



Cape
Baboon
Partnership

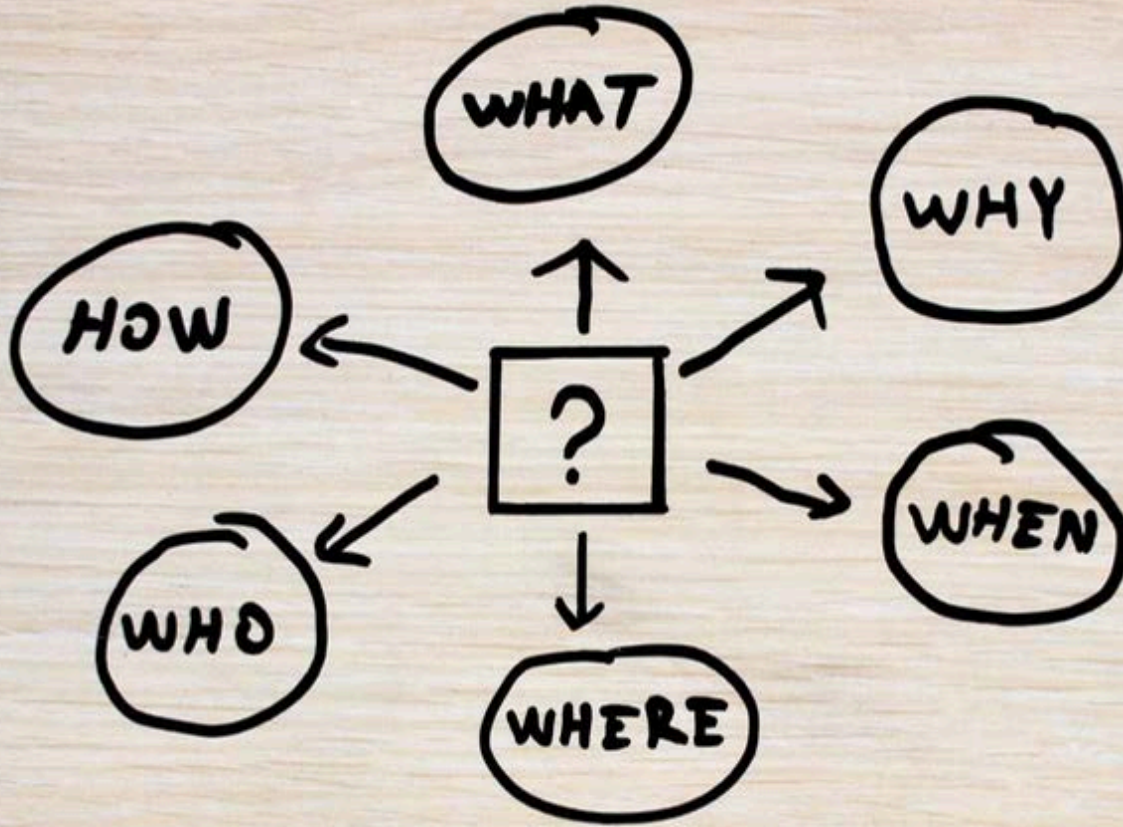
CAPE PENINSULA BABOON POPULATION

ANNUAL GENSUS 2025



The Cape Baboon Partnership is a collaboration between **Shark Spotters** and the **Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team (CPBMJTT)** consisting of the **City of Cape Town**, **SANParks**, and **CapeNature** who provide funding and strategic support to the programme for the implementation of the **Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan**.





INTRODUCTION

The Cape Peninsula baboon population census generates significant public interest each year. Before the results are considered, however, it is important to understand how the census is conducted and the context in which the data are collected. Population figures are best understood when viewed in the context of the census scope and methodology. This introductory section provides the background necessary to support accurate assessment of the census results.

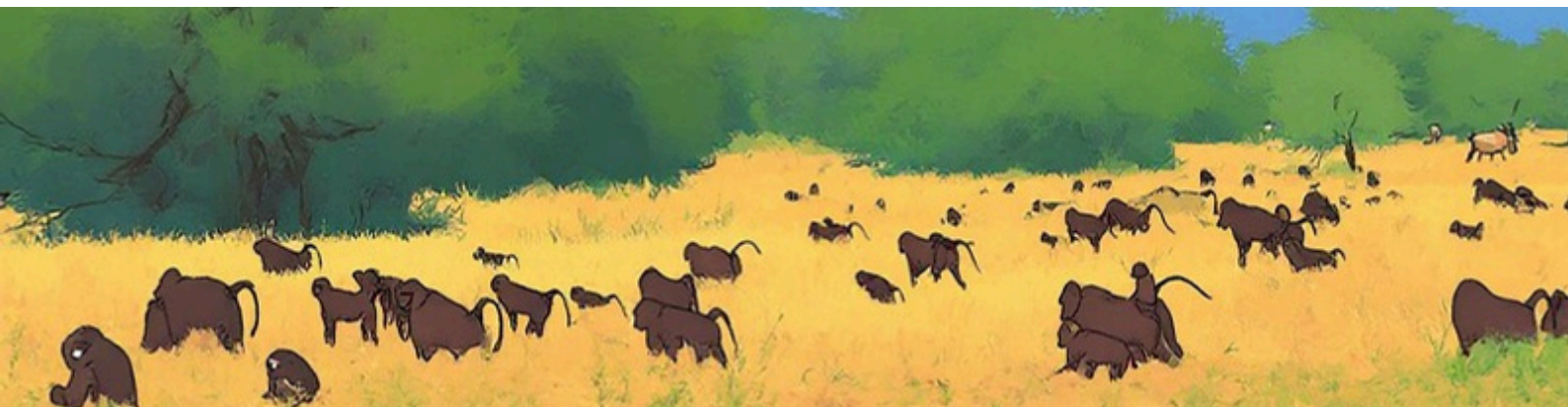
The second half of this report presents the census findings at both a peninsula-wide population level and on a troop-by-troop basis. These results are accompanied by contextual information drawn from daily CBP operational records, to support informed public understanding and responsible reporting.

WHO CONDUCTED THE CENSUS?

The baboon population census is commissioned by the Cape Baboon Partnership (CBP), a collaboration between Shark Spotters and the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team. The Joint Task Team comprises the City of Cape Town, South African National Parks (SANParks), and CapeNature, which provide strategic oversight and funding for the implementation of the Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan.

The census is conducted by an external specialist appointed for their experience in ageing and sexing baboons in the field. The use of an independent expert supports accountability and helps maintain confidence in the results.

Although 2025 marks the first year of census delivery under the Cape Baboon Partnership, baboon population counts on the Cape Peninsula have been conducted annually for more than a decade. The specialist appointed by CBP in 2025 has conducted four of the last five annual baboon censuses on the Peninsula, supporting continuity and comparability with previous years.



HOW IS THE CENSUS CONDUCTED?

The independent specialist uses a standardised methodology that has been applied consistently over the years. This allows for comparisons between census periods and supports long-term population monitoring.

For each troop, the counter positions themselves at a fixed point ahead of the troop's direction of movement, such as a road, path, or open area with low vegetation. This allows for clear visibility of all individuals as they pass. Binoculars are used to improve accuracy when identifying age and sex classes. Troop counts are often filmed to provide an opportunity to confirm count numbers when needed.

Counts are repeated multiple times for each troop. Where possible, several counts are conducted on the same day, provided the counter is satisfied that the entire troop is present. Each troop is counted a minimum of three times. If discrepancies arise between counts, additional counts and observations are carried out until the counter is satisfied that the figures accurately reflect the troop composition.



WHAT WAS COUNTED IN THE CENSUS?

The census is a total count in which each baboon observed is recorded as an individual. Within each troop, baboons are assigned to age and sex classes based on visible physical characteristics observed in the field.

The following age and sex classes are used:



ADULT MALES

Typically older than eight years.



ADULT FEMALES

Typically older than six years and have had at least one offspring.



SUBADULT MALES

Between five and eight years old.



SUBADULT FEMALES

Between five and six years old, small oestrous swellings and small, button-like nipples.



JUVENILES

Younger, independent animals generally between four months and five years old.



BLACK INFANTS

Newborn to 3 months old, categorised based on coat and skin colour.

**Detailed description of the age and sex class in Appendix 1.*

In 2025, juveniles were sexed for the first time during a census, where conditions allowed. However, due to the difficulty of reliably determining the sex of younger animals in the field, a proportion of juveniles could not be confidently sexed and were recorded as unsexed. This additional detail does not affect total troop counts and is reported separately to maintain comparability with previous census years.

For reporting purposes, immatures are split into juveniles (male, female, unsexed) and infants (unsexed) in the troop-by-troop analysis. At a peninsula-wide and regional (north/south) population level, immatures are presented as a combined category. This difference in presentation does not affect overall population totals or trends, but reflects the level of detail available when analysing individual troops.

