



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

December 2020 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

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1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Cape Town appointed NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (NCC) on 1 October, 2020 as a service provider to the Urban Baboon Programme (UBP) on a three year contract. NCC are mandated to prevent baboon troops from entering urban areas for at least 90% of daylight hours to minimise human-wildlife conflict on the urban edge.

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 baboons spent 97.6% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons accessed food from several bins, as well as from unoccupied and occupied houses in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen this month.
- On 12 December, SK11 was seen moving in the vicinity of the Da Gama Troop near the Kroonsail Flats in Da Gama Park.
- SK11 spent the following eight days moving in the vicinity of the Da Gama Troop and roosted in their vicinity.
- There were initial interactions between SK11 and individuals from the Da Gama Troop. However, DG14 (the current alpha male) and DG19 (a sub-adult male) chased SK11 away from the troop on a number of occasions.
- On 20 December, the Da Gama Troop (including SK11) slowly made its way towards Grootkop. DG19 began to chase SK11 away from the Da Gama Troop. DG19 later returned to the troop, however SK11 did not.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific recommendations.

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 baboons spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's movement patterns continued to be impacted by the new splinter troop of baboons from the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) section of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP), which spent time between Gate 6 and Klaasjagersberg this month.
- The GOB Troop responded, this month, by moving to The Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre or moving further into the CoGH towards to the Olifantsbos coastline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific recommendations.

2.3 PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR)

The Plateau Road troop is not a fully included in the Urban Baboon Programme as the troop 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 motorists from feeding baboons.

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Plateau Road Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual baboons spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop's movement patterns were again impacted by the new splinter troop of baboons from the CoGH that spent time between Gate 6 and Klaasjagersberg this month.
- The Plateau Road Troop concentrated its area of use to the southern section of its ranging area, utilising the Gate 7 sleep site for the majority of the month.
- 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 97% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual baboons spent 98.1% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals gained entrance to one unoccupied and one occupied house this month.

- Thick alien vegetation on Kommetjie Vineyard Estate allows the baboons to move down towards Kommetjie Road undetected by the rangers.
- Heron Park was visited by the Slangkop Troop and individuals on 14 occasions during December.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation of electric fencing aprons on 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.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Smitswinkel Bay Troop spent 100% of its time out of town this month.
- Individual baboons spent 99.4% of time out of the urban area this month.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals moved through the Black Marlin restaurant on three occasions where they accessed bins and WF8 managed to gain access to the kitchen on one occasion.
- The bins at the Millers Point Boat and Ski Boat Club were accessed by individuals this month.

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.
- This troop often moves past the Cape Boat & Ski-Boat Club. The installation of baboon-proof bins or the building of a baboon-proof bin cage would prevent baboons from accessing human-derived food waste on this property.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Waterfall Troop spent 99.1% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual baboons spent 97.9% of time out of the urban area this month

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons moved through various South African Navy facilities during the month. The most noteworthy being Waterfall Barracks and the Southern African Naval Ammunitions Depot (SANAD).

- The lack of waste management and baboon proofing at Waterfall Barracks is an attractant to the baboons. Here individuals are able to gain access to unoccupied and occupied rooms as well as non-baboon-proof bins.
- Unoccupied and occupied houses in Simon’s Town were raided few occasions this month.

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.

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 baboon 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 create awareness 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 recent noticeable increase in snare activity on the Cape Peninsula. We urge members of the public to be on the lookout for snares while out walking in the mountains. If you spot a baboon with a snare, please report it immediately to the Baboon Hotline (071 588 6540).

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One Troop spent 96% of time out of the urban area this month.

- Individual baboons spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT1 spent the majority of the first week in December in the area of Eagles' Nest Wine Farm and the remainder of the month in the Price Drive stream and in the Vlakkenberg Mountain area above Groot Constantia and Klein Constantia.

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 wine farms and surrounding areas.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two Troop spent 91.3 % of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual baboons spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- CT2 slept near De Hel Nature Reserve and along Rhodes Drive the majority of the month.
- The troop moved back towards the Price Drive area during the last week of December but returned to De Hel Nature Reserve and Rhodes Drive area a few days later.
- The troop has continued to cross roads such as Constantia Main Road, Rhodes Drive and Southern Cross Drive during December. This continues to raise concerns surrounding the possibility of a vehicle accident, which could be to the detriment of both baboons and motorists.

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.
- A collar should be placed on an adult individual in this troop to better understand the troop's use of this new area and how best to manage them.

