



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme

July 2021 Monthly Report



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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 contracted to prevent baboon troops from entering the urban area for at least 90% of daylight hours to minimise human-baboon conflict.

2 SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – CATH SHUTTE

2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The DG Troop spent 95.4% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 85.7% 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. However, they moved away from the urban space and utilized their natural sleep sites during the last week of the month.
- The troop and/or individuals frequently moved through Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month.
- The troop dynamics continued to be affected this month. DG19, a young adult male, continued to challenge DG14, the current alpha male.
- TK57 has moved with the Da Gama Troop for the month of July. This has also resulted in conflict within the troop. TK57 frequently fought with DG14 and DG19.
- Most of the bin raids and occupied house raids took place in Welcome Glen this month.
- TK57 displayed assertive behaviour towards NCC field staff on several occasions this month.

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.
- On 23 July, the GOB Troop was found moving on the mountain between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs.
- The troop roosted on the cliffs between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs on the 23 July and were encouraged back to the CoGH the following day.
- Individuals from the troop managed to gain access to human derived foods from the skips at Koggelfontein on a few occasions during the month.

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.
- Both skips at Koggelfontein should be kept locked to reduce baboon access to human derived foods.

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 the road and preventing passing motorists from feeding baboons.

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.
- The troop spent the majority of the month moving through the southern reaches of their ranging area.
- A male from an unknown troop began to follow the Plateau Road Troop this month.

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 65.1% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.3% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Slangkop Troop spent the first 17 nights of July in the western reaches of their ranging area. This includes the area around Kommetjie.
- While in this area, the Slangkop Troop predominantly utilised the sleep sites in Kommetjie and to a lesser extent, the cliffs on Slangkop Mountain.
- Human derived foods were accessed on several occasions in Kommetjie during the month, from both bin raids and occupied house raids.
- While the baboons were in Kommetjie, several residents were observed using pellet guns and shooting at baboons. Where witnessed by NCC staff, this illegal behaviour has been reported to the relevant authorities.
- On 18 July, the Slangkop Troop moved back towards the Rooikrans Mountain range and the eastern portion of their ranging area.
- While in this vicinity of their ranging area, human-derived foods were accessed from bins in Fish Eagle Park and Capri as well as occupied houses in Capri and Sunnydale.
- The Peach Pip Farm Stall's bins were accessed this month by individual baboons.

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.
- 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 children in Ocean View is recommended in an attempt to reduce the level of conflict along the urban edge.
- A strategic electric fence in Kommetjie would assist in preventing baboon excursions into the village.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 93.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 99.6% 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 through Murdock Valley and Froggy Farm during the month. However, they did not spend prolonged periods of time in the urban space as seen during the previous months.
- Individual baboons accessed bins and houses on a few occasions in Murdock Valley this month.

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 continue to 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.

2.6 WATERFALL TROOP (WF)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The WF Troop spent 91% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.1% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop roosted on SA Naval buildings for the majority of the month, including the West Dockyard, Waterfall Barracks and SANAD.
- Individual baboons moved through various SA Navy facilities during the month. The most noteworthy being Waterfall Barracks, the West Dockyard and SANAD (South African Navy's armament depot).
- An untagged male, presumably from the CoGH, moved in and out of the troop again this month. This resulted in changes to troop dynamics, which impacted troop movement.
- WF7 continued to encourage a small group of individuals to move away from the troop. This required the field team to split resources in order to manage two separate groups.
- Waste bags along Simon's Town main road were accessed on several occasions this month.
- On 09 July, WF7 was found in the West Dockyard showing signs of impaired vision. He was captured and taken to the SPCA for an assessment.
- On 20 July 2021, WF7 was euthanised in terms of the Baboon Management Guidelines: http://baboons.org.za/images/Protocols/Guidelines_for_Baboon_Management_March_2019.pdf

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 should baboons be crossing the road.

