



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Urban Baboon Programme August 2021 Monthly Report



PREPARED FOR:

City of Cape Town

DATED:

31 August 2021

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION	3
2.1	DA GAMA TROOP (DG)	3
2.2	GROOT OLIFANTSBOS TROOP (GOB).....	3
2.3	PLATEAU ROAD TROOP (PR).....	4
2.4	SLANGKOP TROOP (SK).....	4
2.5	SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB).....	5
2.6	WATERFALL TROOP (WF).....	6
2.7	SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	7
3	NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION	7
3.1	CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)	7
3.2	CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)	8
3.3	MOUNTAIN TROOP (MT)	8
3.4	TOKAI TROOP (TK)	9
3.5	ZWAANSWYK TROOP (ZW)	9
3.6	NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	10
4	MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY	10
4.1	OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN.....	10
4.2	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	11
4.3	HOTLINE REPORTS.....	14

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 97.7% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 85.4% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- 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. The three males, DG14 (current Alpha Male), DG19 and TK57 continued to compete for alpha status.
- While the troop was in the natural space near Groot Kop, individual baboons moved away from the troop and visited Baskloof and Kilfillan Farms during the first half of the month.
- Baboons accessed bins on several occasions in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month but access to houses decreased compared to last 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.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Though baboons have not been present in Scarborough for some time, education of residents of Scarborough to 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 Kogelfontein should always be kept locked to reduce this troop's 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 to discourage 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 portion of their ranging area.

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 86.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 94.7% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- A few occupied house raids as well as access to bins took place in Capri this month.
- The troop dynamics were affected this month as a younger male (SK12) began challenging SK10 (the current Alpha male).
- This led to SK12 moving away from the troop with a smaller group of females and juveniles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advise residents and business owners to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- Educate private residents that they should not be taking matters into their own hands and shooting baboons with either pellet guns or paintballs. This can injure baboons and reduce the efficiency of the rangers.
- 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 the youths of Ocean View is recommended in an attempt to reduce the level of conflict along the urban edge.

2.5 SMITSWINKEL BAY TROOP (SWB)

TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SWB Troop spent 97% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 99.2% of the time out of the urban area.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and/or individuals moved through Murdock Valley to a lesser extent during August. When in the urban space, the baboons were moved out quickly leading to a reduction in time spent in the village.
- The troop spent an increased amount of time along the Swartkopberge mountain range, in the natural space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advise residents and business owners 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 92.2% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 94.4% 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 and SANAD.
- The untagged male, possibly from the CoGH, remained with the troop this month. This resulted in fighting amongst the males and a lack of cohesive movement of the troop.
- Baboons accessed overflowing public bins and garbage bags on Simon's Town Main Road on several occasions this month.
- At the end of the month, the troop moved up to SANAD. An old female and a juvenile remained in the Simon's Town area. They roosted away from the troop for three nights before meeting back up with the troop when they moved back to the Simon's Town area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advise residents and business owners to keep windows and doors closed when baboons are in the vicinity and to baboon-proof their properties as much as possible.
- Educate private residents that they should not be taking matters into their own hands and shooting baboons with either pellet guns or paintballs. This can injure baboons and reduce the efficiency of the rangers.
- 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.
- The more frequent removal of waste from public bins would prevent overflowing and dumping of waste next to the bins. This would reduce baboon access to the waste and attraction 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 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 as well as 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.
- Educate residents living in baboon affected areas 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 85.3% 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

- The troop entered the urban area on several occasions during the month due to the difficulty in preventing baboons from entering the urban space when they are on Eagle's Nest property.
- When the troop enters the urban space near Price Drive and Belair Drive, it is challenging to move the troop along due to the inaccessibility of many properties in the area.

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 95.5% 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 majority of their time in De Hel, Constantia Glen and Cecilia Forest during the month.
- The collar has continued to prove valuable to assist to the field staff in locating the troop when they have lost sight of them to prevent.