3.3 MOUNTAIN TROOP (MT)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Mountain Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual baboons spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop remained above Buitenverwachting during December, away from the urban space.
- There are signs that the troop is slowly starting to split into two groups which could result in another troop in the near future.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop which could result in the troop attempting to enter the urban area in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific recommendations.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Tokai Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual baboons spent 99.3% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons were recorded entering Constantia Uitsig on several occasions, where they have access to food from non-baboon proof bins.
- Individual baboons accessed bins at the Cape Academy on a few occasions. Fruit trees and bins on this property continue to be an attractant for baboons in the area.
- Individuals accessed bins at The Range on two occasions this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Baboon-proof bins in the restaurant area of Constantia Uitsig would prevent baboons from accessing human-derived food waste and attracting them to this property and towards the urban edge.
- The Cape Academy has a baboon-proof bin room for the storage of full bins. Signage outside of the bin area would assist residents and staff members on how to efficiently utilize this facility. Removal of fruit trees and/or the picking of fruit off trees would reduce the level of attractants on the property.
- The Range has a baboon-proof bin roof however full bins are occasionally left outside. Signage outside of the bin area will remind staff at the Range that to keep bins inside the bin room.

- The Tokai picnic area opened recently. The fence in this area has been damaged by fallen tree branches. Repairing the electric fence surrounding the 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 baboons spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- None.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The recommendations for this troop are the same as the Tokai Troop above as they use the same ranging areas.

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 baboon 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 attractant to the urban area.
- A community education plan would create awareness 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.
- There has been a recent noticeable increase in snare activity on the Cape Peninsula. We urge members of the public to be on the lookout for snares while out walking in the mountains. If you spot a baboon with a snare, please report it immediately to the Baboon Hotline (071 588 6540).

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The managed baboon troops were out of the urban space for 97.8% of the time this month (**Fig.1**). Ten of the eleven troops were out of the urban space for at least 90% of the time. The Slangkop Troop's time out of town improved this month as their area of use has shifted away from Kommetjie where it is especially challenging to manage the troop. The CT2 Troop continued to be a challenge to manage as they move through large, densely vegetated areas with steep slopes.

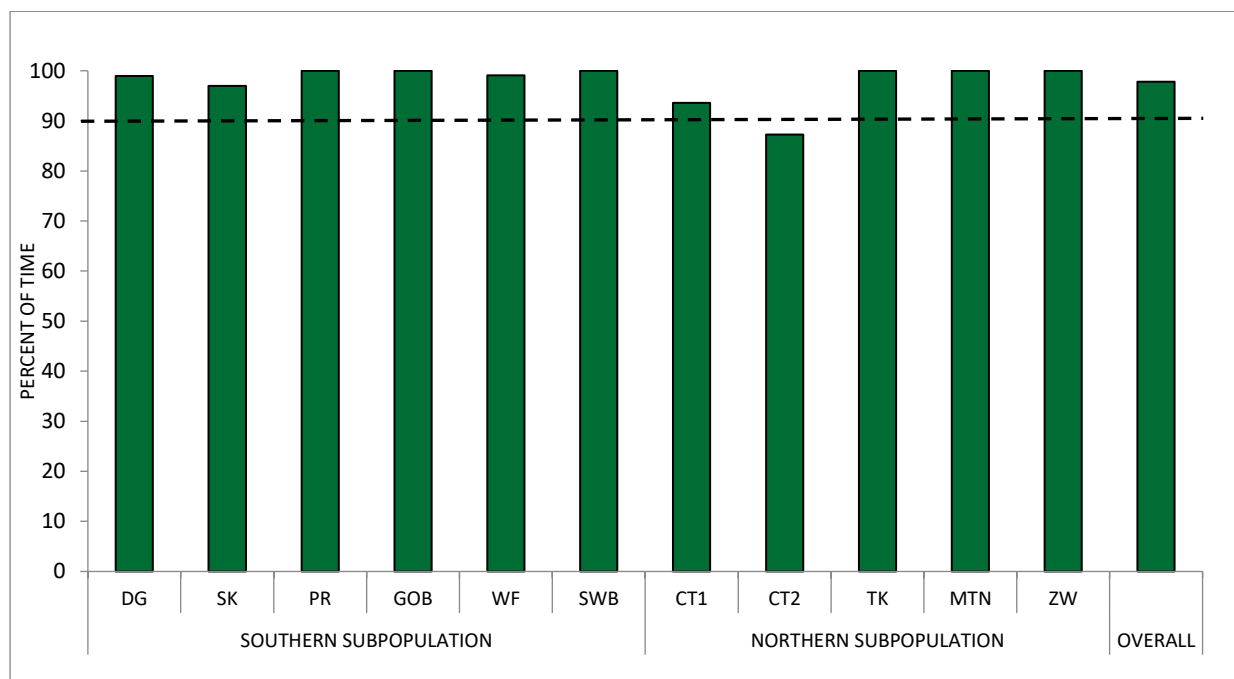


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop included in the programme for the month of November. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. The percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider for uniformity. This calculation is based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per month.

