



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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Urban Baboon Programme June 2021 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:
City of Cape Town

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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.

During the month of May, City of Cape Town representatives confirmed that the National SPCA had withdrawn their support for the use of paintball markers, stating that their use constitutes a contravention of the Animal Protection Act.

Although CapeNature has not withdrawn their permit for the use of paintball markers, the City strongly advised that personnel employed as part of the City's Urban Baboon Programme refrain from using paintball markers due to the risk of prosecution.

All paintball markers were withdrawn from the field on the 14 May. The Standard Operating Procedure for paintball marker use was subsequently revised by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA, CapeNature and the City of Cape Town to clarify when use could be considered a contravention of the Animal Protection Act. Paintball markers were returned to the field on 25 June 2021.

This monthly report for June thus covers data during paintball marker absence (1 -24 June) and data following the reintroduction of paintball markers (25- 30 June 2021).

2 SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – CATH SHUTTE

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The DG Troop spent 86% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 88.6% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent the majority of the month utilizing sleep sites within Da Gama Park and very little time utilizing their sleep sites in the natural area.
- The troop dynamics continued to be affected this month. DG19, a young adult male, continued to challenge DG14, the current alpha male.

- On 20 June, TK57 was seen observing the Da Gama Troop. Over the following days, TK57 began to move with the Da Gama Troop and began interacting with the troop members. TK57 was observed copulating with females and challenging DG14 (the current alpha male) in Da Gama.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT WITHOUT PAINTBALL MARKERS

- The removal of paintball markers severely affected the day-to-day movement of this troop and the ability of the rangers to encourage the troop and individuals out of the urban space.
- The troop and/or individuals frequently moved through the suburbs of Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month.
- Raiding behaviour increased in both Welcome Glen and Da Gama following paintball marker removal. Baboons continued to twist window frames on several occasions to gain entrance to homes in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park. The development of this behaviour is associated with an increased time spent in the urban space.
- Individual adult males in this troop challenged field rangers on several occasions.

URBAN-RELATED INJURIES & DEATHS FOLLOWING PAINTBALL MARKER REMOVAL

- On 21 June, DG19 was involved in an altercation with two dogs in 16th Avenue, Da Gama Park. DG19 sustained injuries to both arms and his right leg. One of the dogs was injured during the altercation and sustained lacerations to its back. DG19 was assessed by NCC field staff and the SPCA and was monitored in field. DG19's injuries subsequently healed without intervention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Residents should be advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- The challenging of rangers by individual males is of concern and needs to be monitored.

2.2 GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The GOB Troop spent 100% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 100% of the time of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope section (CoGH) of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) during the month.

- They predominantly used their sleep sites on the CoGH fringe, Wildschutsbrand and Perdekloof and to a lesser extent, the pine trees behind Shamballah Tea House & Holistic Centre.

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 minimize the potential of feeding of baboons by passing motorists.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent most of the month moving through the agricultural farms along Plateau Road from Klaasjagersberg (KJB) through to South Point Farm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As several baboons have been injured and killed on the power lines along Plateau Road, they should be removed and diverted underground to prevent further electrocutions.

2.4 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK troop spent 65.5% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 95.8% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- While in the eastern portion of their ranging area, the Slangkop Troop utilised the sleep sites in and around Heron Park, including the roofs of In2Foods and Diva.
- Waste was accessed on a number of occasions on Kommetjie Road during the month, from both municipal bins and piles of waste dumped on the corner of Kommetjie and Fish Eagle roads.
- The Peach Pip Farm Stall's bins were accessed this month by baboons.