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 split Mountain Troop was only seen once this month as they moved towards The Range.
- The main Mountain Troop spent majority of their time above Buitenverwachting and away from the urban edge.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.

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.
- Individuals spent 89.7% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- One incident was recorded during the month where an individual baboon gained access to food from visitors to the SANParks Picnic in Tokai.
- Individuals entered Constantia Uitsig on several occasions during the month. There have been continued reports by members of the public regarding baboons accessing bins, entering restaurants, and taking food directly from customers on this property. Once the baboons are inside Constantia Uitsig, they can move freely towards Nova Constantia and the Cape Academy.
- There have been several occasions of individual baboons moving towards the Cape Academy, Nova Constantia, Bloekom Laan and Lower Tokai Forest this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Preventing baboons from spending time on Constantia Uitsig property, adequate baboon-proof bins and baboon-proofing of shops would reduce the attractiveness of the property and would reduce the troop's subsequent incursions into the urban space.
- Ensuring that bins are kept 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.

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 90.6% of time out of the urban area this month.

FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals accessed food directly from people at the Tokai picnic on one occasion during the month.
- Individuals entered the urban area on 15 occasions during the month moving towards Fir Grove Forest Glade and Tokai.
- The same factors as for the Tokai Troop due to the overlapping of their ranging areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop due to the overlapping of their 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 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 95.4% of time out of the urban space this month (**Fig 1**). The Slangkop and CT1 troops were not out of the urban area for 90% of the time this month. The Slangkop Troop's time out of town however improved dramatically from 65.1% last month, to 86.6% this month.

As expected, this was due to the troop spending the month in the southeast portion of their ranging area, away from the village of Kommetjie. The CT1 Troop spent a considerable amount of time on Eagle's Nest property this month. From this property, they can readily access the urban area along Price Drive and Belair Drive. Once in this area, the field team is faced with the challenge of many inaccessible properties, which results in the baboons spending prolonged periods of time in the urban space.

Individual baboons from the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops 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 compromise 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.

