



APPENDIX B OF THE 2025 ACTION PLAN CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1) BRIEF

THE CAPE PENINSULA BABOON MANAGEMENT JOINT TASK TEAM

v.1
FINAL
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B1 BACKGROUND

The CT1 troop formed as a splinter from the Tokai troop approximately twenty years ago. The troop has very limited access to natural land below 230m. Neighbouring troops to the south prevent access to natural low-lying land in Tokai, and the troop is essentially locked into a small patch of vineyards and residential areas (Figure 1) with resultant low welfare and conservation value. In 2020, due to increasing deterrent activity from large Constantia farming properties, this troop began moving in a northerly direction toward the smaller Constantia farming properties. Subsequent to deterrent activity from these properties, the troop moved even further north to Constantia Nek and into residential area surrounding Constantia Main Road in 2024. In accordance with the principle established in 2012, that troops with limited access to natural low-lying land are effectively locked into conflict with people (Hoffman & O’Riain, 2012), the City of Cape Town, CapeNature and SANParks developed a policy stating that no baboon troops would be allowed to establish ranging areas north of Constantia Nek. This hard boundary has been reiterated and agreed to in the current JTT Action Plan.



Figure 1: Estimated natural ranging area (km²) for the CT1 Troop. Green shading indicates low-lying natural land (< 230 m).

B2 TROOP SIZE & MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

According to the 2024 population census, this troop consists of 43 individuals (Urban Baboon Programme Annual Population Census, 2024). A team of 5 field rangers and 1 field manager are assigned to the troop from sunrise to sunset every day with the aim of preventing the troop from entering the urban area.

B3 LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Due to the marginal size of the productive, low-lying natural habitat within their range, deterrents seldom overcome the benefits of foraging in urban areas. These transformed areas offer extensive food attractants such as crops, exotic and indigenous vegetation in gardens including fruiting trees, lawns, vegetable patches, compost areas, intentional feeding by residents and waste from unprotected bins on public and private property. While seeking much improved waste management is desirable, the management of waste to prevent baboon access will not stop the baboons from coming into the urban area (Mormile, 2024) as is commonly misunderstood. The troop will continue to be attracted to the urban area, as they have limited access to productive natural low-lying land within their range, and the urban area will continue to offer numerous attractants.

B4 MANAGEMENT LIMITATIONS

The field team has very limited success in maintaining the troop in the natural space due to the minimal amount of productive, untransformed low-lying land in the troop's ranging area within which to hold them. Although natural food resources above 230m are present within their current ranging area, the vegetation present at these elevations requires extensive foraging and handling time, and is thus not preferable to baboons, particularly in juxtaposition to the abundance of easily accessible food rewards in the transformed areas below. The field team also has limited success in encouraging the troop to leave transformed areas when they enter due to very dense vegetation along steep slopes in the area which greatly hinders visibility and accessibility, large residential properties with numerous food attractants and residents who deny ranger access, and high traffic volumes along roads that bisect the troop's ranging area. Additionally, the area between the urban space and the natural space along the mountain slopes throughout this troop's range is almost entirely blocked by farming properties. In the interest of protecting their crops, the farms deter the troop from entering their properties, which functionally impedes management efforts to move them to natural spaces south of Constantia Nek.

B5 URBAN-CAUSED MORTALITIES

As a result of extensive time spent in urban areas, this troop shows high levels of habituation to people and developed landscapes. The troop routinely crosses busy roads, forages on residential properties, and sleeps within the urban space predominantly in trees on private properties. The considerable amount of time the troop spends in the urban environment is linked with high conflict with residents as a result of property damage and negative lifestyle impacts, as well as high exposure to numerous health and welfare risks for baboons. Over the last 5 years, the number of urban-related deaths of baboons from this troop far outweighed the number of deaths due to other causes (Figure 2). These deaths were largely the result of pellet gun shootings from disgruntled residents and motor vehicle collisions (Figure 3). Routine movement of baboons on and across Constantia Main Road and Rhodes

Drive poses a daily risk of fatal collisions for baboons, damage to vehicles, and a risk to human life associated with collisions, and avoidance of collisions, with baboons.