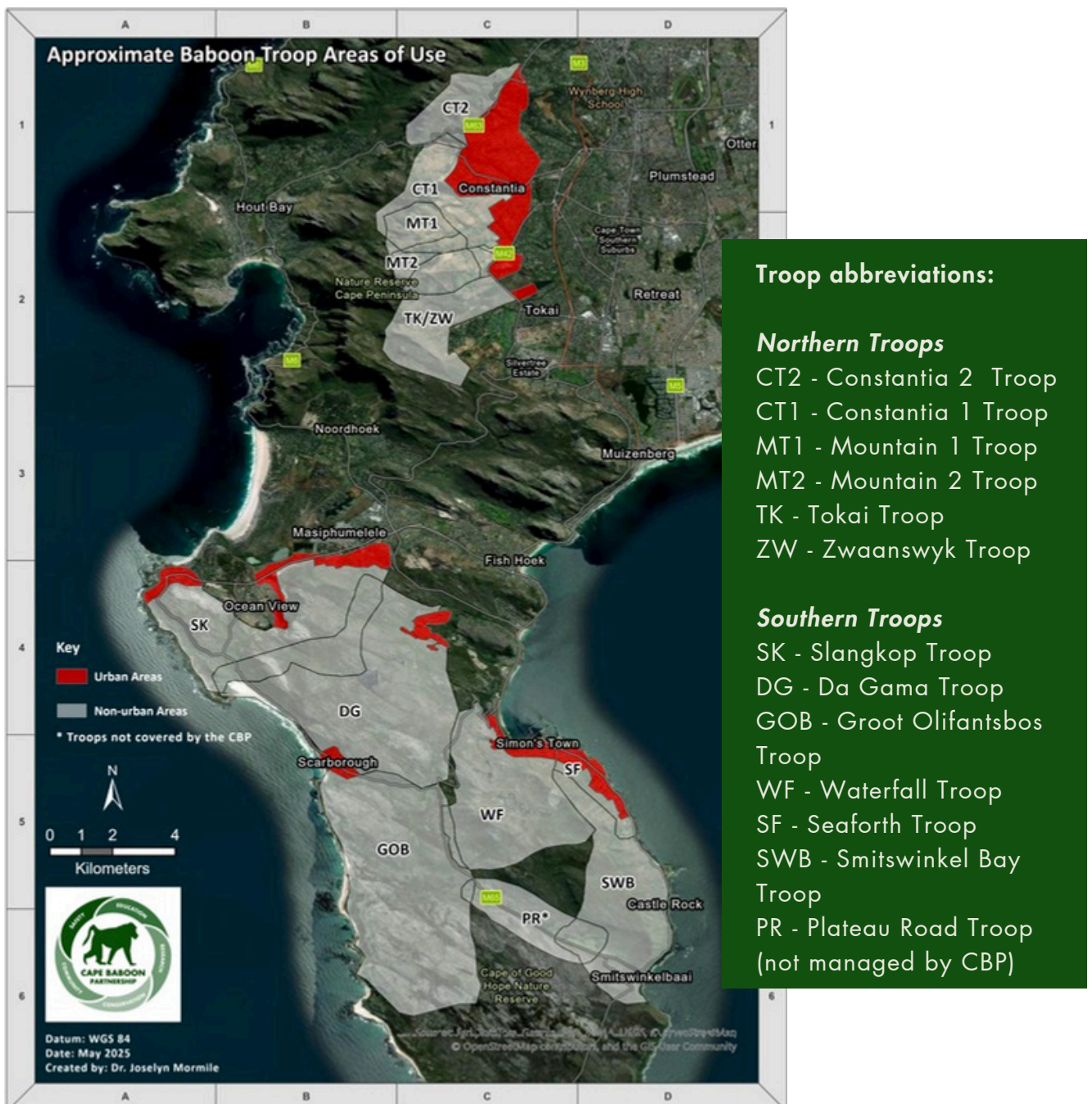
The census does not track individual baboons over time and does not provide information on daily troop movements or short-term population changes. It represents a snapshot of the population structure at the time the counts are conducted.

WHERE WERE THE BABOONS COUNTED?

The census covers baboon troops that use urban and peri-urban areas on the Cape Peninsula, ranging from Constantia in the north to Smitswinkel Bay/Plateau Road in the south.

In 2025, the Cape Baboon Partnership was responsible for the management of twelve baboon troops within this area. The census includes these managed troops, as well as the Plateau Road troop, which is monitored but not managed by CBP.

The census does not include baboon troops whose home ranges fall entirely within the Cape Point section of Table Mountain National Park, which is managed separately by SANParks. It also does not include baboon troops in the Helderberg region that are overseen by the Biodiversity Management Branch at the City of Cape Town.



WHEN WERE THE BABOONS COUNTED?

The baboon population census has been conducted annually since 2012 and has historically taken place in June, with results typically published in September or October. June falls in mid-winter on the Cape Peninsula, when weather conditions, reduced daylight hours, dense vegetation and other factors can limit visibility and make counting conditions more challenging.



In 2025, the decision was taken to conduct the census later in the year in order to take advantage of improved spring and early summer conditions, with the aim of ensuring a highly accurate count. Improved weather and visibility, combined with longer daylight hours, support more reliable observation of troop movement and composition.

Fieldwork for the 2025 census was conducted between 11 October and 23 December 2025, during which each troop was counted multiple times in line with the standardised methodology. The independent expert formally submitted the census data to the Cape Baboon Partnership on 24 December 2025. Following internal checks and report preparation, the completed census report was provided to the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team and the public in early January 2026.

MORTALITY REPORTING

Baboon mortality data are reported for the period between successive population censuses. Historically, censuses have been conducted on an annual cycle, and mortality figures have therefore reflected approximately 12 months of data between counts.

In 2025, as the census was conducted later than in previous years, the mortality data presented covers an extended period of approximately 18 months, from July 2024 to December 2025. From 2026 onwards, censuses and associated mortality reporting will return to a standardised 12-month interval. This will allow year-on-year comparisons to be made consistently in future reports.

Mortality figures presented include only confirmed cases recorded by management programmes. As with previous years, these figures may not account for all mortalities occurring within a given period, particularly where carcasses are not recovered or deaths occur in areas that rangers do not have access to (private land etc). In addition, it is not always possible to determine what has caused injuries on a baboon that have caused it to die and therefore these deaths are recorded as unknown. For example, a baboon with blunt force trauma (broken bones/bruising) may have been hit by a car or fallen from a tree/building, or a baboon with severe lacerations may have been bitten by a dog or involved in a fight with another baboon. Without definitive evidence either way these deaths are conservatively recorded as "unknown", to avoid incorrectly attributing them to the wrong casue.

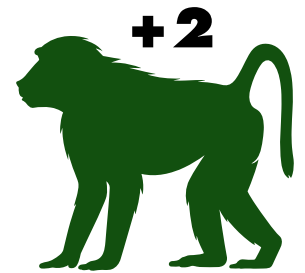
WHY DO WE CONDUCT AN ANNUAL CENSUS?

The baboon population census is a key component of long-term baboon management on the Cape Peninsula. Regular population data are necessary to understand changes in population size and structure over time and to support evidence-based decision-making.

The census helps to:



Monitor population trends



Assess the structure and composition of troops



Identify emerging management challenges and threats to the baboon population



Inform future planning, including anticipating subadult male dispersal and enabling proactive measures to support integration and reduce conflict

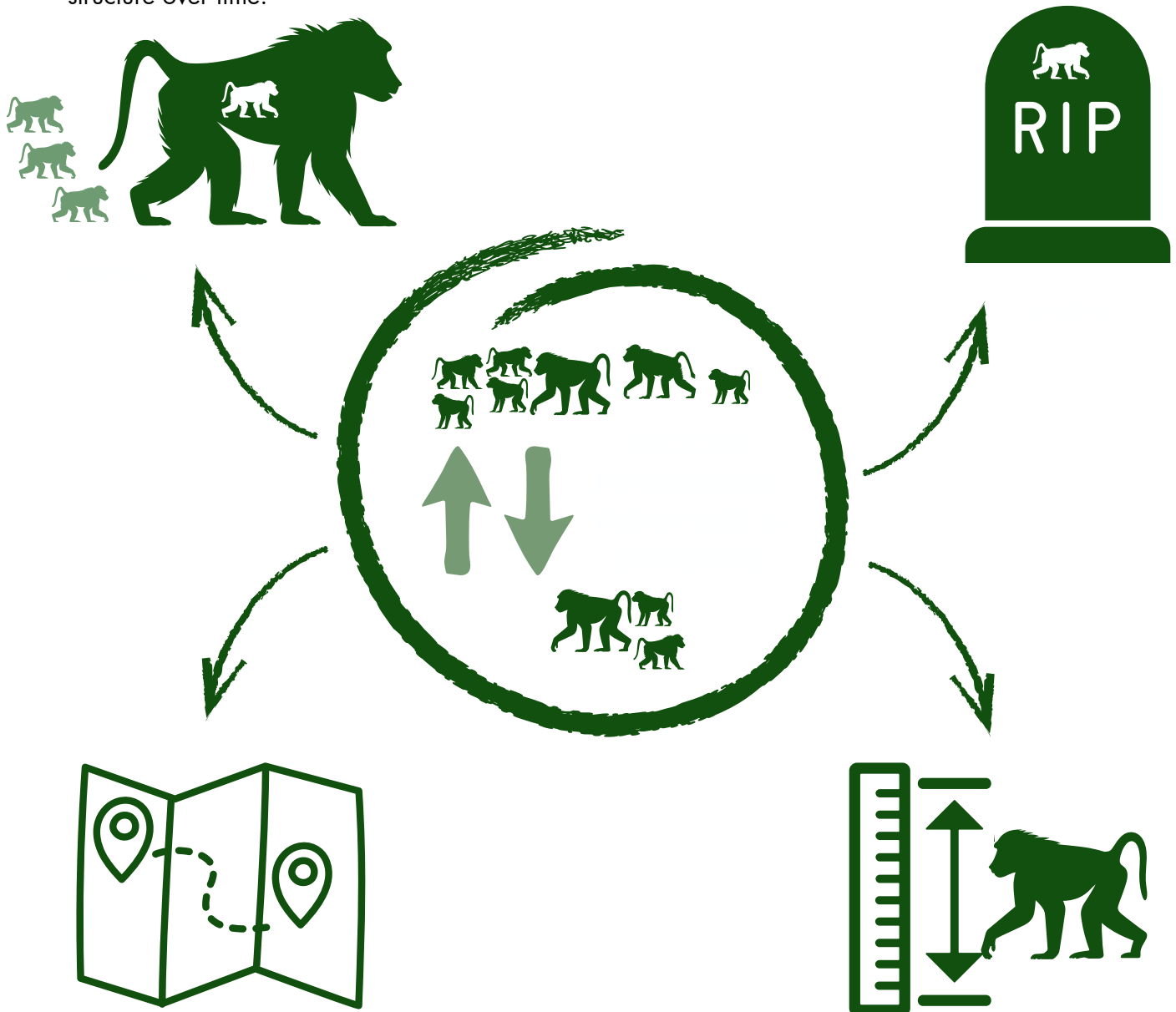
The 2025 Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Action Plan established upper population limits for managed subpopulations as part of a broader framework to support a sustainable and healthy baboon population. Regular monitoring through the annual census is essential to detect any significant changes in population size, including unexpected declines that may require mitigation. Population monitoring also allows managers to understand longer-term trends and to identify when population levels approach agreed thresholds, so that informed and proportionate management responses can be considered where necessary.

By providing a reliable and consistent record of the baboon population, the census supports responsible management aimed at reducing conflict and maintaining a healthy baboon population within a shared landscape.

WHAT CAUSES BABOON TROOPS TO CHANGE IN SIZE AND STRUCTURE?

As with any species, including humans, the baboon population on the Cape Peninsula is not fixed, its size and structure fluctuate over time in response to external factors such as reproduction and mortality rates, individuals maturing and moving through different age classes, movement of individuals between troops (driven primarily by male dispersal), and troop fissioning events.

For this reason, it is important to consider any year-on-year differences alongside longer-term trends, rather than interpreting short-term fluctuations in isolation. Population counts are therefore most meaningful when considered together with ongoing monitoring of troop behaviour and dynamics, which provides essential context for understanding changes in population size and structure over time.





Cape
Baboon
Partnership

*Connecting communities,
authorities, and the environment for
the adaptive management of
baboons.*



2025 CENSUS RESULTS

The Cape Baboon Partnership is a collaboration between Shark Spotters and the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team (CPBMJTT) consisting of the City of Cape Town, SANParks, and CapeNature who provide funding and strategic support to the programme for the implementation of the Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan.