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This month, members of the UBP team conducted site visits, liaised with stakeholders and participated in community outreach in the following areas.

Site visits:

- Black Marlin restaurant – waste management was found to be in order.
- Cape Academy – a few bins containing food were found outside of the secure bin room. Information signage was designed to encourage residents and staff to utilise the bin room

system properly. The digital signage has been provided to the Cape Academy, who plan to have a sign commissioned and placed at the bin room.

- Cape Research Centre – waste management was found to be in order.
- Chrysalis Academy – waste management was found to be in order.
- Forest Glade Centre – waste management was found to be in order.
- Kommetjie Village shops – food waste appears to be well managed and stored in a secure room. However, the recycling waste is piled behind shade cloth on Erica Road and remains an attractant to the baboons (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. The recycling area for the Kommetjie shops along Erica Road.

- Kogelfontein Skips – waste management was found to be in order.
- The Range – food waste management was found in order however recycling materials remain outside which may attract baboons.
- Tokai picnic site – waste management was found to be in order, however the electric fence to prevent baboon entry to the picnic area remains badly damaged and thus ineffective.
- Miller’s Point picnic site – bins and braai facilities have recently been removed from this area to reduce attractants for baboons and prevent fire risks. The site visit revealed that rubbish seems to be occasionally left behind by picnickers. A meeting was scheduled with the manager for next month to discuss increasing signage alerting picnickers to the presence of baboons in the area and to encourage picnickers to take their rubbish home with them.

- Miller’s Point Boat and Ski Boat Club – this facility has a bin cage however the cage does not have a roof and is therefore ineffective at preventing access. A meeting was scheduled with management for next month to discuss securing the bin room effectively.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens
Given the recent movement of the CT2 Troop to the gardens, a meeting with property management was held to discuss tactics to prevent conflict between visitors, who are often picnicking, and baboons. An inspection of all the waste and restaurant areas was done. Recommendations on baboon-proofing, informational signage and social media material were made. Kirstenbosch management showed great initiative and interest in being proactive. Within one week, all the bins on the premises were baboon-proofed, recommended signage was approved for installation and a social media post promoting responsible behaviour around baboons at the gardens was made and viewed by thousands of people.

Community Outreach:

- A pamphlet with recommendations on how to live responsibly and prevent conflicts in baboon-impacted areas was distributed in the Constantia area along Rhodes Drive where the CT2 Troop has recently been visiting, and in Capri where SK11 was frequently being spotted.

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

The UBP received 246 hotline calls during the month of November. 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 regarding baboon(s) in urban area came from Constantia and Capri (**Fig. 4**). The calls from Constantia were predominantly focused on the presence of the CT2 Troop in the residential areas and on main roads where there have not been baboons in recent years. The majority of calls from Capri were reports of SK11 in the urban area.

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 residents in these areas.