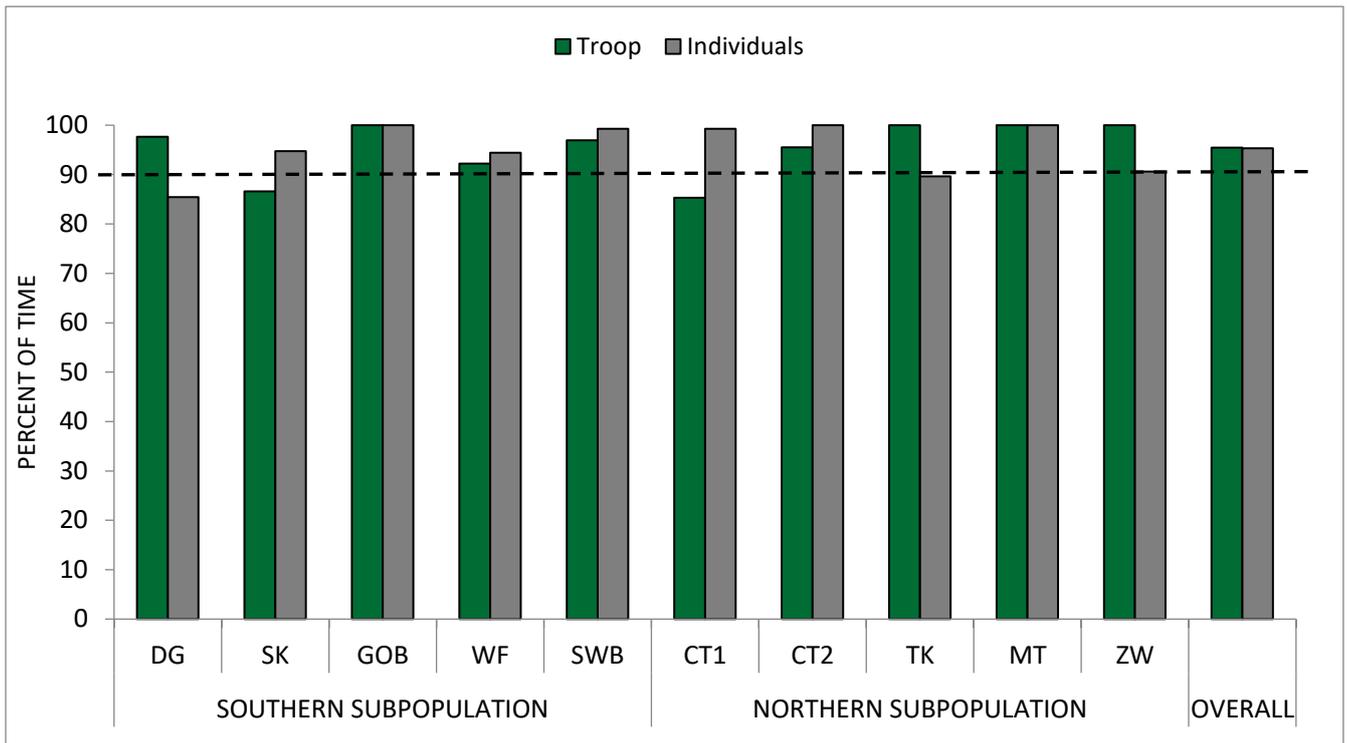


Figure 1. Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of August. The full name of each troop can be found in the prior relevant section. For uniformity, the percent of time out of town is calculated in the same fashion as the previous service provider. This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

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Site visits:

- **Private properties Da Gama Park, Simon’s Town, Scarborough, Kommetjie, Tokai:**
 - Advised landowners on the issues with vegetable gardens, fruit trees, non-proofed bins as point source attractants and the need to baboon-proof their property to reduce visits and potential conflicts with baboons. Addressed attractants where landowners were receptive.
 - Followed up on reports of the use of pellet guns, paintball markers, catapults and starter guns on baboons. A CapeNature warning letter was delivered to residents advising of the legal consequences of such actions. NCC staff who witnessed the incidents have submitted affidavits to CapeNature.

- Communicated local animal by-laws, which require dogs to be kept under control at all times to residents.
- Advised residents and businesses on dispersing male characteristics and suitable interventions to prevent conflicts.
- **SANParks and City Kogelfontein skip:** Poor waste management was found to be acting as a point source attractant in the area. The relevant authorities were notified. During a follow-up visit, waste management was found to be in order.
- **Chrysalis Academy:** Waste management was found to be in order.
- **Cape Academy:** Waste management was found to be in order.

Stakeholder Liaison:

- **Simon's Town, Murdoch Valley, Da Gama Park, Constantia, Tokai and Welcome Glen:**
 - Met with individual volunteers to facilitate open dialogue. Local challenges and solutions were discussed and implemented.
 - Met with City of Cape Town Solid Waste Management to discuss the issue of public bins as point source attractants for baboons. Communicated methods which could be used to reduce these attractants. To date a few of the issues flagged have been followed up with (e.g. Simon's Town bin day check up on 23 August).
 - Communicated with Base and Environmental Manager of SA Navy to follow up on previous report and meeting action items.
 - Advised on appropriate bin cage design for a business in Tokai.
 - Met with leaders of local residential groups, which are promoting baboon-proofing and reduction of point source attractants, in order to communicate best practice methods.
 - Met with businesses in Heron Park on the design and placement of electric fencing to prevent movement between the industrial area and the residences in Imhoff's Gift.
 - Met with restaurant owners who rent property on Constantia Uitsig to discuss reports of serious conflicts regarding baboon access to food from bins, restaurants and directly from customers. Discussed the increasing need to keep baboons off the property to prevent access to these foods and the implementation of adequate baboon-proofing to reduce the attractants on the property. The implementation of these recommendations, however, remains with the landowners.

