



## APPENDIX C OF THE 2025 ACTION PLAN CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2) BRIEF

**THE CAPE PENINSULA BABOON MANAGEMENT JOINT TASK TEAM**

v.1  
FINAL  
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## C1 BACKGROUND

The CT2 troop is a splinter from the CT1 troop and moved north of Constantia Nek in 2020 during a period of substandard management (i.e. failure of authorities to implement Baboon Management Guidelines and remove the individuals driving a splinter). This troop has limited access to suitable low-lying natural habitat in its ranging area. Neighbouring troops in the south prevent access to natural low-lying land in Tokai and the troop is thus locked into a small patch of land characterised by residential areas, pine plantations and steep mountain slopes. 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.

## C2 TROOP SIZE & MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

According to the 2024 population census, this troop consists of 18 individuals (Urban Baboon Programme Annual Population Census, 2024). A team of 3 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.

## C3 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 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.

## C4 MANAGEMENT LIMITATIONS

The field team has 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 on the urban edge and 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 pass through the troop's ranging area.

## C5 URBAN-CAUSED MORTALITIES

As a result of 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 occasionally sleeps within the urban space. 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 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 1). These deaths were largely the result of motor vehicle collisions (Figure 2). 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. Additionally, between October 2024 and January 2025, four male baboons from this troop disappeared suddenly under circumstances strongly suspected to be related to the surreptitious actions of a resident(s) on one property in the area.

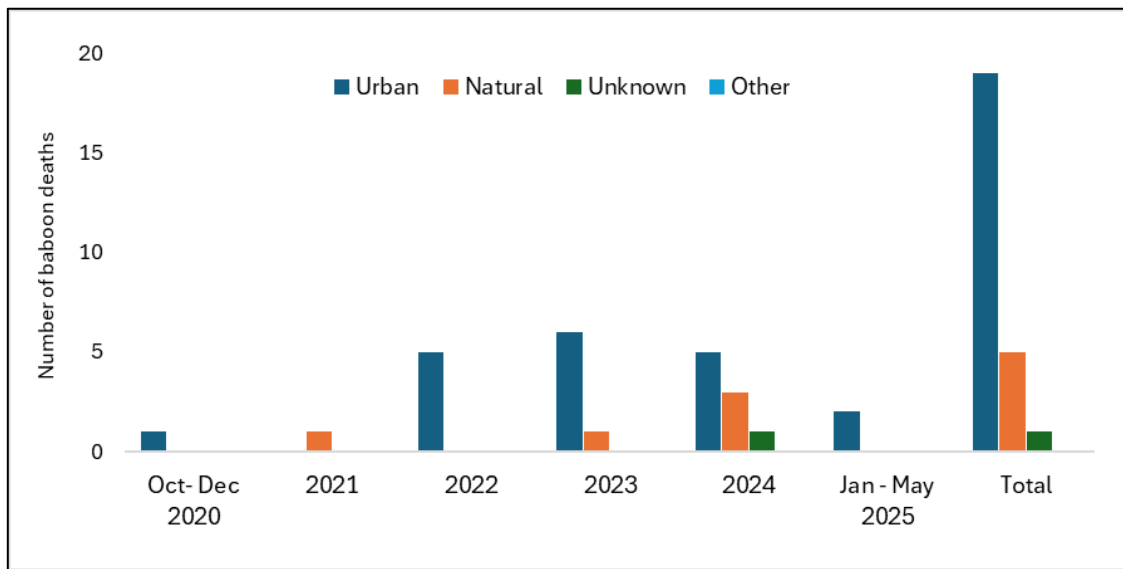
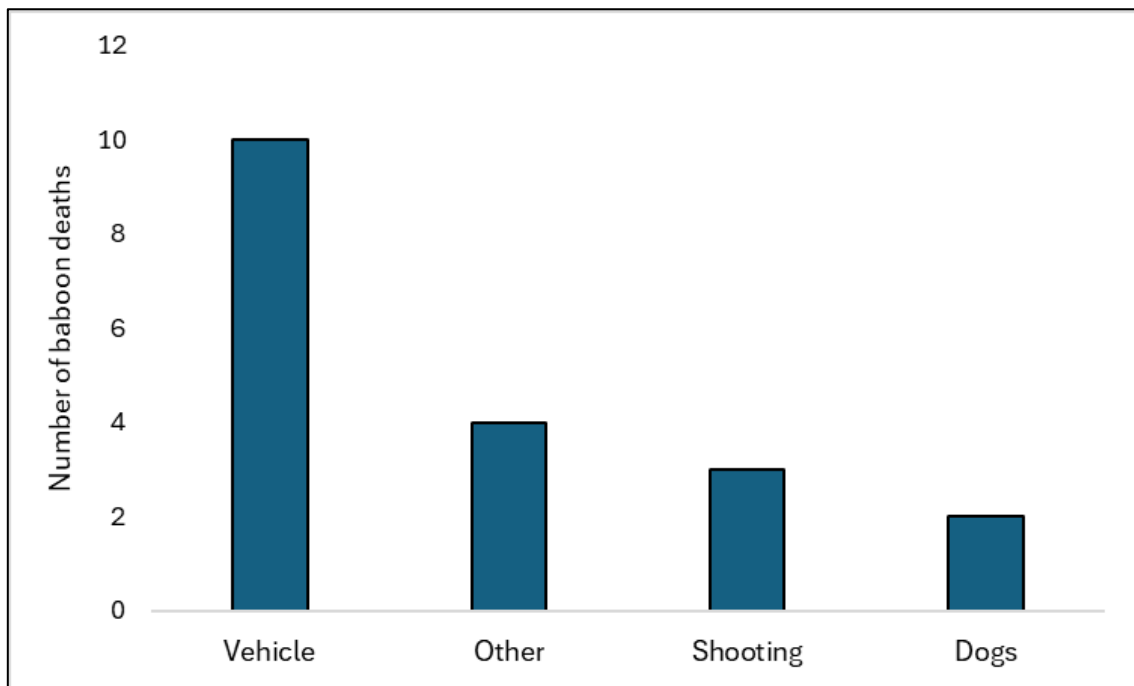


Figure 1: Causes of baboon death between October 2020 and May 2025 for the CT2 Troop



**Figure 2: Causes of urban-related deaths between October 2020 and May 2025 for the CT2 troop. 'Other' mortalities refer to the suspicious, sudden disappearance of four apparently healthy males.**

## C6 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 the road that separates the urban and natural habitat. This explains the very high levels of road fatalities 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 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 CT2 troop. There are no alternative management options for keeping this troop out of the urban environment.

## C7 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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