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 will assist residents and businesses on how to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants, plus how to respond when baboons enter the urban area.
- 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.
- Residents living in baboon affected areas should be educated on the legalities of using pellet guns within the urban area as well as the suffering that is inflicted on baboons who are shot. Members of the public are encouraged to report pellet gun use to law enforcement, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.

3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION

AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA

3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One Troop spent 91.6 % of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 98.5% 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 and spent more time in the urban space compared to recent months.
- The troop did not enter Constantia Nek Main Road during the month.

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 97.9 % of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 99.9 % of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop spent the majority of their time in De Hel Nature Reserve, Constantia Glen and Cecilia Forest during the month.
- The collar has continued to prove valuable in assisting staff in locating the troop when they have lost visual 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 and the Mountain Troop split (MT2) were not seen moving towards the urban area or sleeping near the urban area this month.
- The main Mountain Troop spent majority of their time above Buitenverwachting during the month and away from town.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The main troop and the split troop should be closely monitored to prevent urban excursions.

3.4 TOKAI TROOP (TK)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Tokai Troop spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 84.9% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals entered Constantia Uitsig on dozens of occasions this month. Once the baboons are inside Constantia Uitsig, they can move easily towards Nova Constantia and the Cape Academy.
- Individual baboons moved towards the Cape Academy on several occasions.
- Individual baboons moved towards houses around Nova Constantia on several occasions.
- Individual baboons crossed Orpen Road and moved towards the houses around Bloekom Lane on several occasions.
- Individual baboons spent a significant amount of time in the urban space this month compared to previous months. This is largely attributed to being attracted to easy food rewards on Constantia Uitsig property and then using the property as a thoroughfare to the urban area. This is a serious concern as this troop is comprised of approximately 100 individuals and access to food rewards continues to draw in additional baboons.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improvement to access points on the fence surrounding Constantia Uitsig would reduce visits to the property and subsequent access to easy food rewards.

- Baboon-proof bins and baboon-proofing of shops at Constantia Uitsig would reduce the attractiveness of the property and would reduce subsequent 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 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 99.3% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals gained access to food from people at the Tokai picnic on three occasions during the month.
- Individuals entered the urban area on a few occasions moving towards Firgrove and Forest Glade.
- Same factors as for the Tokai Troop as their ranging area overlaps with this troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop as their ranging area covers the same hotspot areas.

3.6 NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The erection of a 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.

- A community education plan would refresh residents and businesses 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.

4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 93.5% of time out of the urban space this month (**Fig 1**). All but one troop was out of the urban area for a minimum of 90% of the time. The Slangkop Troop spent a considerable amount of time in the urban area again this month.

This was due to the fact that the troop remained in the Kommetjie area where the topography of the landscape and high food rewards found in the village present significant challenges to the field staff's ability to retain them in the natural space.