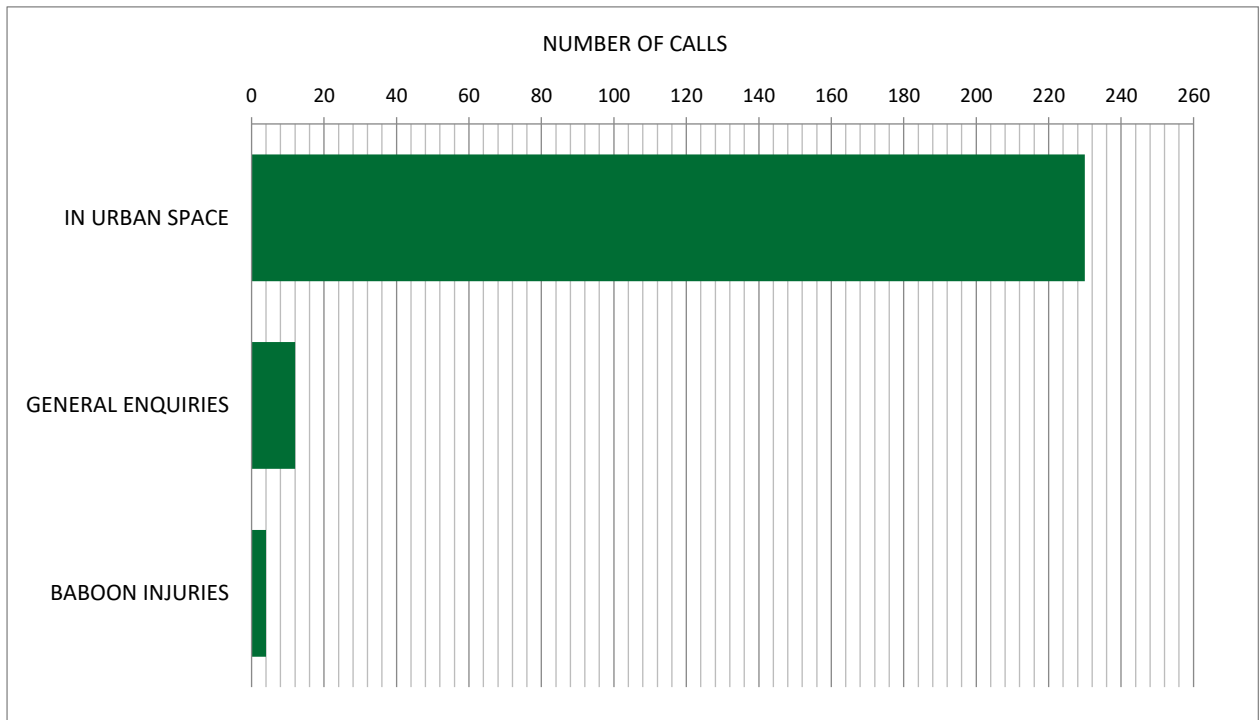


Figure 3. The number of hotline calls by type during December 2020.

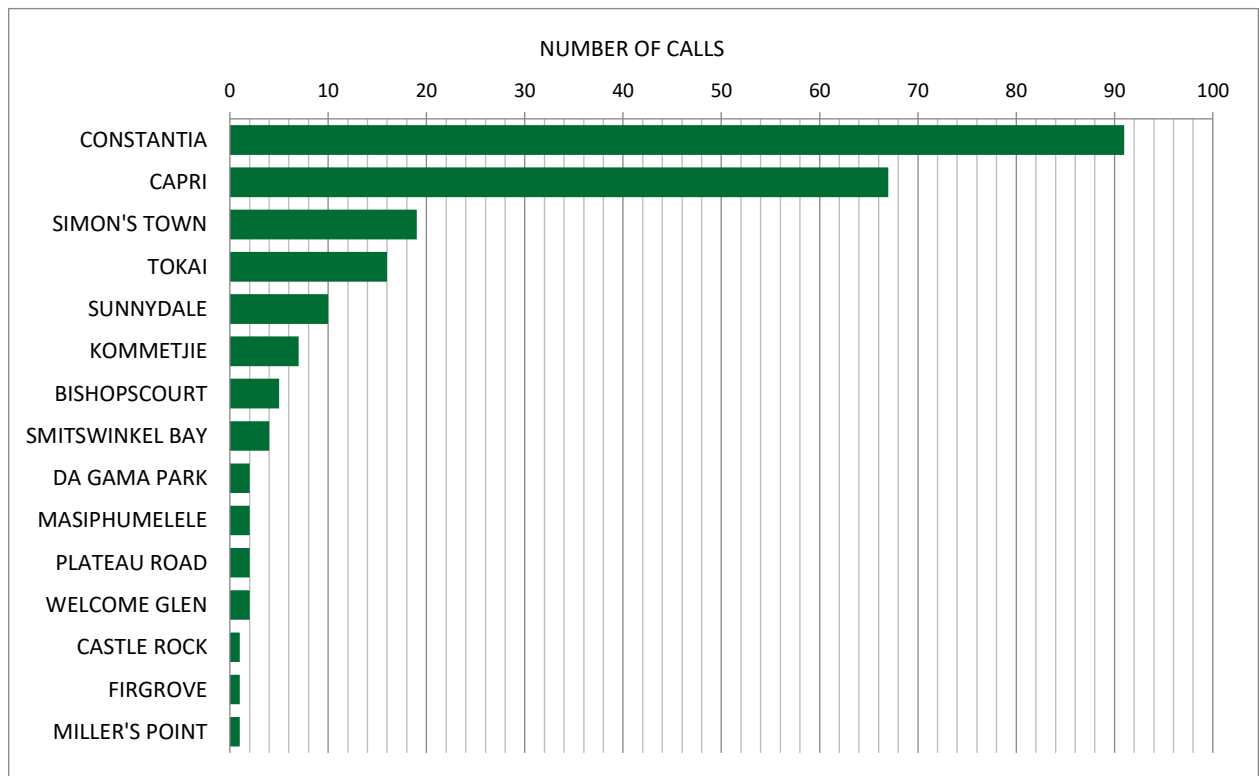


Figure 4. The number of calls received from specific communities reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area during December 2020.