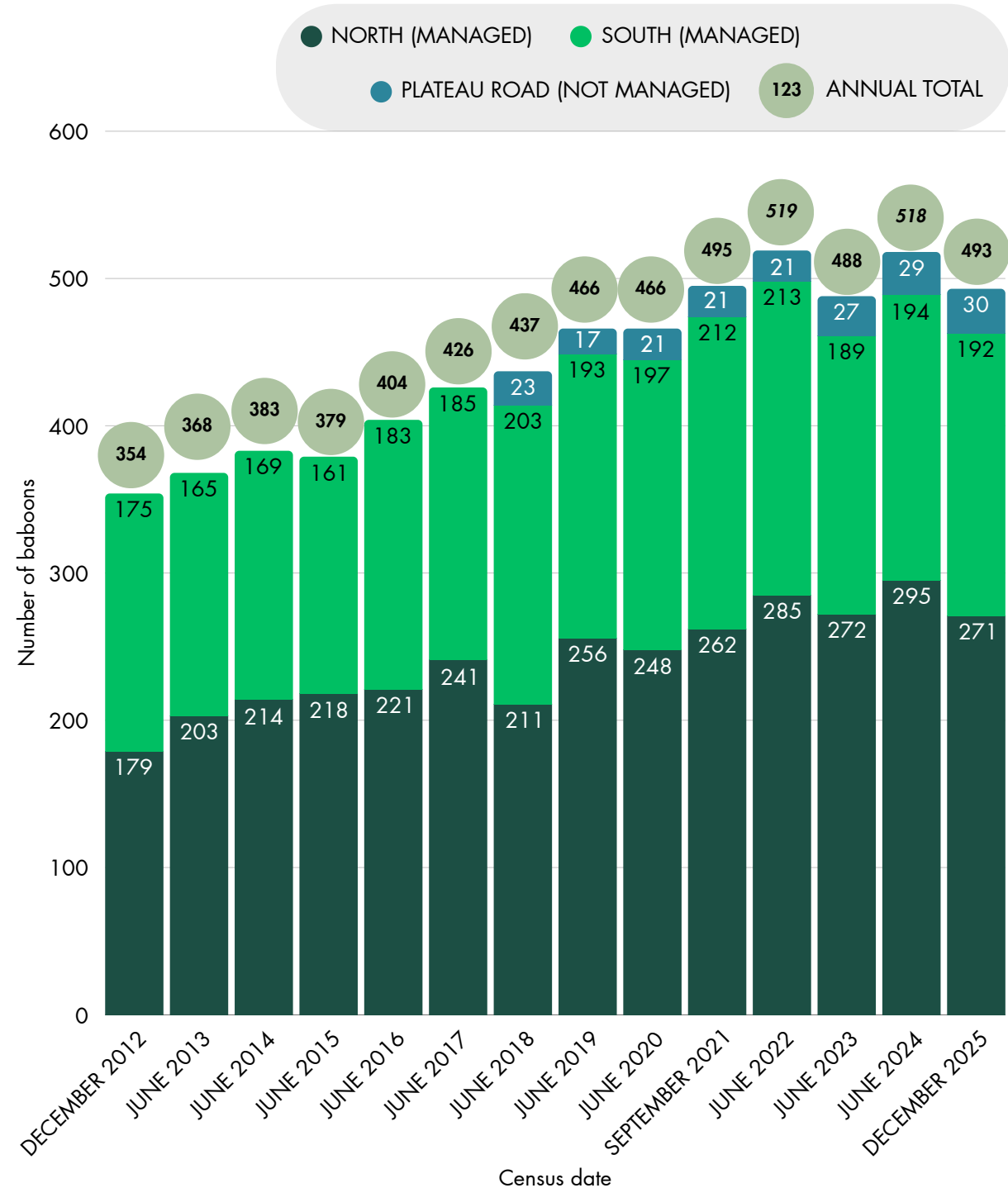
The 2025 annual census recorded a total of **463 individuals** across the **12 managed troops** on the Cape Peninsula (excluding troops in the Cape Point section of Table Mountain National Park and the Plateau Road troop). This represents a 5.3% decline relative to 2024. However, this change remains within the historical range of year-on-year population variability. Despite this short-term decline, the total managed baboon population has increased by approximately 31% since 2012.

Regionally, the Southern population experienced a slight decline (-1%) between 2024-25 counts which was within the expected bounds of interannual variation for the Southern troops. However, the decline in the North (-8%) represents a departure away from typical year-on-year variation. This was primarily driven by declines recorded in the CT1 troop through a combination of human-induced and natural mortality which will be discussed at the troop level.

As the Plateau Road troop is now included in the CPBMJT's assessment of population limits, historical census data are provided to contextualise current and future management decisions.

Thus, **the total population of Cape Peninsula baboons outside of Cape Point Reserve in December 2025 was 493 individuals**, of which 222 baboons were recorded in the South (inc Plateau Road troop) and 271 baboons in the North.

From 2026 onwards, Plateau Road troop will be automatically included in reporting as part of the Southern troops.



ANNUAL POPULATION, SUBPOPULATION AND TROOP SIZE DATA SINCE 2012

TROOP	ANNUAL CENSUS DATE													
	Dec 2012	Jun 2013	Jun 2014	Jun 2015	Jun 2016	Jun 2017	Jun 2018	Jun 2019	Jun 2020	Sep 2021	Jun 2022	Jun 2023	Jun 2024	Dec 2025
Da Gama	54	42	43	46	52	52	55	48	48	55	49	36	20	20
Groot Olifantsbos	19	20	19	16	17	23	29	23	25	29	33	35	46	53
Seaforth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	16	16
Slangkop	33	37	40	35	41	40	44	43	42	34	40	36	43	28
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	22	24	29	33	35	31	35	42	40	24	27	31
Waterfall	28	28	29	31	33	37	40	48	47	52	51	44	42	44
Plateau Road							23	17	21	21	21	27	29	30
Misty Cliffs	18	17	16	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South	175	165	169	161	183	185	226	210	218	233	234	216	223	222
Constantia 1	60	70	69	77	81	63	46	64	68	40	39	34	43	19
Constantia 2	0	0	0	0	0	22	10	8	7	17	18	20	18	17
Mountain 1	33	41	47	49	47	57	60	73	63	51	55	56	54	56
Mountain 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	32	31	33	35
Tokai	61	64	70	62	65	69	75	91	92	110	126	108	115	120
Zwaanswyk	25	28	28	30	28	30	20	20	18	20	15	23	32	24
North	179	203	214	218	221	241	211	256	248	262	285	272	295	271
ANNUAL TOTAL	354	368	383	379	404	426	437	466	466	495	519	488	518	493

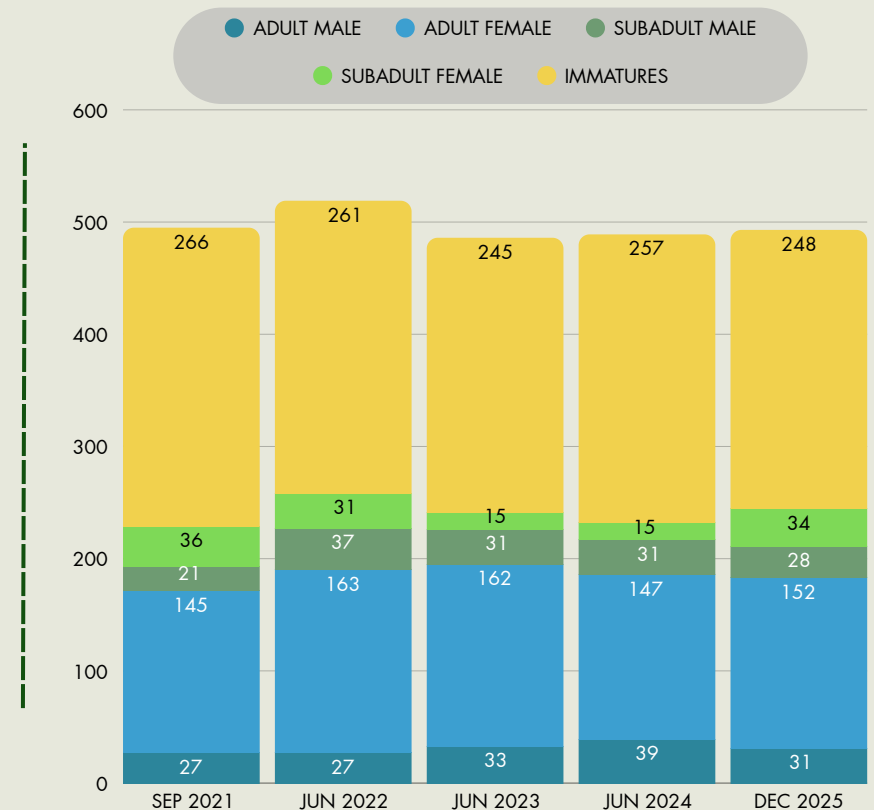
Chacma baboons live in socially complex troops that are structured around both male and female dominance hierarchies. Troops typically consist of multiple adult females and their offspring, along with several adult and subadult males. Female baboons are philopatric, usually staying in their natal troop for the duration of their lives, while males generally disperse from their natal troop as they mature and can move between troops over time, resulting in female-skewed sex ratios within troops.