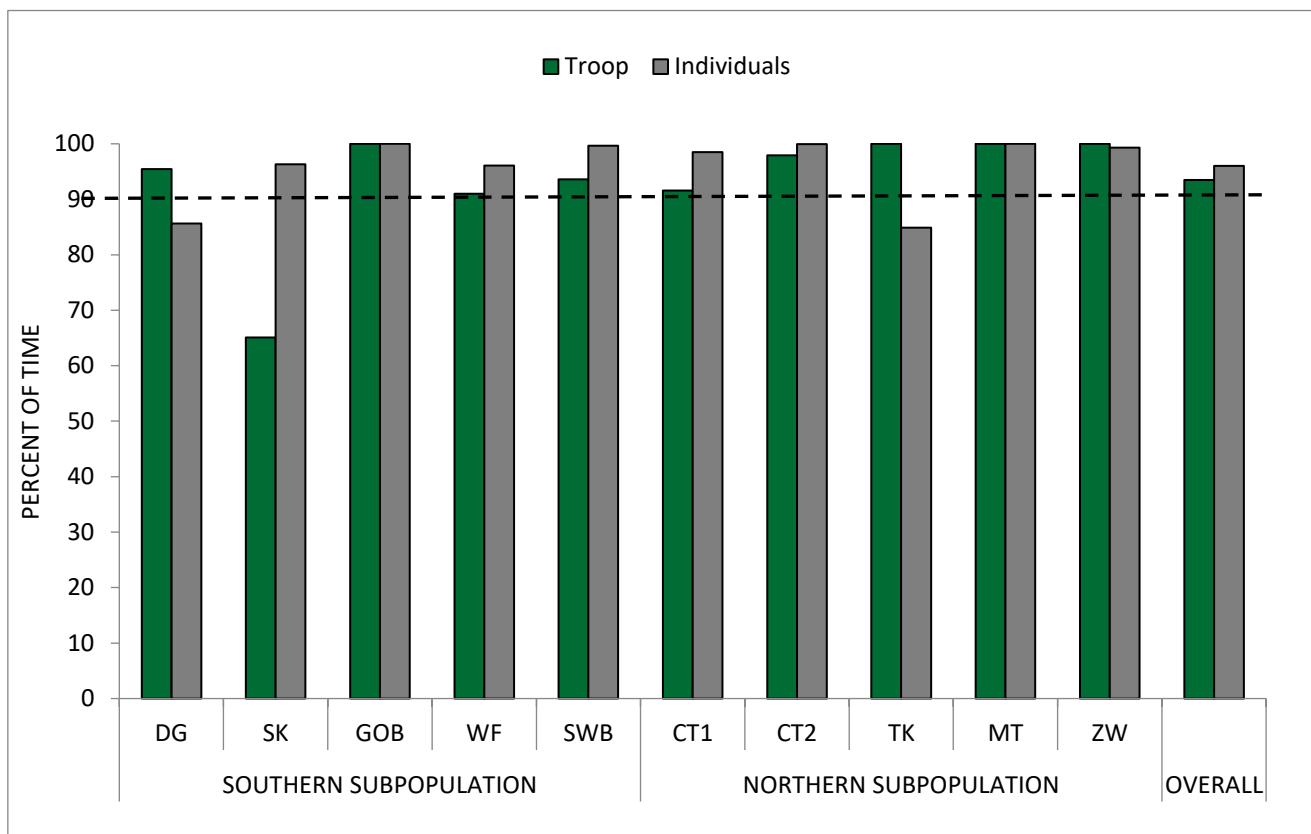


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of July. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. For uniformity, the percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider. This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

Additionally, a spike in illegal pellet gun use throughout the village resulted in unpredictable movement of the troop and continued interruption of the field staff's operational plans to encourage the troop back into the natural space.

We expect that the amount of time the Slangkop Troop spends in the urban space will reduce next month as a result of their movement away from the Kommetjie. Individual baboons from the Tokai Troop spent a significant amount of time in the urban area this month.

This was predominantly a result of continued access to easy food rewards at Constantia Uitsig and subsequent access to the urban area through this property. This is of significant concern given that the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops in this area comprise over 100 baboons. If access to easy foods on this property continues, this situation will escalate rapidly to the detriment of both baboons and the public.

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This month we conducted site visits, liaised with stakeholders, and participated in community engagement in the following areas.

Site visits:

46 Private properties in Welcome Glen, De Oude Weg, Capri, Da Gama, Simon's Town, Scarborough, Kommetjie, Tokai, Zwaanswyk:

- Advised landowners on the issues with vegetable gardens, fruit trees, non-baboon proofed bins as a point source attractant and the need to baboon proof their property to reduce visits by baboons.
- Followed up on reports of members of the public using paintball and pellet guns on baboons, feeding of baboons and hunting of baboons with dogs. Where these illegal activities were witnessed by staff, affidavits were submitted to the relevant authorities.
- Communicated with residents regarding local animal by-laws, which require that dogs are kept under control at all times.
- Advised residents and businesses on dispersing male behaviors and suitable interventions to prevent negative interactions.