- Trees along the fence line bordering Imhoff's Gift and Heron Park were removed this month. This will prevent baboons from easily accessing Imhoff's Gift over the electric fence.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT WITHOUT PAINTBALL MARKERS

- The removal of paintball markers severely affected the day-to-day movements of the troop and the ability of the rangers to prevent the troop from entering the urban area and encouraging them out of the urban space.
- On 18 June, the troop broke through the ranger line and moved to Slangkop Mountain.
- While in the western portion of their ranging area, the troop slept in the suburb of Kommetjie for 11 consecutive nights.
- Individual adult males in this troop challenged field rangers on several occasions.
- During the month while TK57 was with the SK Troop, he had an assertive interaction with two members of the public in their garden. The interaction was unprovoked and did not involve food.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Residents and business owners should be advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- 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 NCC field ranger team and assist them to reduce the presence of baboons in Heron Park.
- The Peach Pip Farm Stall should place their bins in a baboon-proof enclosure to ensure that baboons are not able to access waste.
- Continued environmental education with the youths of Ocean View is recommended in an attempt to reduce the level of conflict along the urban edge.
- The challenging of rangers by individual males is of concern and needs to be monitored.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 85.7% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 99.3% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop utilised its northern sleep sites for the majority of the month.
- The SWB Troop and/or individuals moved extensively through Murdock Valley, Froggy Farm and Simon's Town.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT WITHOUT PAINTBALL MARKERS

- The removal of paintball markers severely affected the day-to-day movement of the troop and the ability of the rangers to move the troop, and individuals, out of the urban space.
- Raiding behaviour increased in both Murdock Valley and Simon's Town following paintball marker removal.
- The SWB Troop continued to extend its ranging area to include the southern areas of Simon's Town.
- The troop spent an extensive amount of time in the Simon's Town area and roosted at the Simon's Town Quarry Sleep Site (typically a Waterfall Troop sleep site) on four occasions during June.
- Individual adult males in this troop challenged field rangers on several occasions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Residents and business owners should be advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- 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 Cape Boat and Ski Boat Club should store all bins containing food waste inside the baboon-proof bin enclosure.
- 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.
- The challenging of rangers by individual males is of concern and needs to be monitored.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 92.7% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 92.2% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons moved through various SA Navy facilities during the month. The most noteworthy being Waterfall Barracks and the West Dockyard.
- WF7 continued to encourage a small group of individuals to move away from the main troop. This small group roosted away from the main troop for half of the month. Additionally, WF7 continued to enter occupied houses this month.
- An untagged male, presumably from the CoGH, moved in and out of the troop this month. This resulted in inter-troop fighting and displays of dominance from the males.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT WITHOUT PAINTBALL MARKERS

- The removal of paintball markers has affected the day-to-day movement of this troop and the ability of the rangers to prevent the troop from entering the urban space and from encouraging them back in the natural area.
- Raiding behaviour increased in Simon's Town following paintball marker removal.
- Rangers struggled to hold the line in the evenings once the baboons were at the Waterfall Cliffs sleep site, this resulted in WF7 breaking the line with his splinter group to sleep on the roof of the Waterfall Barracks. On a few occasions, the main troop followed WF7 and his splinter group.
- Individual adult males in this troop challenged field rangers on several occasions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Residents and business owners should be advised to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- 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 should be installed along Simon's Town Main Road to alert motorists to the possible presence of baboons crossing the road.
- Speed bumps should be built at specific points on Simon's Town Main Road to slow motorists down as baboons cross the road.
- The challenging of rangers by individual males is of concern and needs to be monitored.

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.
- Continued community education would help encourage residents and businesses to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants on properties.
- 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 Baboon Hotline if they see a snare in the natural space so that it can be removed.
- There has been a recent increase in pellet-gun use in baboon-impacted suburbs. The firing of pellet guns in the urban area is illegal under the Firearms Control Act. Shooting pellet guns at baboons is illegal under the Animal Protection Act and the CapeNature Ordinance 19 of 1974. Members of the public are encouraged to provide evidence of this activity to the Baboon Hotline, the CoGH SPCA and Law Enforcement.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One Troop spent 94.9% 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 entered the urban area on several occasions during the month.
- Due to the paintball markers not being used during the first part of the month the baboons spent prolonged periods in town resulting in an increase in time in town compared to previous months.

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 the wine farms and surrounding areas.

3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two Troop spent 89.2 % 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, Constantia Glen and Cecilia Forest during the month.
- There was an increase in time in town compared to the previous month. This was attributed to the difficulty in keeping the troop away from the urban area without paintball markers.
- The collar has continued to prove valuable in assisting staff in locating the troop when they have lost sight of them.