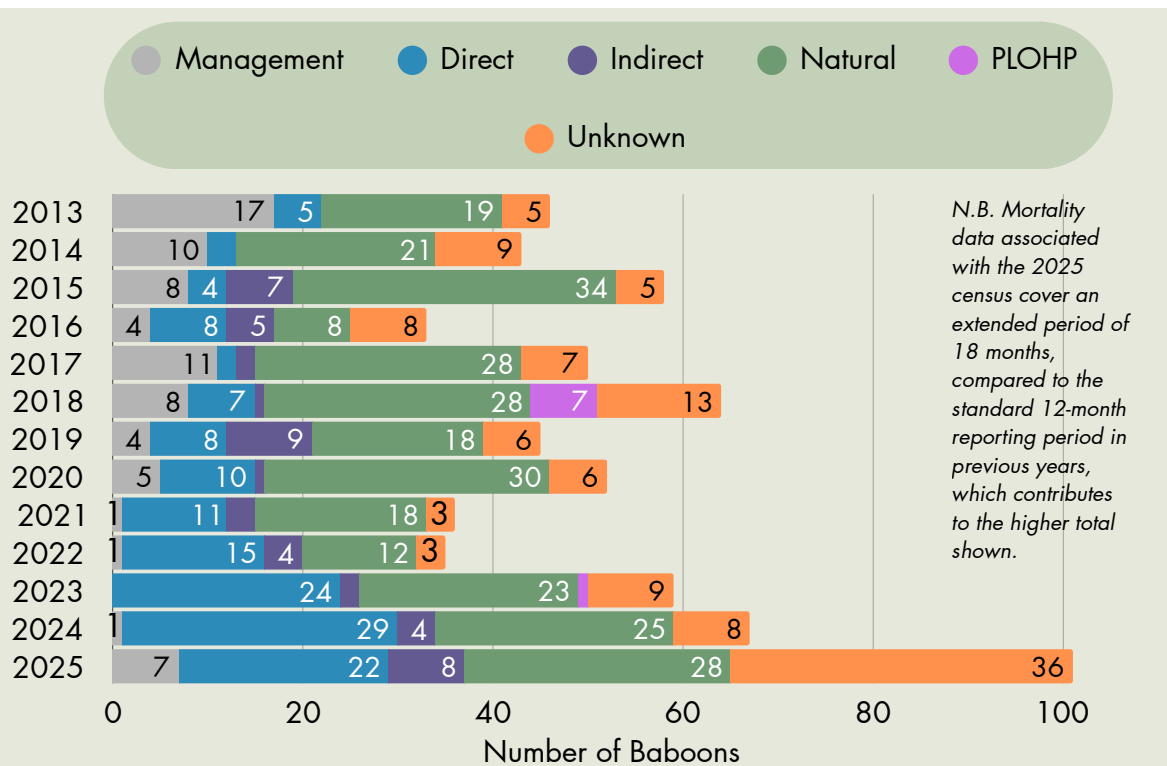
Understanding troop structure is important for baboon management as population size alone does not explain troop behaviour, the age and sex composition of the troop also influence its growth rate and movement patterns. Monitoring the structure of each troop alongside the number of baboons supports evidence-based management. In 2025 the overall age and sex class structure of the total baboon population remained relatively consistent with previous years with a slight increase in the number of adult and sub adult females compared to 2024.

Age and sex class structure of the Cape Peninsula Baboon Population (excluding COGH reserve troops) December 2025

	TROOP COMPOSITION						Total
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Sub-adult Male	Sub-adult Female	Juveniles	Black Infants	
Da Gama	1	5	3	3	6	2	20
Groot Olifantsbos	4	13	2	3	26	5	53
Slangkop	3	15	0	1	4	5	28
Smitswinkel Bay	2	10	1	2	13	3	31
Seaforth	1	6	1	0	7	1	16
Waterfall	3	16	2	1	16	6	44
Plateau Road*	2	9	2	3	12	2	30
South Subtotal	16	74	11	13	84	24	222
Constantia 1	1	5	0	3	8	2	19
Constantia 2	1	7	1	1	4	3	17
Mountain 1	5	18	2	4	26	1	56
Mountain 2	1	11	2	1	17	3	35
Tokai	6	33	11	8	54	8	120
Zwaanswyk	1	4	1	4	11	3	24
North Subtotal	15	78	17	21	120	20	271
TOTAL	31	152	28	34	204	44	493

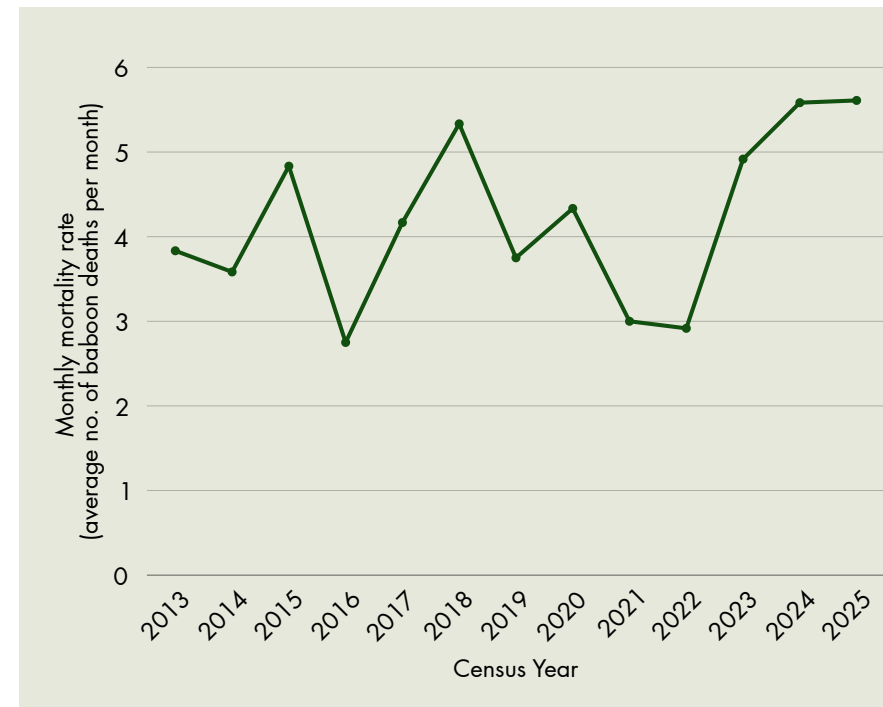
Age and sex class composition for peninsula baboon population (excl. COGH troops) per year (2021 to 2025):





Mortality recorded between population censuses indicates that the 2025 census period had the highest total number of recorded baboon deaths since records began in 2013. In previous years, annual mortality ranged from 35 to 67 deaths, averaging approximately 49 deaths over a standard 12-month period. The 2025 census differed in that it covered an extended period of approximately 18 months (July 2024 to December 2025), during which 72 deaths were recorded in the first 12 months and a further 29 in the subsequent six months (101 in total).

When expressed as an average monthly rate, mortality in 2025 remains elevated but is broadly comparable to other recent high-mortality years. This indicates that while 2025 represents a period of sustained high mortality, the extended reporting interval contributes substantially to the apparent increase in total deaths shown in the cumulative data.



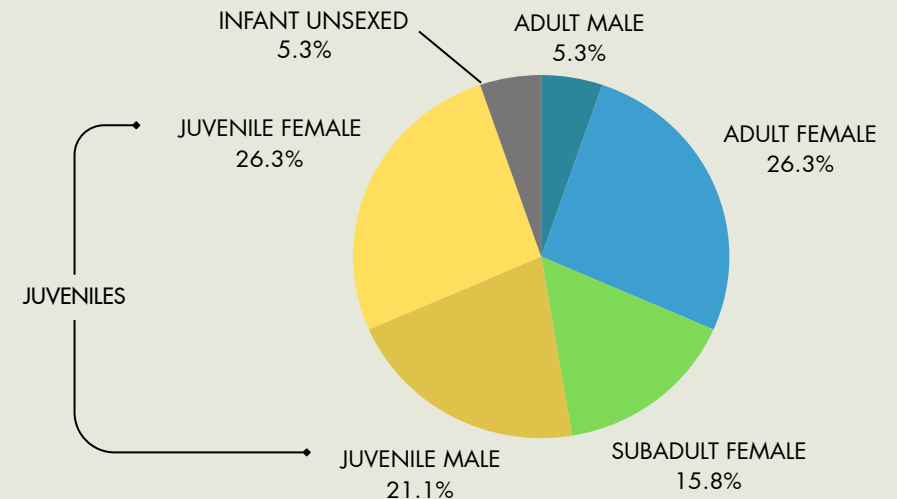
Management: baboons euthanised following the BTT guidelines. **Human-induced: Direct** – baboons killed by shooting, poisoning, dog attacks, motor vehicle collisions, etc. **Human-induced Indirect** – electrocutions, fires within the urban space, and baboons seriously injured from these causes and subsequently euthanised. **Natural:** baboon-on-baboon altercations, infanticide, fires within the natural space, etc., and baboons seriously injured from these causes and subsequently euthanised. **PLOHP:** Private landowner hunting permit. **Unknown:** when a baboon carcass is found, and the cause of death cannot be determined. This category also includes baboons euthanised for serious injuries such as blunt force trauma, severe lacerations etc, which resulted from an unknown cause.

In 2025, deaths recorded as unknown accounted for the largest proportion of mortalities, followed by direct and indirect human-induced causes, together indicating elevated levels of interaction and conflict between baboons and human-dominated environments. Unknown cases primarily include severe injuries of undetermined origin, such as blunt force trauma which may have been from a car or a fall, and individuals reported missing where no carcass was recovered. These deaths are conservatively classified as unknown in line with standard monitoring practice.

Between the June 2024 and December 2025 censuses, the CT1 troop declined from 43 to 19 individuals, with losses across adult, juvenile, and infant age classes. Most recorded deaths were linked to direct and indirect human-related causes, including vehicle collisions and shooting, as well as a number of injuries with unknown causes which may or may not have been human-induced. Recorded mortalities do not account for the full reduction in troop size, as the census reflects a decline of 24 individuals while 18 deaths were documented. This difference most likely reflects deaths that occurred in areas where ranger access is restricted, as well as dispersal of some individuals to neighbouring troops.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		1	5	-4
Adult Female		5	12	-7
Sub-adult Male		0	3	-3
Sub-adult Female		3	1	+2
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	4	19	-11
	Juvenile Female	4		
	Juvenile Unsexed	0		
	Total Juveniles	8		
Black Infants (unsexed)		2	3	-1
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		19	43	-24

The new Action Plan identifies baboon-proof fencing as a key measure to reduce baboon access to high-risk areas and limit exposure to human-related threats. The proposed northern fence above the wine farms is expected to reduce interactions with roads, agricultural areas, and residential spaces, thereby lowering the risk of injury and mortality. Over time, this is anticipated to support improved welfare outcomes and greater troop stability for CT1.