Stakeholder Liaison:

Simon's Town, Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen

- Met with members of the public to facilitate open dialogue. Local challenges and solutions were discussed and implemented where possible.
- Met with leaders of local residential groups who are promoting local baboon-proofing and reduction of point source attractants and communicated best practice methods.
- Met with Building Managers, Environmental Manager and Base Manager of SA Navy to discuss how conflicts can be reduced on their properties (including Da Gama Park). Immediate attractants and waste management issues were addressed with many others raised that require infrastructure maintenance from the SA Navy (**Fig. 2**).



Figure 2. Insufficient waste management and infrastructure maintenance at SA Navy properties.

Community Engagement:

- **Private properties in Kommetjie, Capri, Welcome Glen, Tokai, Zwaanswyk, Simon’s Town, Da Gama Park, Constantia:**
 - Communicated appropriate reactive behaviour to residents who had been visited by baboons.
 - Provided information and communication regarding the use of electric fencing as a long-term solution to reducing challenges with baboons.
 - Handed out flyers detailing baboon-proofing methods, UBP contact details and other educational information.
 - Communicated details of Nature Conservation Ordinance ban on hunting and feeding baboons as well as animal by-laws.
- **Happy Valley Shelter Home:** Baboon behaviour, ecology and conflict information was communicated to residents and staff of the property.
- **Electronic Educational Material:** Uploaded 30-minute presentation by UBP Project Manager Joselyn Mormile on *Baboon Behaviour, Ecology and Conflict*. The video was distributed and shared across multiple social media channels and has over 550 views on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb_LWxGsasc&t=6s).



Figure 3. Screenshot of the educational video available on YouTube

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 592 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. 4).

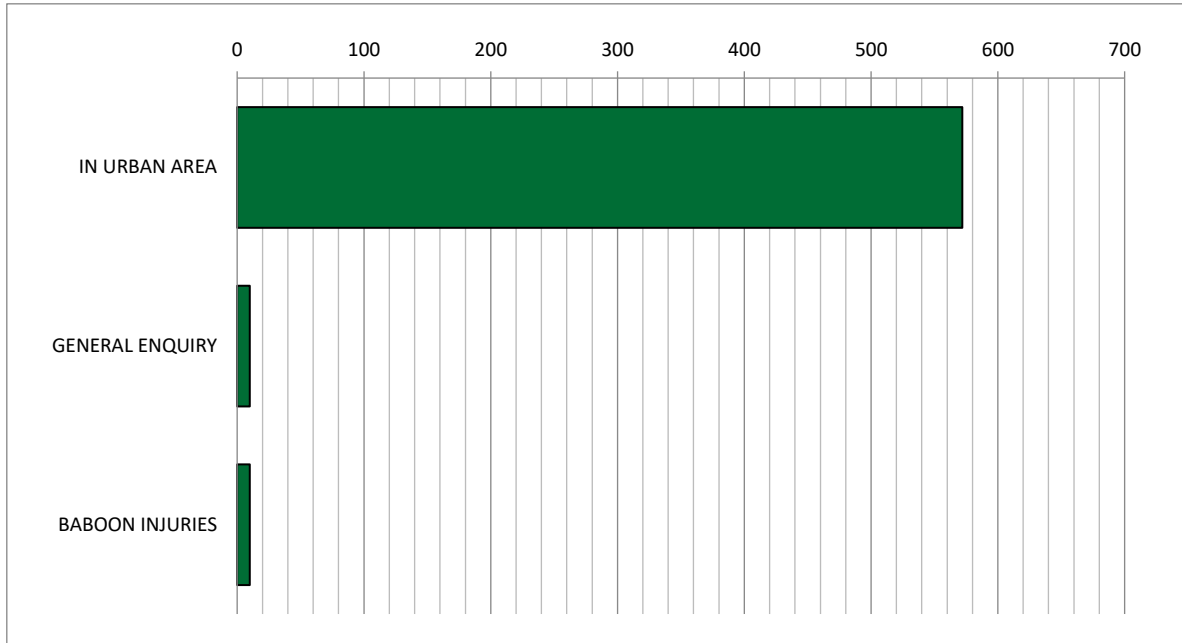


Figure 4. The number of hotline calls by type in July 2021.

