enclosure at the Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club would prevent access to food waste.
- The public green bins at Fisherman's Beach should be removed to reduce the level of attractant of baboons to the area.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Waterfall Troop spent 95.3% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 94.4% 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.
- Waste management and baboon-proofing at the dockyard has improved, largely due to the persistence of Simon's Town residents. This has greatly reduced the troop's access to human-derived foods.
- 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 April.

On a few occasions, the main troop moved down from the cliffs, after sunset, and through Simon's Town to the dockyard where they joined WF7 and his small group. In an effort to discourage this behaviour, the field ranger teams hours were extended until after dark.

- Shortly afterwards, WF7 and his splinter group began to use the women's dorm in the Waterfall Barracks as a roosting site while the main troop roosted on the Waterfall Cliffs.

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 installed along Simon's Town Main Road would help alert motorists to the possible presence of baboons crossing the road.
- The installation of speed bumps at specific points on Simon's Town Main Road would slow down motorists.

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 98.8% 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

- CT1 did not attempt to move across Constantia Main Road this month and spent the majority of the month roosting at sleep sites further from the urban edge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation and maintenance of baboon-proof electric fencing around wine farms and at the top of Price Drive would reduce CT1 Troop incursions into the wine farms and surrounding areas.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two Troop spent 97.6 % 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 continued to spend the majority of their time in De Hel Nature Reserve, Constantia Glen and Cecilia Forest resulting in a reduction of time in the urban area compared to last month.
- The adult male of the CT2 Troop had a tracking collar fitted this month. The collar has proven valuable in assisting staff with locating the troop and preventing urban incursions.

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

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop remained above Buitenverwachting during April, away from the urban space.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.
- There are reports from the farms that the troop is still split in two groups.

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 100% of time out of the urban area 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.
- Keeping bins 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 and gaining access to food.

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

- No factors affected management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop due to their ranging area covering the same hotspot 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.
- Contraception to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

This month the baboon troops were overall out of the urban space for 96.5% 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% this month but it did improve slightly from the previous month. The Slangkop Troop’s time in town also did not reach 90% as they spent a considerable amount of time in Heron Park.