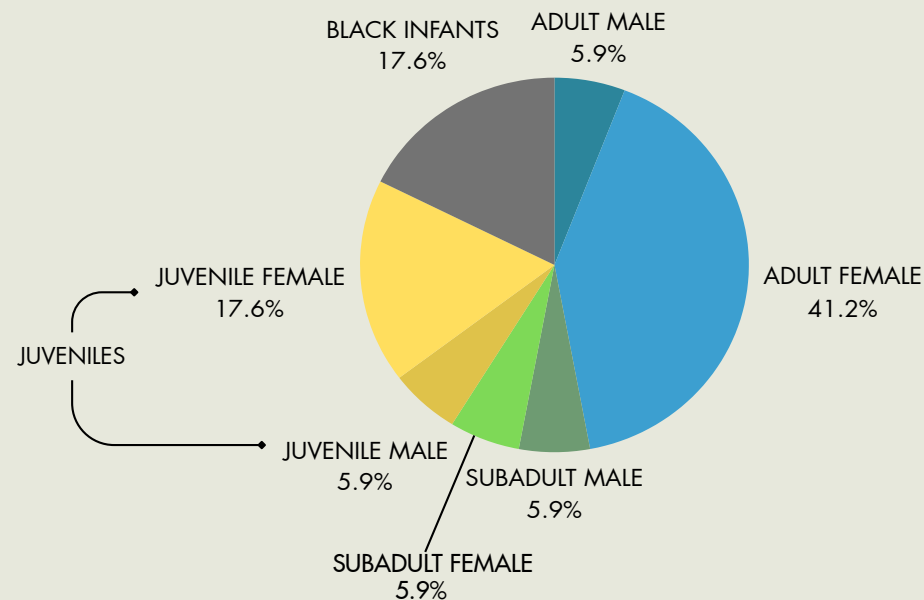


Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Aug 2024	Adult Female	Direct Human Induced - car
Aug 2024	Juvenile (unsexed)	Direct Human Induced - car
Sep 2024	Adult Female	Unknown - missing presumed dead
Oct 2024	Adult Female	Unknown - missing presumed dead
Oct 2024	Juvenile Male	Natural - infanticide
Oct 2024	Adult Male	Management - BTG03 guidelines
Nov 2024	Juvenile Male	Unknown - injuries of unknown origin - probable infanticide
Dec 2024	Juvenile Female	Unknown - blunt force trauma - probable car or fall
Dec 2024	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - seen carried by mother - possible infanticide
Jan 2025	Adult Female	Direct Human Induced - shooting
Mar 2025	Adult Male	Unknown - found paralysed - no clear cause
Mar 2025	Juvenile Female	Unknown - found paralysed - no clear cause
Mar 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Direct Human Induced - car
Jul 2025	Juvenile Male	Direct Human Induced - car
Jul 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Direct Human Induced - shooting
Aug 2025	Adult Male	Unknown - blunt force trauma - probable car or fall
Sep 2025	Infant Male	Natural - infanticide
Oct 2025	Infant Male	Natural - infanticide
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 18		

Between the June 2024 and December 2025 censuses, the CT2 troop remained relatively stable in size, decreasing marginally from 18 to 17 individuals. Mortalities were recorded across several age and sex classes during this period, with causes including natural infanticide, missing individuals presumed dead, and injuries of unknown origin. A marked reduction in recorded deaths was observed from the second quarter of 2025 onwards. This coincided with improved ranger efficacy in keeping the troop within the Cecilia Forest area and away from adjacent roads and residential spaces. Reduced exposure to these high-risk areas appears to have lowered the likelihood of injury and mortality, contributing to increased troop stability during the latter part of the census period.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		1	1	0
Adult Female		7	6	+1
Sub-adult Male		1	2	-1
Sub-adult Female		1	1	0
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	1	6	-2
	Juvenile Female	3		
	Juvenile Unsexed	0		
	Total Juveniles	4		
Black Infants (unsexed)		3	2	+1
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		17	18	-1



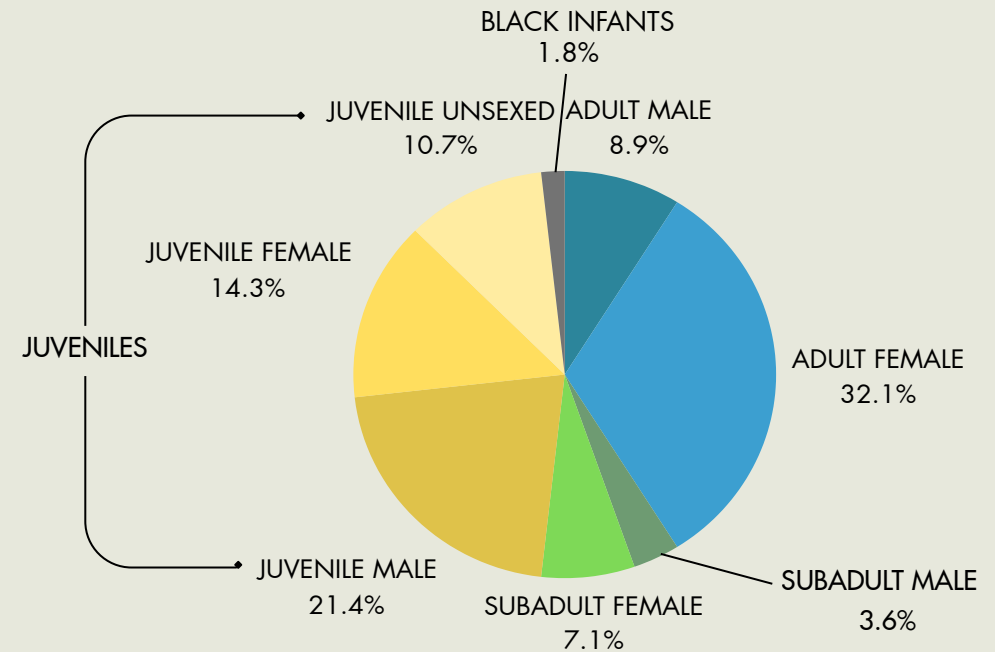
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Oct 2024	Adult Male	Unknown - missing presumed dead
Nov 2024	Subadult Male	Unknown - missing presumed dead
Nov 2024	Juvenile Female	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2024	Subadult Male	Unknown - missing presumed dead
Dec 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Dec 2024	Juvenile (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Jan 2025	Juvenile Female	Unknown -injuries of unknown origin - possible infanticide or dog
Jan 2025	Adult Male	Unknown - missing presumed dead
Mar 2025	Juvenile Male	Natural - infanticide
Jun 2025	Juvenile Male	Unknown - health issues of unknown origin
TOTAL DEATHS RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 10		

The MT1 troop remained stable in overall size over the census period, with the total count unchanged at 56 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. Two adult male deaths were recorded during this period, including one direct human-induced mortality and one management-related case. These losses were offset by internal recruitment, reflected in an increase in the juvenile cohort, and the maturation of younger animals within the troop.

MT1 ranges largely within natural habitat and has limited interaction with roads, farmland, and residential areas compared to many other troops. The proposed northern baboon-proof fence will help maintain this pattern by preventing future access to high-risk areas, supporting long-term welfare and reduced conflict.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		5	4	+1
Adult Female		18	19	-1
Sub-adult Male		2	2	0
Sub-adult Female		4	4	0
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	12	23	+3
	Juvenile Female	8		
	Juvenile Unsexed	6		
	Total Juveniles	26		
Black Infants (unsexed)		1	4	-3
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		56	56	0



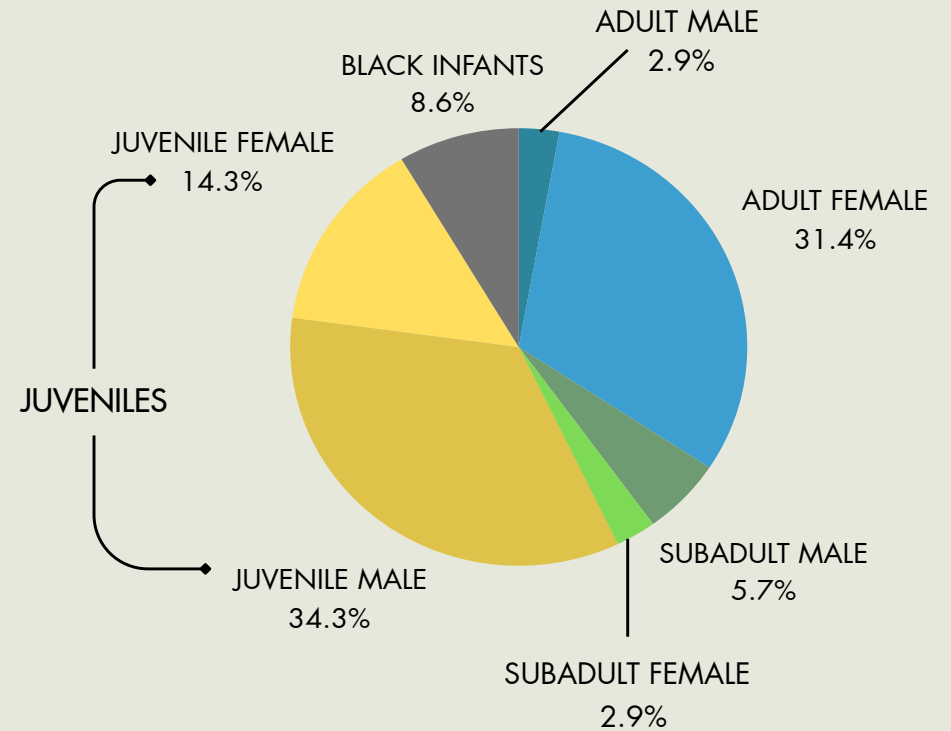
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
July 2025	Adult Male	Direct Human Induced - snare
Nov 2025	Adult Male	Management BTTG03
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 2		

The MT2 troop increased slightly in size over the census period, from 33 to 35 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. This growth reflects strong internal recruitment, with an increase in adult females and the presence of multiple infants, while juvenile numbers remained stable. Three deaths were recorded during the period, including two natural infant mortalities and one subadult male death resulting from a direct human-induced incident. Overall, the troop displays a stable age and sex structure with ongoing reproductive output.

MT2 currently ranges largely away from transformed areas and has limited interaction with roads, farmland, and residential spaces. The proposed northern baboon-proof fence is expected to help retain this spatial pattern, reducing the likelihood of conflict and injury and contributing to long-term welfare and troop stability.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		1	3	-2
Adult Female		11	9	+2
Sub-adult Male		2	3	-1
Sub-adult Female		1	1	0
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	12	17	0
	Juvenile Female	5		
	Juvenile Unsexed	0		
	Total Juveniles	17		
Black Infants (unsexed)		3	0	+3
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		35	33	+2



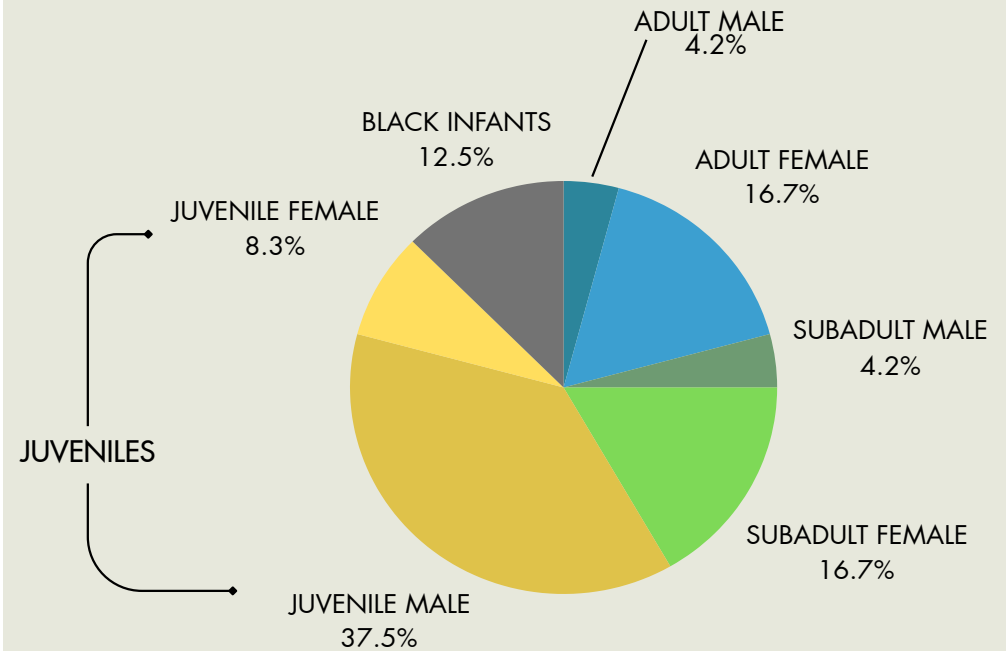
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Aug 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
May 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
June 2025	Subadult Male	Direct Human Induced - drowning
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 3		

The Zwaanswyk troop declined from 32 to 24 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. Six deaths were recorded, primarily among infants and juveniles, with the majority of deaths of unknown cause suspected to be infanticide. The reduction in adult numbers is likely influenced by the troop's proximity to the Tokai troop, which allows for natural movement of individuals between the two. Changes in troop size therefore reflect both mortality and redistribution rather than losses alone.