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.

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 Mountain Troop splinter group (MT2) was found roosting on Orpen Estate above The Range. This splinter group has not yet entered the urban area, however this may be forthcoming.
- The remainder of the Mountain Troop stayed above Buitenverwachting during the month and away from the urban edge.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The splinter group (MT2) should be closely monitored to prevent urban excursions.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Tokai Troop spent 98.4% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 97.2% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individual baboons accessed food from visitors at the SANParks Tokai picnic site.
- Individuals and the troop entered Constantia Uitsig on a few occasions. Once the baboons are on Constantia Uitsig property they move freely into the urban area, across Orpen Road and Cape Academy as our rangers do not have access to Constantia Uitsig property.
- The trees along Orpen Road are currently fruiting and are an attractant to the baboons.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT WITHOUT PAINTBALL MARKERS

- The removal of paintball markers significantly affected the day-to-day movement of the troop and the ability of the rangers to prevent the troop, and individuals, from entering the urban area.
- During the month, the troop crossed Orpen Road on numerous occasions, often multiple times a day. Once they have crossed, they have moved to houses at Bloekom Laan as well as Cape Academy. The troop as a whole has not moved across Orpen Road in the ten years since paintball marker use. This behaviour has serious and long-lasting detrimental impacts on the troop that previously remained in non-urban areas.

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.
- The installation of an electric fence along Orpen Road would prevent the baboons from crossing the road. Alternatively, the removal of the fruit trees along Orpen Road would reduce attractants along the road edge.

3.5 ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Zwaanswyk Troop spent 99.3% 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 crossed Orpen Road on one occasion during the month and moved towards the Cape Academy. The absence of paintball markers resulted in the troop spending an extended period of time around the Cape Academy on this day.
- Same factors as the Tokai Troop as their ranging areas significantly overlap.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop as their ranging areas overlap.

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.
- Continued community education would help encourage residents and businesses to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants on properties.
- Contraception to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.

- There has been a recent increase in pellet gun use in baboon-impacted suburbs. The firing of pellet guns in the urban area is illegal under the Firearms Control Act. Shooting pellet guns at baboons is illegal under the Animal Protections Act and the CapeNature Ordinance 19 of 1974. Members of the public are encouraged to report evidence of this activity to the Baboon Hotline, the CoGH SPCA and law enforcement.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 91.2% of time out of town this month (**Fig. 1**). This figure includes the portion of the month when paintball markers were not in use (1-24 June) and when they were returned (25-30 June).