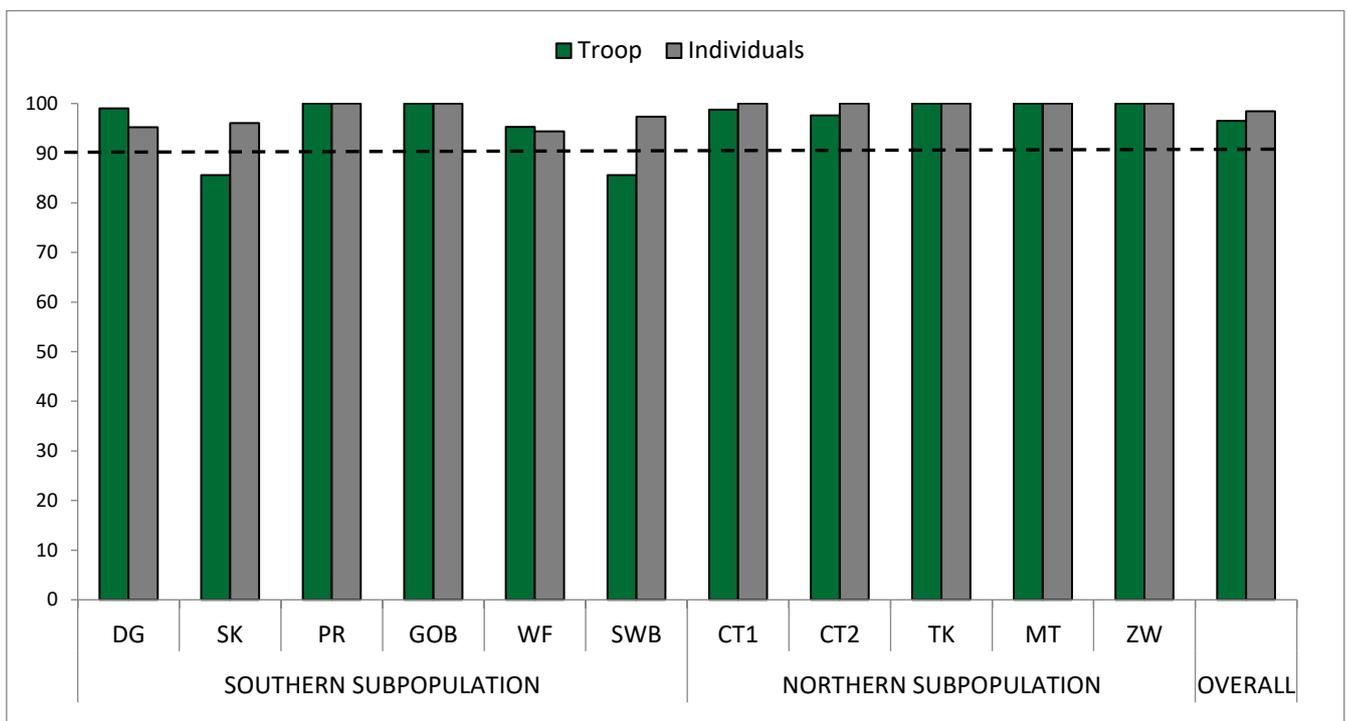


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of April. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. For uniformity, the percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider. This 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 Noordhoek, Constantia, Tokai, Simonstown, Murdock Valley**
 - 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.
 - Visited properties where reports of feeding and pellet gun use had been received. No official statements were made by witnesses and evidence of these activities were not found at the properties, but the legal consequences and negative implications of such actions were communicated. Follow up visits and monitoring will occur.
 - Facilitated baboon-proofing/removal of 20-point source attractants.
 - Advised residents and businesses on the presence of a dispersing male in the area, baboon-proofing measures and appropriate responsive behaviour.
- **SANParks Tokai Picnic and Research Centre:** Electric perimeter fencing requires fixing. Investigated presence of attractants in skips and picnic bins, none were identified.
- **Cape Academy:** Checked up on bin room usage all was in order.
- **Chrysalis Academy:** Observed baboon behaviour around staff, students and buildings in order to evaluate and communicate methods preventing baboon access to food and buildings.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- Met with individual members of the public to facilitate open dialogue, address local challenges and recommend solutions.
- Met with South African Navy on two occasions to discuss baboon presence on Navy properties. Discussed short- and long-term baboon-proofing recommendations.

Community Engagement:

- **Private properties in Tokai, Noordhoek, Constantia, Simonstown, Murdoch Valley:** Distributed 275 educational pamphlets to residents and communicated appropriate responsive behaviour if visited by baboons.
- **Chacma Champions Environmental Education:** Collaborated with a local NGO on their educational programme (**Fig. 2**). Thirty (30) children from Masiphumelele, Kommetjie and

Ocean View participated. Children were educated on the goals and methods of the programme and participated in a mountain walk where they learned about baboon ecology.

- **Education Evening, Constantia:** An educational evening on baboon behaviour, ecology, myths, and misconceptions presentation was planned. Advertisement for the event was sent out three weeks in advance. However, only three attendees RSVP'd and thus the event was postponed.
- **Electronic educational material:** distributed details on the 'do's and don'ts' for residents living in baboon impacted areas. The estimated public reach and interaction with posts was approximately 500 individuals.



Figure 2. 30 Children from Masiphumelele, Ocean View and Kommetjie participated in the Chacma Champions Educational programme where baboon behaviour and ecology was taught within the context of the Urban Baboon Programme.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 226 hotline calls during the month of April. 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**). The majority of hotline calls came from Murdock Valley, Noordhoek and Simon's Town.

The high number of calls from Murdock Valley were due to the splintering of the troop and time in the urban space during the first half of April.

The calls from Noordhoek were focused on the movements of adult male baboon, TK57, through the suburb and the majority of calls from Simon's Town focused on the movement of the splinter group and main troop through the urban area and at the dockyard.