Although the troop ranges adjacent to residential areas, the existing baboon-proof fence surrounding Zwaanswyk has proved highly effective in preventing access to the urban environment. As a result, the troop experiences relatively low levels of conflict and reduced exposure to human-related threats. This provides a practical example of how effective fencing can support predictable spatial use, reduce risk, and improve welfare, and illustrates the anticipated benefits of the proposed northern baboon-proof fence for other troops.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		1	5	-4
Adult Female		4	6	-2
Sub-adult Male		1	2	-1
Sub-adult Female		4	0	+4
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	9	19	-5
	Juvenile Female	2		
	Juvenile Unsexed	0		
	Total Juveniles	11		
Black Infants (unsexed)		3	0	0
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		24	32	-8



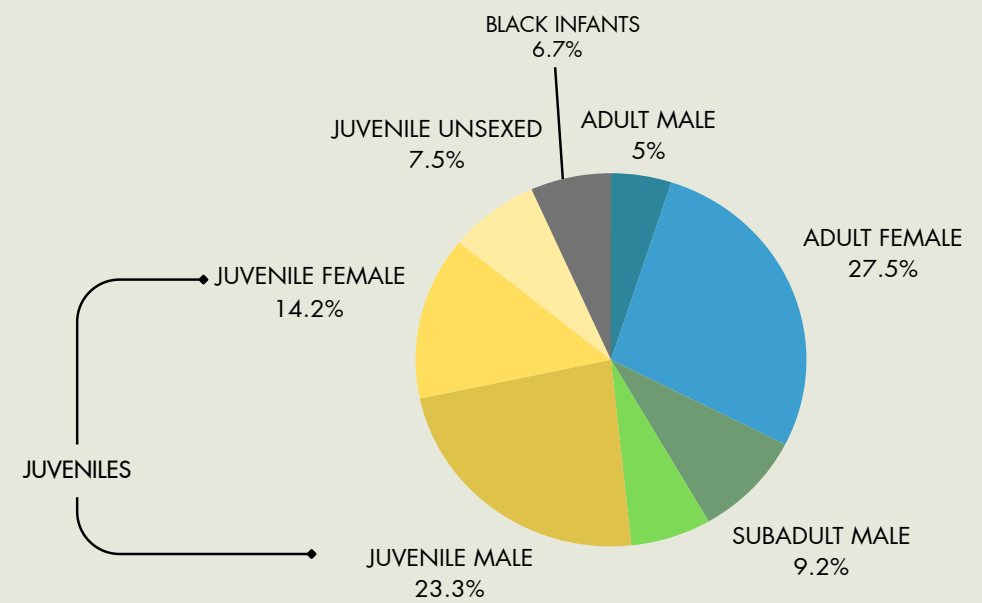
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Nov 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2024	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - suspected infanticide
Dec 2024	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - carcass found - no clear cause
Dec 2024	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - carcass found - no clear cause
Feb 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - blindness with no clear cause
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 6		

The Tokai troop increased from 115 to 120 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. This growth reflects strong internal recruitment, including increases in subadult females and infants, despite 16 recorded deaths across multiple age and sex classes. Mortalities resulted from a combination of natural causes and direct and indirect human-related incidents, reflecting the range of risks associated with the troop's size and extensive range.

As the largest troop on the Cape Peninsula, Tokai presents particular management and welfare challenges. The proposed northern baboon-proof fence is a key measure to reduce access to high-risk areas and limit opportunities for conflict, thereby lowering injury and mortality risk, and improve long-term troop stability and welfare.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		6	7	-1
Adult Female		33	33	0
Sub-adult Male		11	8	+3
Sub-adult Female		8	4	+4
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	28	61	-7
	Juvenile Female	17		
	Juvenile Unsexed	9		
	Total Juveniles	54		
Black Infants (unsexed)		8	2	+6
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		120	115	+5



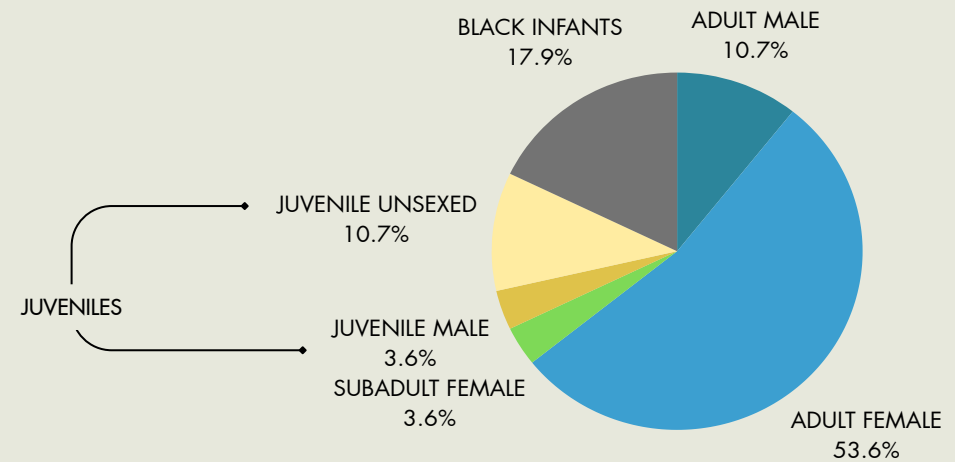
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Jul 2024	Adult male	Unknown - blunt force trauma - probable fall or car
Aug 2024	Juvenile male	Direct Human Induced - car
Sept 2024	Adult male	Direct Human Induced - shooting
Oct 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2024	Adult female	Natural - broken limbs - probable fall
Jan 2025	Adult male	Unknown - carcass found - no clear cause
Jan 2025	Adult female	Direct Human Induced - shooting
Jan 2025	Juvenile male	Natural - broken limbs - probable fall
April 2025	Subadult male	Unknown - trauma injuries of unknown origin
May 2025	Juvenile female	Direct Human Induced - car
May 2025	Adult female	Indirect Human Induced - dog
June 2025	Adult female	Indirect Human Induced - dog
Oct 2025	Adult male	Unknown - blunt force trauma - probable fall or car
Nov 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Dec 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 16		

The Slangkop troop declined in size over the census period, decreasing from 43 to 28 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. The primary driver of this change was a reduction in the juvenile cohort. Census data, mortality records, and ranger observations were reviewed together to reconcile this change. The majority of the reduction is reflected in confirmed mortality records and monitoring data, with the remaining difference most plausibly due to juvenile deaths occurring in mountainous terrain where carcass recovery is not always possible.

The Slangkop troop regularly ranges through residential areas, roads, and adjacent industrial spaces, which substantially increases exposure to direct and indirect human-related risks, particularly for younger animals. Reducing access to these high-risk environments and continued close monitoring remain priorities, with the aim of preventing further reductions in juvenile numbers and improving welfare outcomes.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		3	4	-1
Adult Female		15	14	+1
Sub-adult Male		0	3	-3
Sub-adult Female		1	0	1
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	1	19	-15
	Juvenile Female	0		
	Juvenile Unsexed	3		
	Total Juveniles	4		
Black Infants (unsexed)		5	3	+2
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		28	43	-15



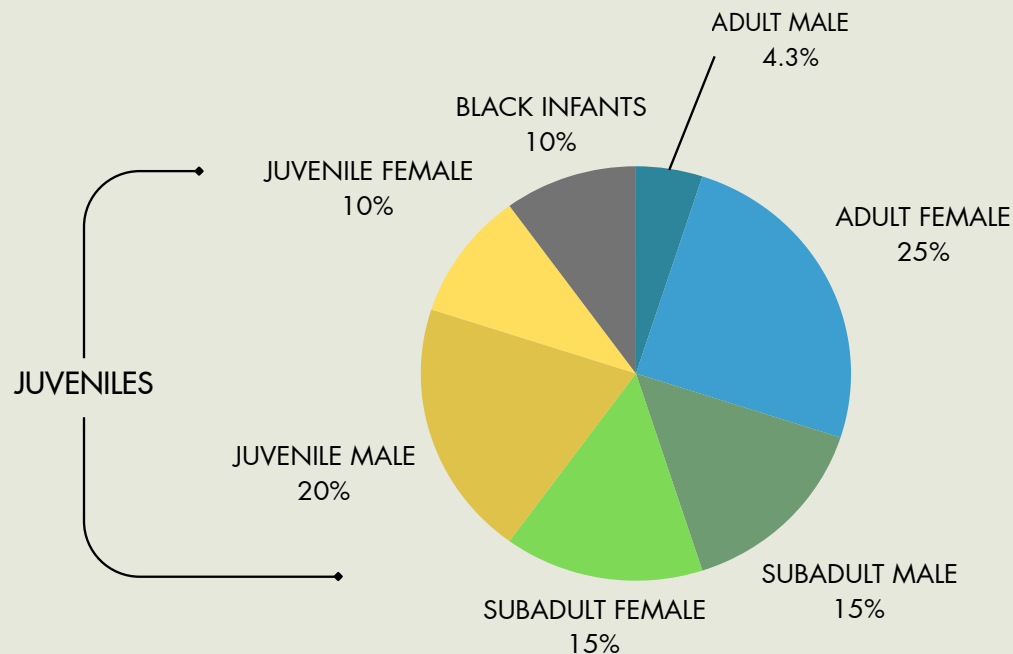
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Jul 2024	Juvenile male	Indirect Human Induced - dog
Jul 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Mar 2025	Juvenile female	Indirect Human Induced - drowning
May 2025	Juvenile female	Direct Human Induced - car
Aug 2025	Juvenile female	Unknown - blunt force trauma - probable car or fall
Aug 2025	Juvenile female	Direct Human Induced - poisoning
Aug 2025	Juvenile female	Unknown - traumatic injury of unknown cause
Sept 2025	Juvenile female	Unknown - traumatic injury of unknown cause
Sept 2025	Juvenile female	Unknown - blunt force trauma - probable car or fall
Oct 2025	Adult male	Natural - illness
Nov 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2025	Adult male	Management - BTTG03
Nov 2025	Adult female	Management - BTTG03
Nov 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 14		

The Da Gama troop remained stable in overall size over the census period, with the total count unchanged at 20 individuals. While there were shifts within age and sex classes during this period, these were balanced by internal recruitment, resulting in no net change in troop size. The current composition reflects ongoing reproduction and normal troop dynamics.