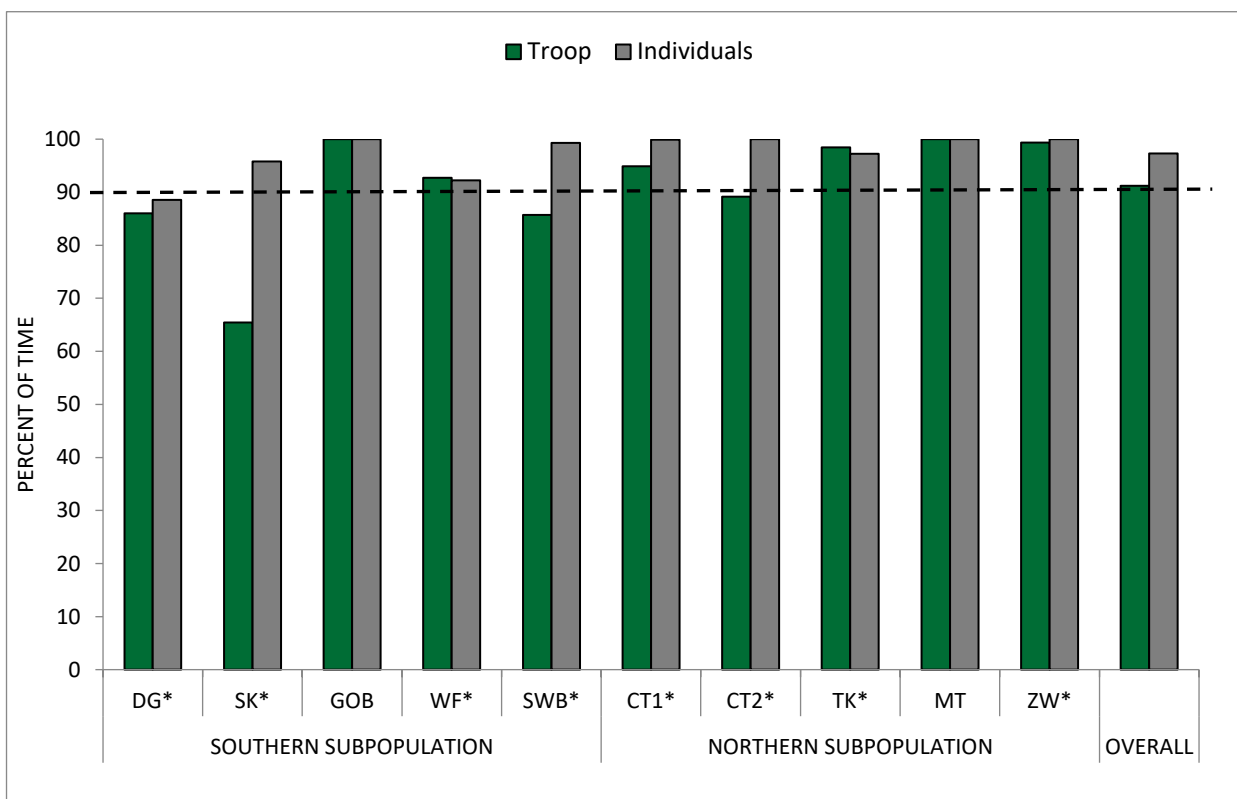


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of June. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. For uniformity, the percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider. This calculation is based on an average of 10.7 daylight hours per day per month. *Indicates troops where paintball markers are routinely used.