- Met with fruit sellers on Spaanschemat River Road to give advice on how prevent the baboons from accessing food from the stall and discussed potential relocation of the stall.
- Met with Zwaanswyk residents to discuss repairs needed on the Zwaanswyk fence line to prevent baboons from accessing the area.
- Met with Forest Glade management to determine where baboons are gaining access over the fence and identified trees that require trimming.

Community Engagement:

- **Private properties in Kommetjie, Tokai, Simon's Town, Da Gama Park, Constantia:**
 - Communicated details of the paintball marker standard operating procedure.
 - Communicated appropriate reactive behaviour to visits from baboons.
 - Provided information and communication regarding the use of electric fencing as a long-term solution to reducing conflict with baboons.
 - Handed out pamphlets detailing baboon-proofing methods, UBP contact details and other educational information.
 - Communicated details of the Nature Conservation Ordinance ban on hunting and feeding baboons as well as animal by-laws requiring the control of dogs at all times.
 - Provided a waste management signage design to a business in Tokai in order to reduce point source attractants on property.
- **Educational Evening:** Hosted an online education evening with 24 members of the public. Information on baboon behaviour, ecology, myths, misconceptions and information regarding the troops in the northern subpopulation was shared. A question-and-answer session was also held granting members of the public the opportunity to discuss their queries.
- **Educational Lecture for U3A Communities:** Presented on baboon behaviour, ecology, myths and misconceptions for an invited online talk with over 120 attendees from the Cape Peninsula and Somerset West area. A question-and-answer session was also held, allowing attendees to the opportunity to address their queries. *(This event took place in June but was unintentionally omitted from the June monthly report.)*

4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 530 hotline calls during the month of June. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (523), followed by general enquiries (6) and reports of injured baboons (1) (Fig. 2).

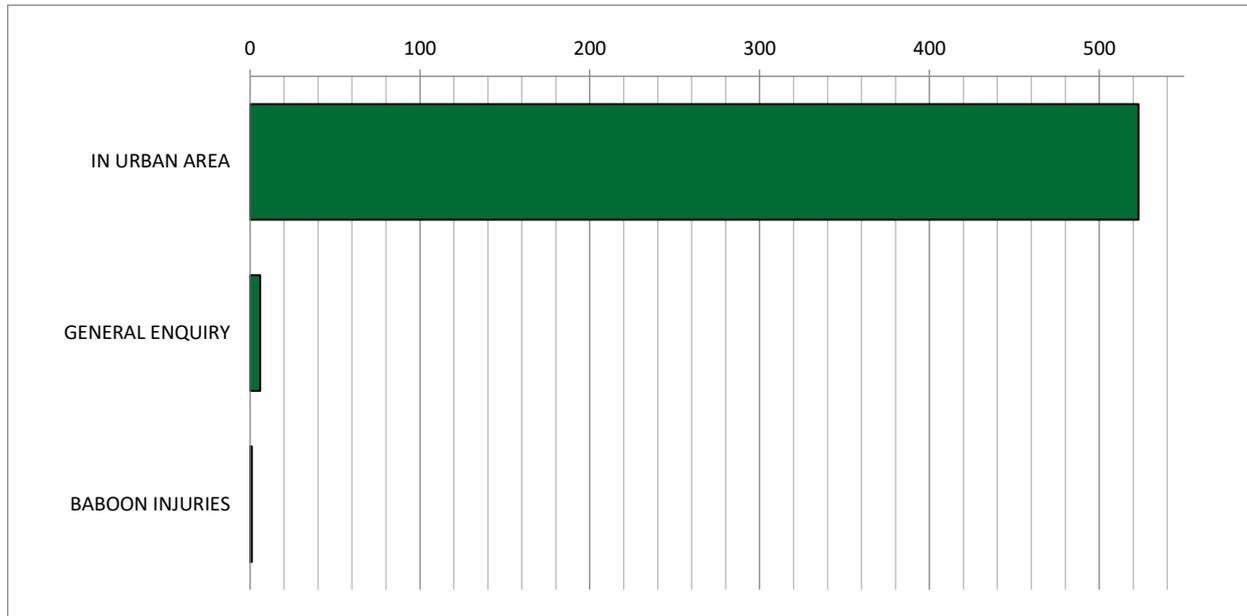


Figure 2. The number of hotlines calls - by type - in August 2021.