During the census period, a small splinter group of adult females rejoined the main troop, contributing to changes in troop structure and movement patterns. The Da Gama troop ranges close to residential areas and transport corridors, increasing exposure to risk. Management therefore focuses on limiting access to high-risk environments and maintaining predictable movement, with the aim of preventing further losses and supporting long-term welfare.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		1	2	-1
Adult Female		5	4	+1
Sub-adult Male		3	1	+2
Sub-adult Female		3	1	+2
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	4	12	-6
	Juvenile Female	2		
	Juvenile Unsexed	0		
	Total Juveniles	6		
Black Infants (unsexed)		2	0	+2
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		20	20	0



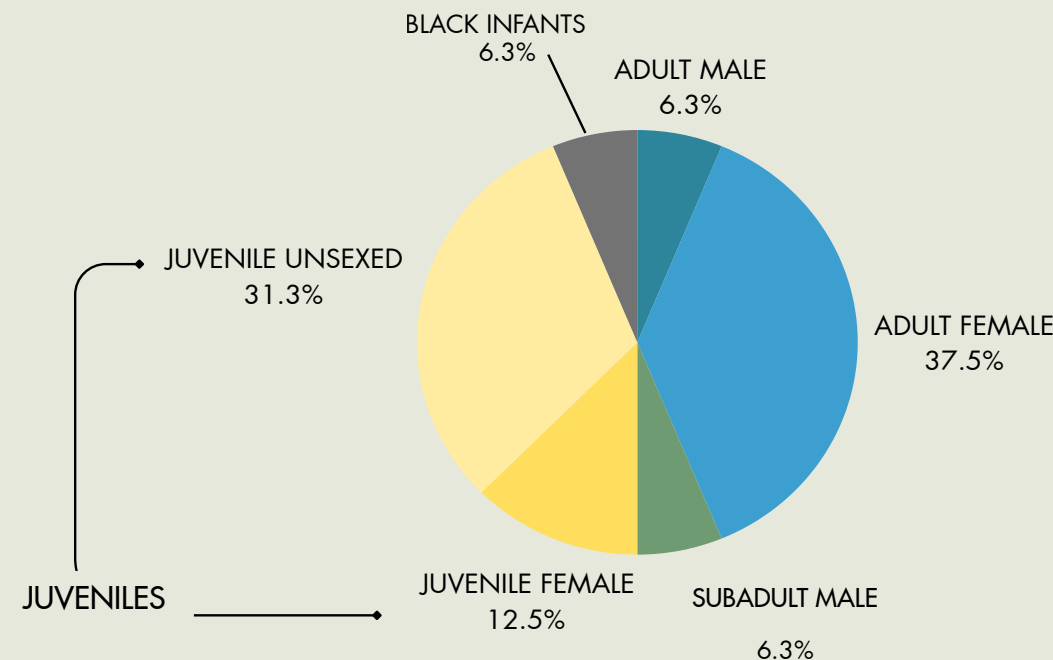
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Jul 2024	Adult Male	Management BTTG03
Jul 2024	Juvenile Female	Natural - infanticide
Mar 2025	Juvenile Female	Indirect Human Induced - drowning
Nov 2025	Juvenile Male	Unknown - traumatic injury of unknown cause
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 4		

The Seaforth troop remained stable at 16 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. Two deaths were recorded during this period and were offset by internal recruitment. The troop continues to reproduce within a highly urbanized landscape.

The troop sleeps in surrounding mountainous areas but spends substantial portions of the day moving through, or attempting to access, the adjacent urban environment, bringing it into close proximity with residential areas and the critically endangered African penguin colony. This presents ongoing welfare and conservation challenges. In line with the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Action Plan, a planned intervention will involve relocating the troop to a purpose-built sanctuary to reduce conflict, limit ecological risk, and improve welfare outcomes.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		1	1	0
Adult Female		6	6	0
Sub-adult Male		1	1	0
Sub-adult Female		0	1	-1
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	0	5	+2
	Juvenile Female	2		
	Juvenile Unsexed	5		
	Total Juveniles	7		
Black Infants (unsexed)		1	2	-1
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		16	16	0



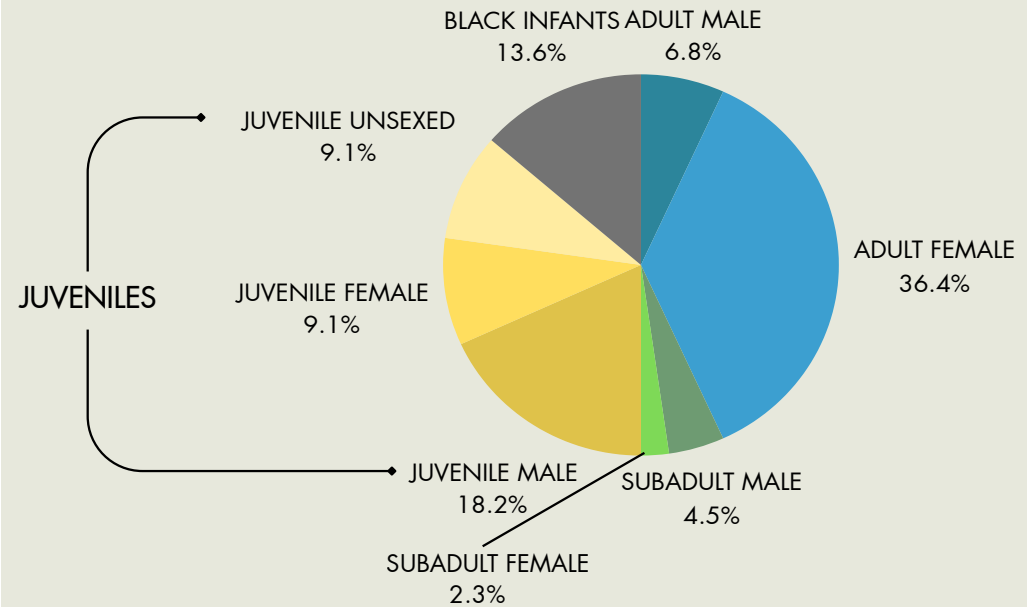
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Jan 2025	Adult Female	Direct Human Induced - shooting
Jan 2025	Juvenile Female	Direct Human Induced - car
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 2		

The Waterfall troop increased slightly from 42 to 44 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. Despite this modest growth, multiple deaths were recorded across age and sex classes, including several direct and indirect human-induced incidents. The troop continues to reproduce under challenging conditions, as reflected in the presence of multiple infants.

The troop spends a substantial proportion of its time in transformed environments, including regular use of urban areas in Simon’s Town, despite sustained ranger efforts to limit access. Under these conditions, the troop is exposed to elevated risk, relies heavily on anthropogenic food sources, and experiences ongoing disturbance. In line with the Action Plan, a planned management intervention will involve relocating the troop to a purpose-built sanctuary to address ongoing welfare and risk concerns for both baboons and residents.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		3	4	-1
Adult Female		16	18	-2
Sub-adult Male		2	2	0
Sub-adult Female		1	1	0
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	8	16	0
	Juvenile Female	4		
	Juvenile Unsexed	4		
	Total Juveniles	16		
Black Infants (unsexed)		6	1	+5
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		44	42	+2



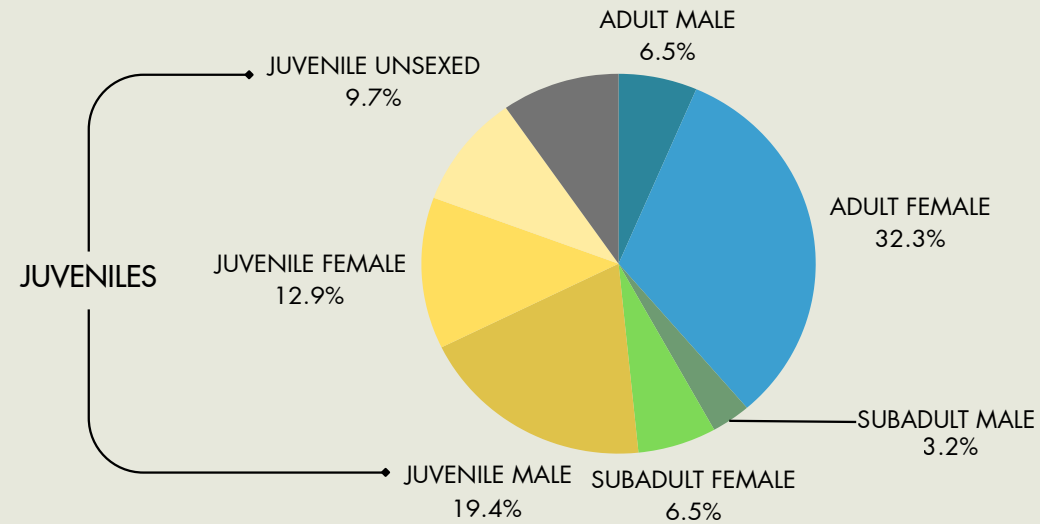
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Sep 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2024	Juvenile Female	Direct Human Induced - car
Jan 2025	Adult Male	Indirect Human Induced - dog
Jan 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - carcass found - no clear cause
Jan 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Jan 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - suspected infanticide
Jan 2025	Adult Female	Unknown - carcass found - no clear cause
Feb 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Apr 2025	Adult Male	Direct Human Induced - shooting
Apr 2025	Adult Male	Direct Human Induced - shooting
Nov 2025	Adult Male	Management - BTG03
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 11		

The Smitswinkel Bay troop increased from 27 to 31 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. This growth reflects internal recruitment, including increases in juveniles and infants, despite several recorded deaths. The current structure indicates ongoing reproduction within the troop's range.