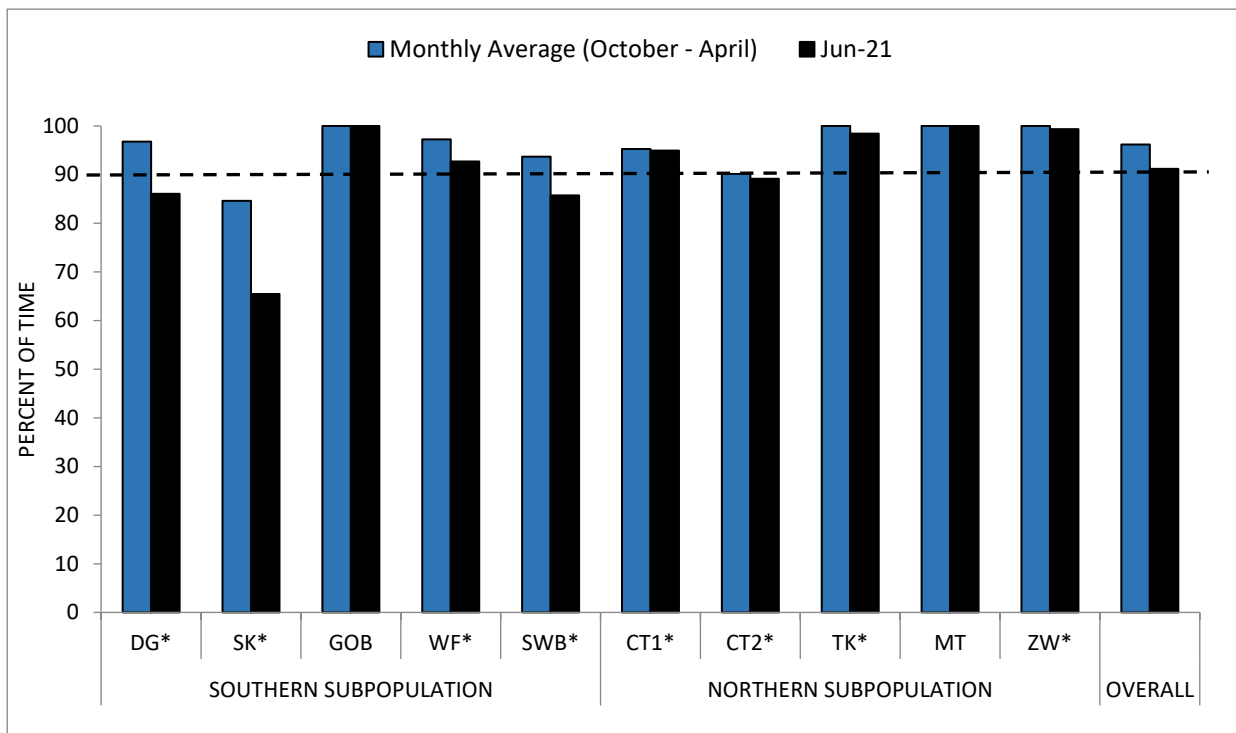


Figure 2. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop as a monthly average with the use of paintball markers (October 2020 – April 2021) and for the month of June without paintball markers. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. For uniformity, the percent of 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. *Indicates troops where paintball markers are routinely used.

The 8 troops where paintball markers are used on a routine basis and were therefore most impacted by the withdrawal spent an average of 89% of time out of town without paintball markers in June, compared to their average of 94.7% of time out of town with paintball markers between October 2020 and April 2021 (**Fig. 2**).

This 5.7% increase in time spent in the urban space is significant and equates to an approximate average of 1020 more minutes, or 17 hours, spent in town by each troop per month.

The increased time spent in the urban area leads to a rise in raiding activity, an increase in urban-related injuries and deaths to baboons, an increased possibility for negative interactions between residents and baboons and increased potential for damage to property.

Despite the return of paintball markers, their prolonged absence has had lasting impacts on troop and individual baboon behaviour, such as established urban foraging, assertive raiding behaviour, changes to the location and size of troop ranging areas and continued assertive behaviour of specific baboons towards field rangers. This month, the Da Gama, Slangkop and Smitswinkel Troops presented

significant challenges without the assistance of paintball markers. These difficulties continued despite the return of paintball markers on 25 June and are likely to continue for some time.

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 Welcome Glen, De Oude Weg, Masiphumelele, Kommetjie, Constantia, Tokai, Simon's Town, Murdock Valley:**
 - Advised residents and businesses on the issues with vegetable gardens and non-proofed bins as point source attractants as well as the need to baboon-proof properties to reduce baboon presence.
 - Followed up on reports of the use of illegal use of paintball markers, pellet guns, and catapults on baboons. No official statements were made by witnesses and evidence of these activities was not found at the properties. The legal consequences and negative implications of such actions were communicated to individuals at the properties in question. Properties that have received numerous complaints were issued with warning letters from CapeNature. Follow up visits and monitoring will occur. Residents who witnessed these behaviors were encouraged to report this activity to the law enforcement, the Baboon Hotline or the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.
 - Advised residents and businesses on the presence of a dispersing male in the area, baboon-proofing measures, and appropriate responsive behaviour to prevent conflicts.
 - Communicated appropriate reactive behaviour to residents who have had baboons inside their houses.
 - Handed out flyers detailing baboon-proofing methods, UBP contact details and other educational information.
- **SANParks Tokai Picnic site:** The front section of the fence around the Tokai Picnic site has been repaired. This has assisted the field rangers in preventing baboons from entering the picnic site from Tokai Road.
- **SANParks Research Centre:** Investigated presence of attractants in skips and picnic bins, none were identified.
- **Cape Academy, Tokai:** Checked up on bin room usage, all was found to be in order.