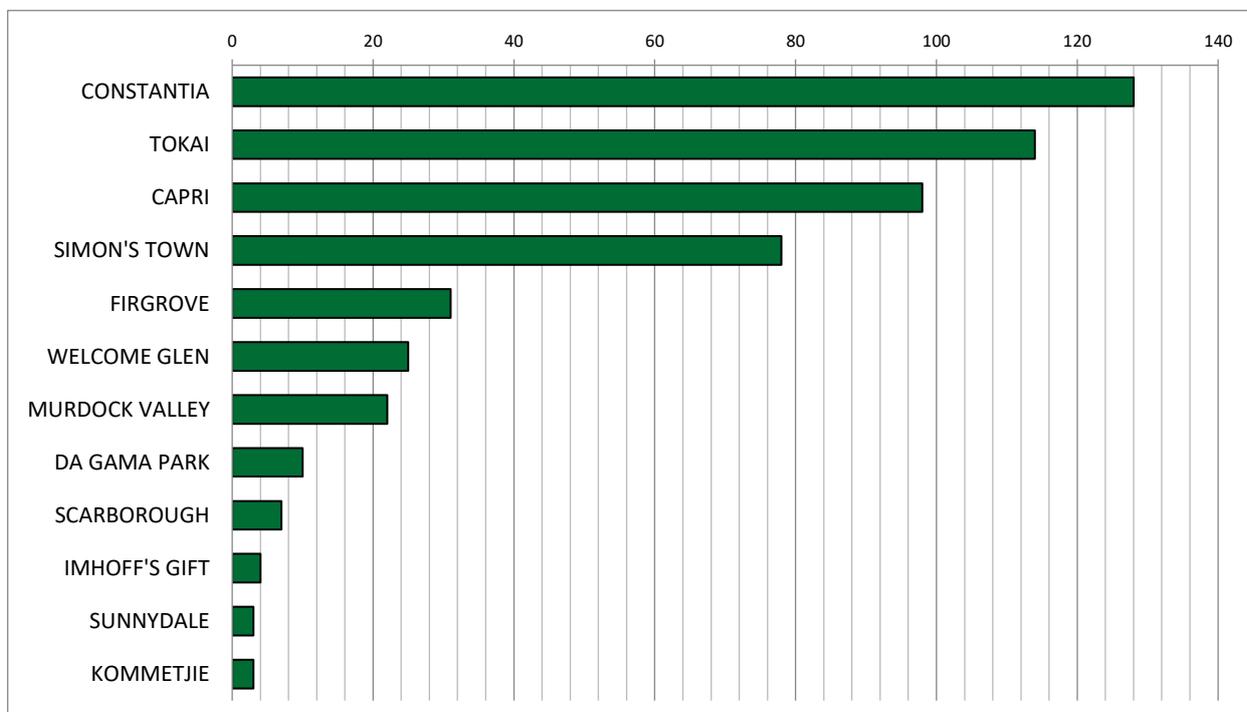


Figure 3. The number of calls reporting baboon presence in the urban space by suburb.

The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area this month came from the Constantia area in response to the increased presence of the CT1 Troop.

The high number of calls from Tokai focused on the movement of individuals from the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops in and around Constantia Uitsig.

The movement of these and other individuals is unfortunately expected to continue due to the easy accessibility of food attractants on this property and the baboons' subsequent use of the property as a thoroughfare into the urban space.

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