The troop spends comparatively less time in urban areas than many others but regularly uses recreational sites and areas frequented by tourists, resulting in periodic conflict. Management therefore focuses on limiting access to anthropogenic food sources, improving visitor compliance, and maintaining predictable troop movement to minimise risk and support welfare.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		2	2	0
Adult Female		10	9	+1
Sub-adult Male		1	2	-1
Sub-adult Female		2	1	+1
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	6	12	+1
	Juvenile Female	4		
	Juvenile Unsexed	3		
	Total Juveniles	13		
Black Infants (unsexed)		3	1	+2
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		31	27	+4



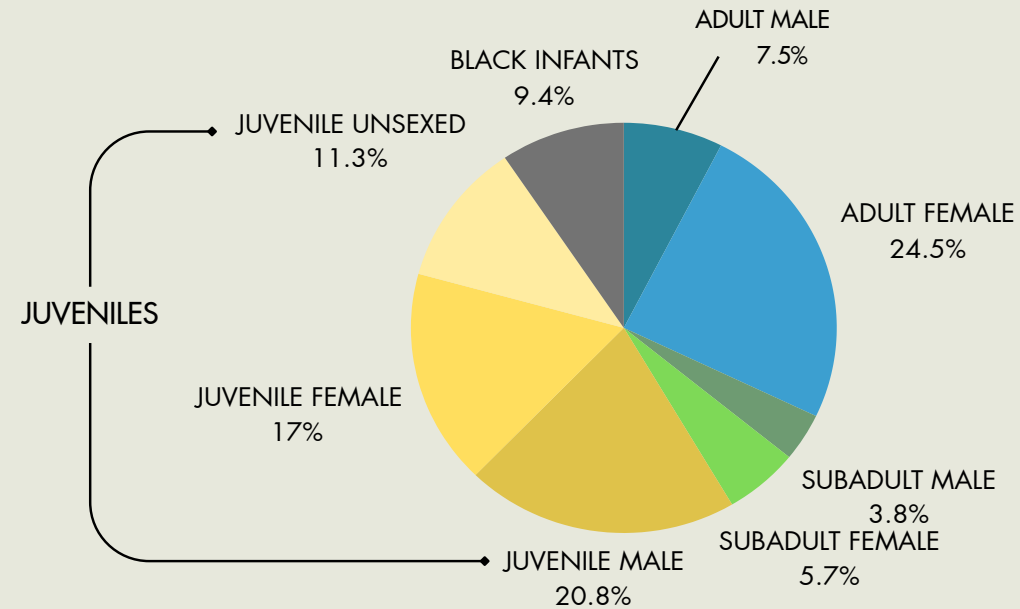
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Aug 2024	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Dec 2024	Juvenile Male	Direct Human Induced - car
Feb 2025	Juvenile Male	Indirect Human Induced - dog
Aug 2025	Adult Male	Natural - Missing presumed dead due to age
Nov 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 7		

The Groot Olifantsbos troop increased from 46 to 53 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025, reflecting internal recruitment across multiple age and sex classes. A stable juvenile cohort and an increase in infants indicate ongoing reproduction, while only one death was recorded during the period.

The troop ranges primarily within the north-western section of the Cape of Good Hope reserve and adjacent mountainous and natural areas near Scarborough and Red Hill. While occasional use of developed areas occurs, conflict levels remain relatively low. Management therefore prioritises maintaining access to natural habitat and limiting opportunities for movement into transformed environments, supporting favourable welfare outcomes.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		4	1	+3
Adult Female		13	11	+2
Sub-adult Male		2	2	0
Sub-adult Female		3	2	+1
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	11	26	0
	Juvenile Female	9		
	Juvenile Unsexed	6		
	Total Juveniles	26		
Black Infants (unsexed)		5	4	+1
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		53	46	+7



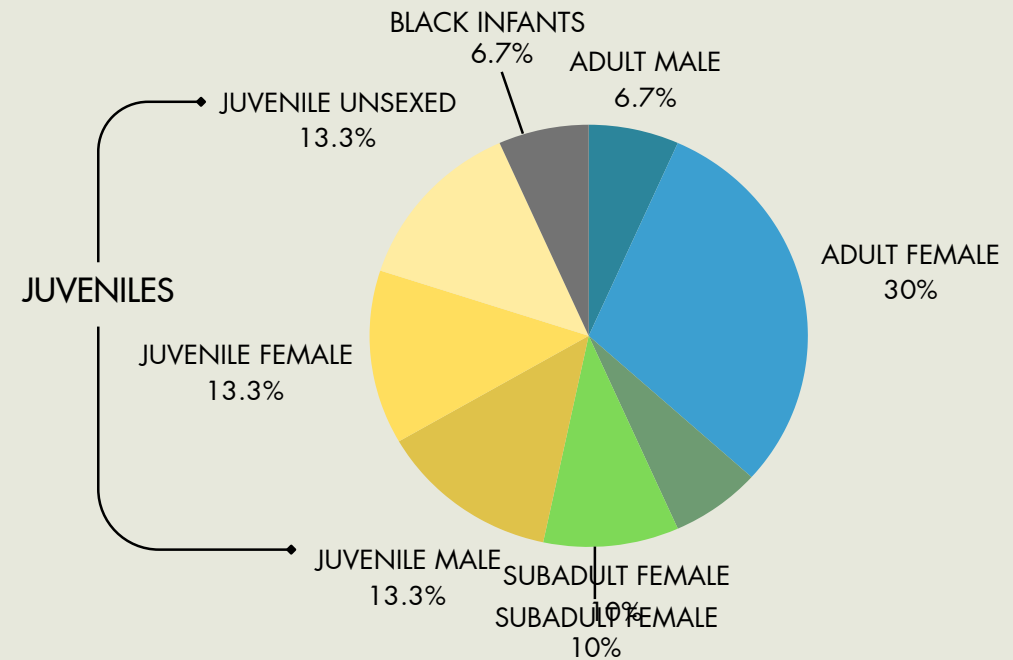
Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Sep 2025	Infant (unsexed)	Natural - infanticide
Nov 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Unknown - carcass found - no clear cause
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 2		

The Plateau Road troop remained broadly stable, increasing slightly from 29 to 30 individuals between June 2024 and December 2025. Two vehicle-related deaths were recorded and offset by internal recruitment. The age and sex structure reflects ongoing reproduction and normal troop dynamics.

This troop is not actively managed by rangers and ranges primarily within the Cape of Good Hope reserve and on farms along Plateau Road. Vehicle collisions and feeding by visitors represent the main risks. Management, therefore, focuses on education, signage, and awareness initiatives to reduce risky human–baboon interactions and improve road safety.

AGE/SEX CLASS		2025 COUNT	2024 COUNT	DIFFERENCE
Adult Male		2	2	0
Adult Female		9	9	0
Sub-adult Male		2	2	0
Sub-adult Female		3	0	+3
JUVENILES	Juvenile Male	4	16	-4
	Juvenile Female	4		
	Juvenile Unsexed	4		
	Total Juveniles	12		
Black Infants (unsexed)		2	0	+2
TROOP COUNT TOTAL		30	29	+1



Deaths recorded between the previous (June 2024) and current (December 2025) troop census:

MONTH	AGE / SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH
Jan 2025	Adult Male	Direct Human Induced - car
Mar 2025	Juvenile (unsexed)	Direct Human Induced - car
Oct 2025	Juvenile Female	Unknown - bite wounds - baboon or dog
TOTAL DEATHS IN TROOP RECORDED BY NCC/CBP = 3		



Cape
Baboon
Partnership

Connecting communities,
authorities, and the environment for
the adaptive management of
baboons.



LOOKING AHEAD

The Cape Baboon Partnership is a collaboration between **Shark Spotters** and the **Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team (CPBMJTT)** consisting of the **City of Cape Town**, **SANParks**, and **CapeNature** who provide funding and strategic support to the programme for the implementation of the **Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan**.



The 2025 census results reflect a baboon population that, despite experiencing long-term growth since the 2010s and ongoing natural processes such as births, dispersal, and mortality, is increasingly influenced by sustained exposure to human-dominated environments. While natural mortality remains a normal and expected component of population dynamics, the continued prevalence of direct and indirect human-induced deaths indicates high levels of interaction and conflict across parts of the Cape Peninsula. Furthermore, the increased number of “unknown” deaths, where an animal has a traumatic injury such as blunt force trauma or severe lacerations but the cause of the injury cannot be determined, suggests that human-induced deaths could potentially be significantly higher than the numbers recorded.

As set out in the Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Action Plan (2025), these dynamics have contributed to escalating welfare risks for baboons, increased conflict with people, and rising management costs. In response, the Action Plan adopts an upper population limit approach as part of a broader shift away from reactive, short-term responses toward a more transparent and outcomes-driven management framework. This approach is intended to ensure that baboon numbers remain within levels that can be supported by the landscape, while reducing pressure on baboons and communities.

As outlined in the Action Plan the upper population limit has been set at 250 baboons in the northern subpopulation and 175 in the southern subpopulation, excluding the Cape of Good Hope reserve population. As of the 2025 census, both subpopulations exceed these thresholds, however, by leveraging the suite of tools available to the CPBMJTT, as per the policy driven action plan, it is anticipated that population levels will align closer with these thresholds in 2026.

For a small number of troops occupying marginal habitat with persistent urban overlap, the Action Plan recognises that continued in situ management is unlikely to deliver acceptable welfare or conservation outcomes. In these cases, clearly defined removal pathways, including the use of a purpose-built sanctuary under strict conditions, have been adopted as an appropriate intervention. These measures are intended to avoid the lethal removal of whole troops, support the stabilisation of the remaining free-ranging population, prevent the formation of newly habituated urban troops, and reduce reliance on crisis-driven decision-making.

In addition, the implementation of strategic baboon-proof fencing, particularly for the northern troops, is intended to secure remaining low-lying natural habitat and limit access to high-risk transformed spaces. For troops that can be retained within suitable habitat, this is expected to reduce welfare risks such as injury and habituation over time, while allowing management effort to shift away from daily aversive interventions toward monitoring and preventative measures. The census provides a critical baseline against which the effectiveness of these spatial interventions can be evaluated in future reporting cycles.

Looking ahead, the annual population census, mortality monitoring, and transparent reporting will remain essential components of adaptive management. While the census provides an important annual reference point for tracking population change, it will be complemented by ongoing, hands-on monitoring of troop size, composition, and movement throughout the year. Together, these data streams will support evaluation against the objectives of the Action Plan and contribute to scheduled reviews of the Action Plan and the broader Strategic Management Plan.

We will endeavor to release the official 2026 census during January of 2027.



Cape
Baboon
Partnership

*Connecting communities,
authorities, and the environment for
the adaptive management of
baboons.*



Email: hello@baboons.org.za

Website: baboons.org.za