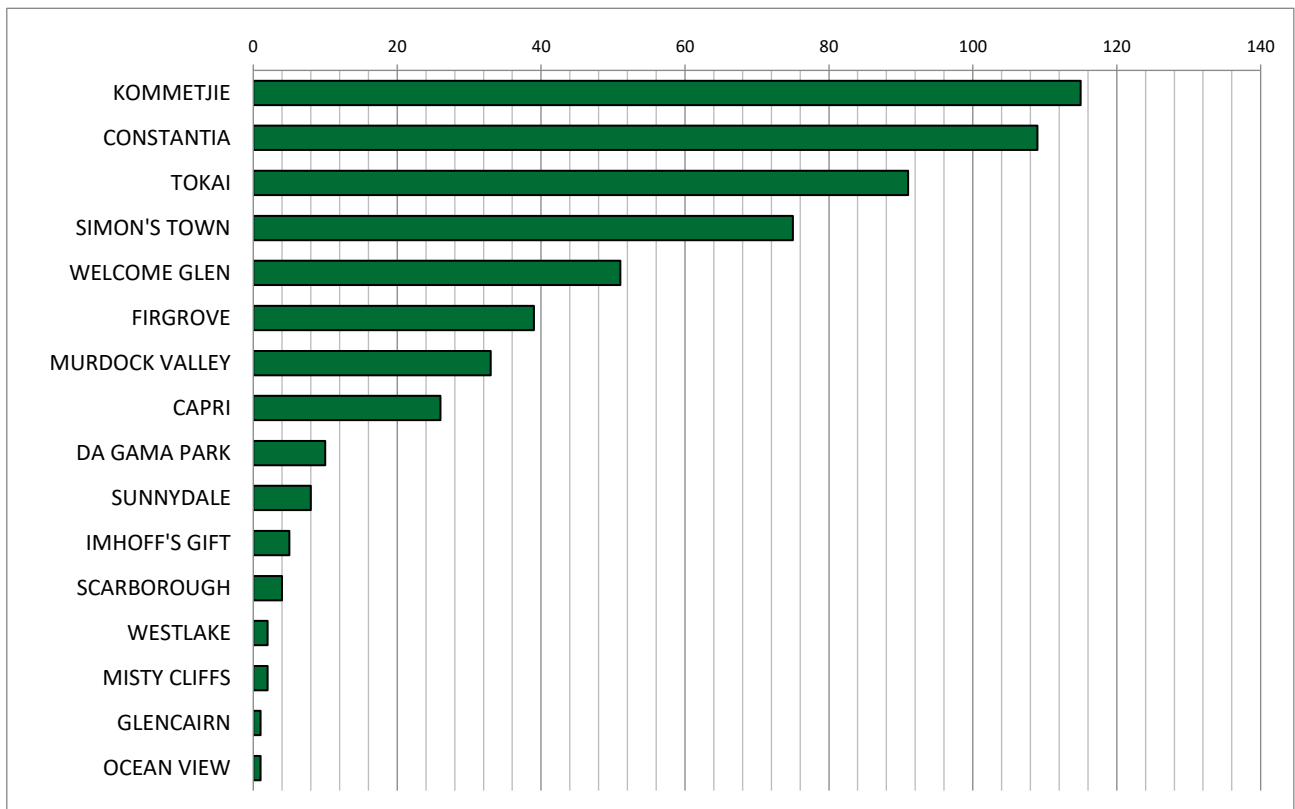


Figure 5. The number of calls reporting baboon presence in the urban space by suburb.

The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area came from the suburb of Kommetjie, where the Slangkop Troop spent a considerable amount of time again this month.

The high numbers of calls from the Constantia area focused on the CT1 Troop as well as movement of members from the Tokai Troop in and around this suburb. The high number of calls from Tokai focused on the movement of individuals from the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops in and around Constantia Uitsig and Forest Glade areas.

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