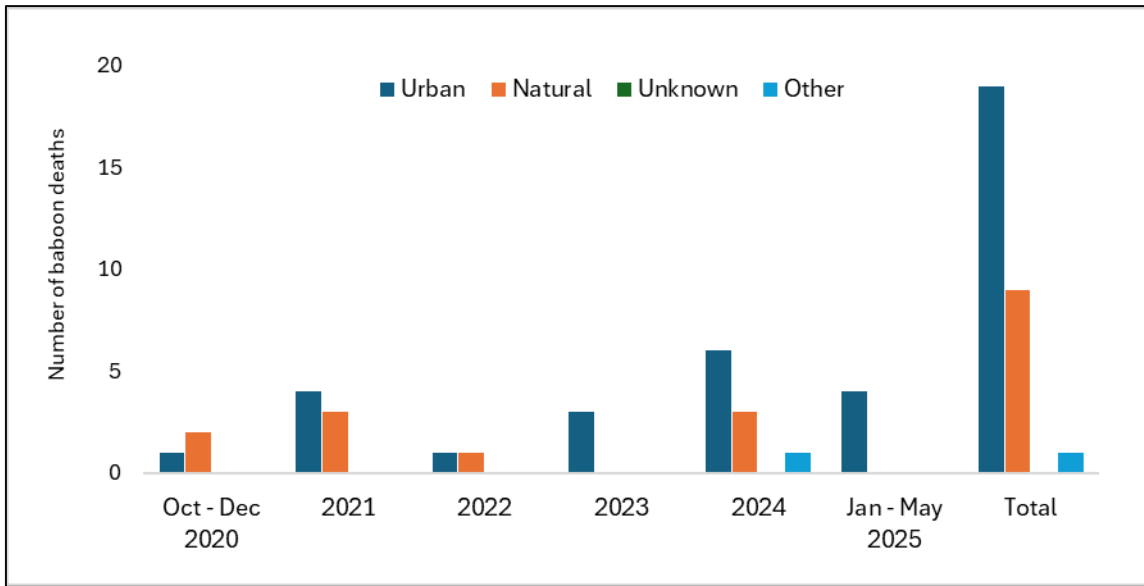


Figure 2: Causes of baboon death between October 2020 and May 2025 for the CT1 Troop

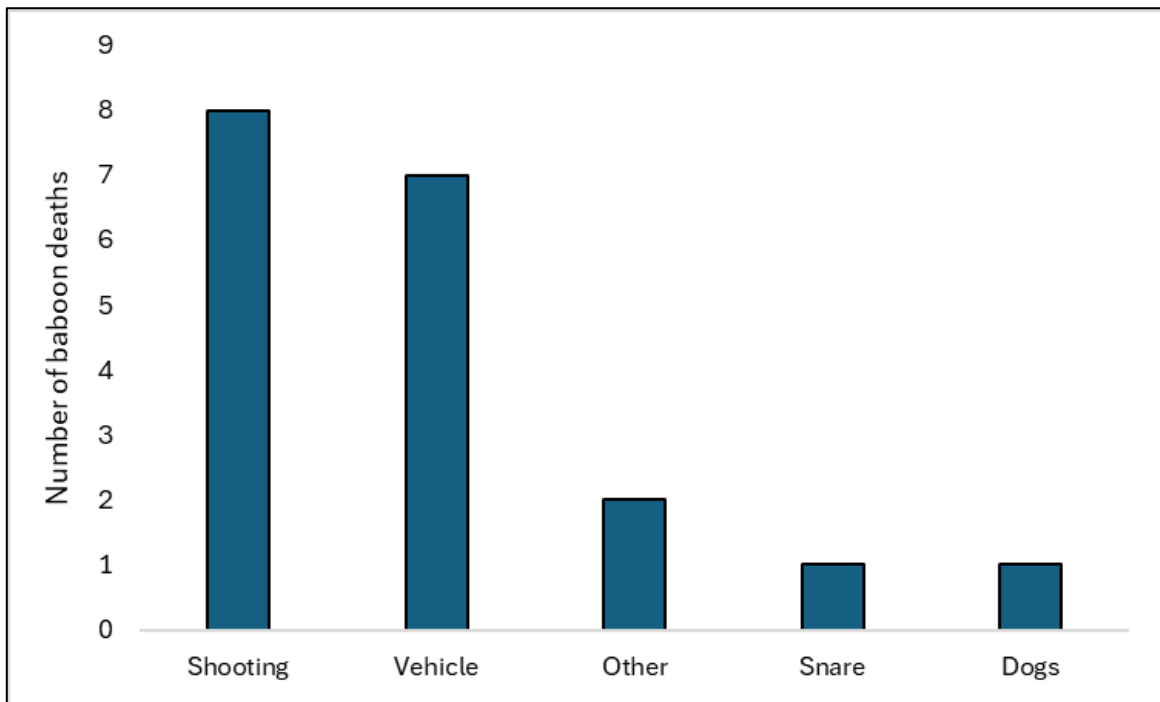


Figure 3: Causes of urban-related deaths between October 2020 and May 2025 for the CT1 troop.

B6 SUMMARY

The lack of access to large patches of suitable natural low-lying land forces the troop to forage within and on the urban edge. The high nutritional benefits of foraging in urban areas outweigh the costs imposed by rangers in this area and consequently rangers have only limited success in deterring the troop from urban areas. This explains the very high level of shooting fatalities and vehicles for this troop. When combined with other forms of urban-related mortality, the welfare of the troop is low and their limited time in natural habitat necessarily means their conservation value is also low. Placing the troop within the planned northern strategic baboon-proof fence boundary will not be effective as the limited low-lying habitat in this region predicts they will push hard to return to urban areas by moving north and west. The proposed establishment of the fence will, however, prevent the Tokai ranging troops, which have suitable natural low-lying land in their current ranging areas, from becoming established in this marginal area following the removal of the CT1 troop. There are no alternative management options for keeping this troop out of the urban environment.

B7 REFERENCES

- Hoffman, T.S. & O'Riain, M.J. (2012c). Landscape requirements of a primate population in a human-dominated environment. *Frontiers in Zoology*, 9(1), 1.
- Mormile, J. (2024). An interdisciplinary study on the human-baboon interface in Rooiels, South Africa [PhD thesis, University of Cape Town].
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