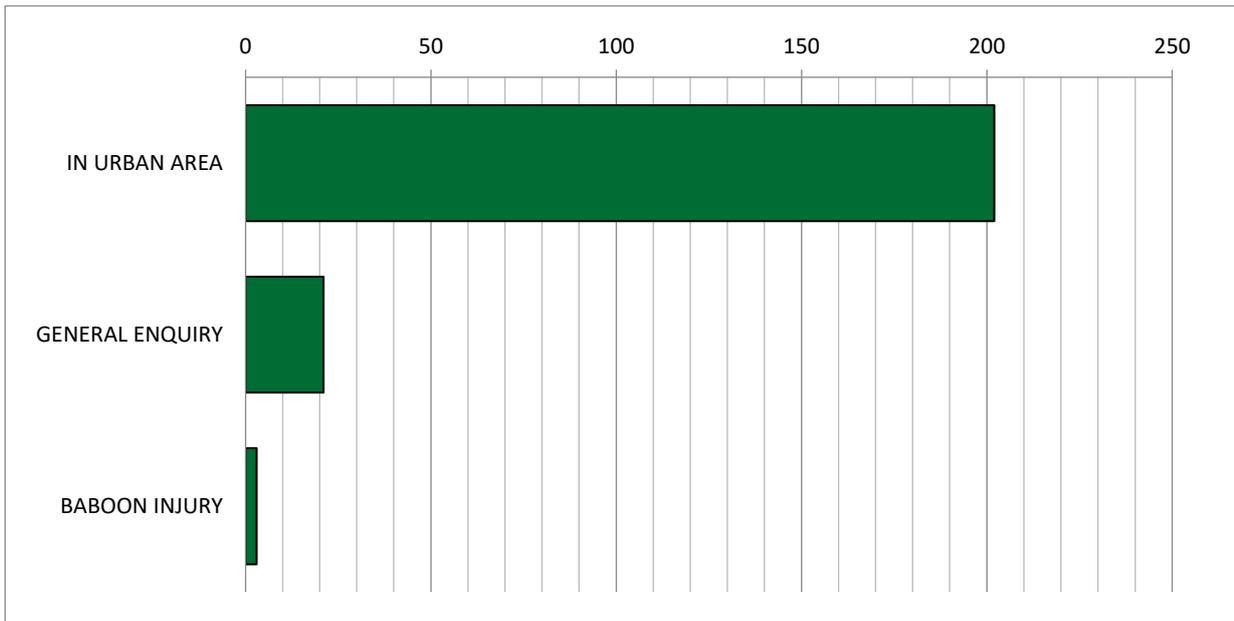


Figure 3. The number of hotline calls by type during April 2021.

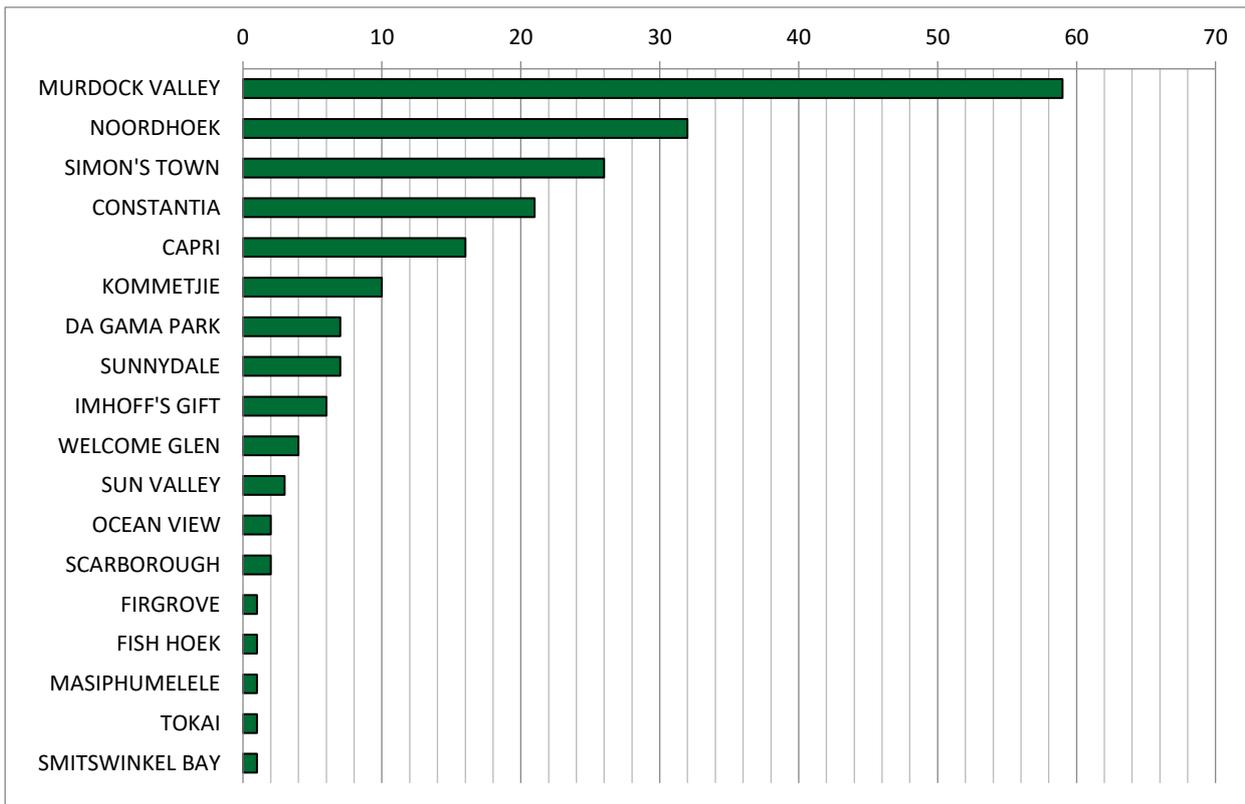


Figure 4. The number of calls received from specific communities reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area during April 2021.