- **Chrysalis Academy, Tokai:** 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 volunteers to facilitate open dialogue. Local challenges and solutions were discussed and implemented.
- Met with SA Navy Environmental Officer and Base Manager to discuss need for baboon-proofing, building maintenance and opportunities for community education.
- Held a community meeting with concerned Welcome Glen residents. Communicated UBP goals, methods and baboon-proofing options.
- Engaged with business owners in Heron Park on the design, financing, and construction of electric fences.
- On bin collection days, baboons in affected areas place recycling bags alongside their wheelie bins. These bags act as a food attractant for troops thus encouraging urban foraging. This issue also contributes significantly towards plastic pollution. The UBP is currently liaising with the Solid Waste Department on solutions to the issue of recycling bags as point source attractants for baboons.
- In early 2021, the presence of non-baboon proof public bins across baboon affected areas were mapped. This information was shared with the City's Solid Waste Department who has begun replacing the former green public bins with baboon-proof polywood bins (**Fig. 3**). This has dramatically reduced the presence of point source attractants in the urban area.



Figure 3. The new baboon proof polywood bin (brown) next to the old public bins (green). These are being rolled out in baboon affected areas by the City's Solid Waste Department.

- **SA Navy waste management and building maintenance:** There are multiple SA Navy buildings and properties within baboon affected areas which act as point source attractants to baboons. Broken building infrastructure and poor waste management prevails.

This encourages urban foraging by the troops and increases the chances for conflict. NCC is engaging with the Navy's Environmental Base Manager and other Navy personnel to address these issues via education, waste management practices and continued engagement.

Community Engagement:

- **Urban Baboon Programme Education and Discussion with Bhongolethu Pre-Primary and Primary learners:** 70 children who reside in baboon affected areas were part of an educational afternoon where baboon ecology, behaviour, UBP goals, how to behave around baboons and baboon-proofing was communicated (**Fig. 4**).



Figure 4. NCC field ranger Luyolo Bulu and pre-primary class of Bhongolethu Foundation talking about the UBP and baboons.

- **Education Evening, Simon's Town Country Club:** Baboon behaviour, ecology, myths, and misconceptions was presented to 40 residents. A question-and-answer session was also facilitated with constructive dialogue.
- **Distribution of electronic educational material via WhatsApp and Facebook:** Information detailing "do's and don'ts" for residents living in baboon impacted suburbs was shared.
- Trees along the fence line bordering Imhoff's Gift and Heron Park were removed this month, thus preventing baboons in the Slangkop Troop from accessing Imhoff's Gift over the fence (**Fig. 5**).



Figure 5. Trees along the fence line used by baboons to enter Imhoff's Gift were removed this month.

4.2 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 451 hotline calls during the month of June. 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. 6**).

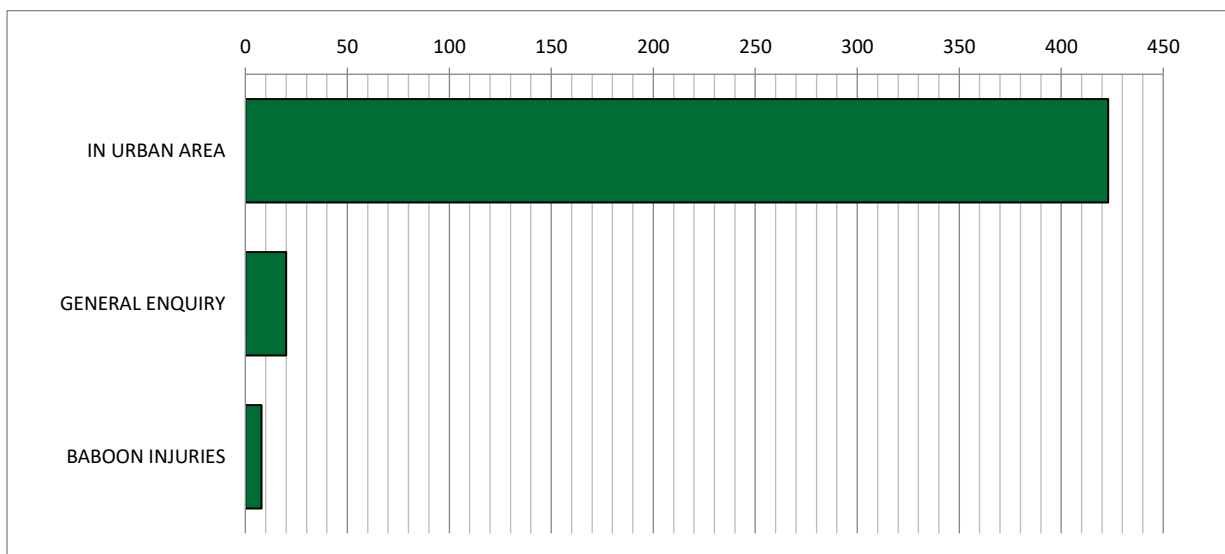


Figure 6. The number of hotline calls by type in June 2021.

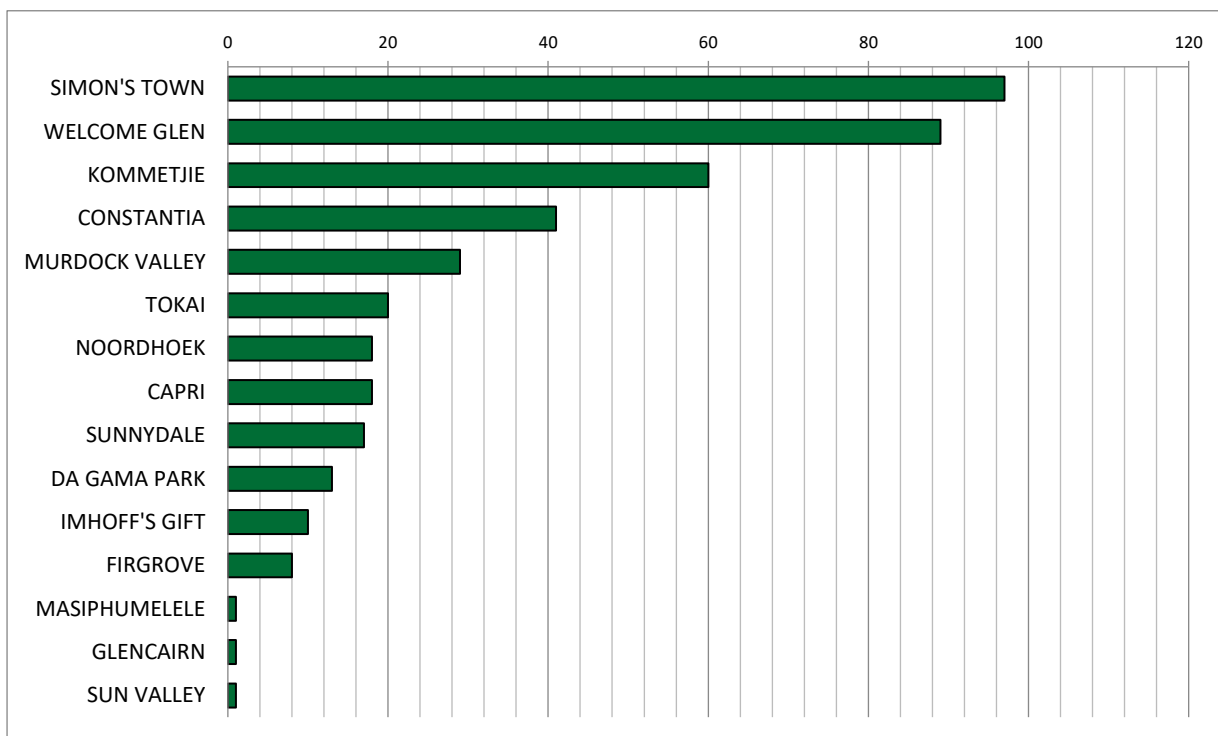


Figure 7. The number of calls reporting baboon presence in the urban space by suburb.

Most calls regarding the presence of baboons in the urban space came from the suburbs of Simon's Town (Waterfall & Smitswinkel Bay Troops), Welcome Glen (Da Gama Troop) and Kommetjie (Slangkop Troop) (**Fig. 7**).

These troops spent a considerable amount of time in the urban space this month (**Fig. 1**). This pattern is unfortunately likely to continue for some time while the field rangers attempt to re-establish the troops' former ranging areas in the natural space.
