



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD



# Urban Baboon Programme October 2021 Monthly Report



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

## 2 SOUTHERN SUBPOPULATION

### AREA MANAGER – CATH SHUTTE

#### 2.1 DA GAMA TROOP (DG)

##### TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Da Gama Troop spent 95.5% of its time out of the urban area this month.
- Individual time out of town was 96.8% this month.

##### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and/or individuals frequently moved through Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park this month.
- Waste collection was delayed in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen on a number of occasions, leading to increased baboon access to bins.
- On 6 October, alpha male DG14 climbed an electricity pole in the natural area behind the Da Gama Park flats and died from electrocution.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is 3km of aboveground electricity line running through a section of the DG Troop's natural ranging area. This line should all be insulated as a short-term solution and diverted underground to prevent further electrocutions as a longer-term plan.
- Until the electricity is diverted underground, the electricity poles need to be greased to prevent baboons climbing the poles.
- 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.
- The troop continued to increase its use of the Groot Olifantsbos sleep site this month. It is a general summer trend for the GOB Troop to spend more time inside the CoGH section of the TMNP.

### 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 Air B&B's and other rental properties 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 the 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.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- As several baboons have been injured and killed on the power lines along Plateau Road, they should all be insulated as a short-term solution and diverted underground to prevent further electrocutions as a longer-term plan.
- Until the electricity is diverted underground, the electricity poles need to be greased to prevent baboons climbing the poles.

## 2.4 SLANGKOP TROOP (SK)

### TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The SK Troop spent 90.5% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96.9% of the time out of the urban area.

### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Waste collection was delayed in the suburb of Capri during the month, creating major waste management challenges and conflict with baboons. Bins were accessed by baboons on 93 occasions in Capri, Sunnydale, De Oude Weg and Ocean View during October.
- Individuals entered occupied houses in Capri.
- Troop dynamics were once again affected as younger males continued to challenge SK10 (the current alpha male).

## 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 installation of a baboon-proof enclosure at Peach Pip Farm Stall is encouraged to limit baboon access to waste.
- Continued environmental education with residents of Ocean View, particularly adolescents, 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 90.6% of the time out of the urban area.

- Individual baboons spent 95.6% of the time out of the urban area.

#### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop increased the use of their sleep sites in the southern portion of their ranging area.
- The troop dynamics were affected this month. A natal sub-adult male began to challenge WF8 (the current alpha male) which, on occasion, led to the troop moving in a less cohesive pattern.
- The troop and/or individuals moved through Murdock Valley and Froggy Farm, however the field team was able to move them through relatively quickly.
- The troop spent time foraging at low tide in the coastal intertidal zone near Smitswinkel Bay.

#### 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.
- An electric fence around Black Marlin Restaurant 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 management areas and infrastructure at the South African Navy facilities 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 86.92% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 96% of the time out of the urban area.

#### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Inadequate waste management is a key factor attracting the troop to the urban area of Simon's Town. There was an increase in access to bins during October. On a number of occasions, waste collection was delayed in the Simon's Town area, creating issues on the main

road and Runciman Drive. Baboons accessed over-flowing public bins and blue bags left on the curb. Other problem areas included Waterfall Barracks, Military Police & Signal School.

- Poor waste management at the Waterfall Barracks continues to attract the baboons and facilitates the troop's movement deeper into the urban space.
- Individual baboons also moved through the naval facilities, the most noteworthy being the Waterfall Barracks, West Dockyard and SANAD.

## 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 with baboon management. Alternatively, an initiative to keep doors and windows closed when baboons are in the area would reduce baboon access.
- A baboon-proof gate at What's Your Flava shop would reduce the availability of human-derived food rewards.
- Baboon awareness traffic signs along Simon's Town Main Road would alert motorists to the possible presence of baboons crossing the road.
- An institution of a 40km/h speed limit along Simonstown Main Road would help mitigate against motor vehicle-on-baboon collisions.
- Speed bumps should also be considered at specific points on Simon's Town Main Road.
- Timeous removal of waste from public bins by Solid Waste Department's Cleansing Division would prevent the overfilling of bins and dumping next to bins.
- The City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department By-law Division should continue with compliance checks in the area.

## 2.7 SOUTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strategically placed baboon-proof fences would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranging areas.
- The provision of baboon-proof street-side and recycling bins in affected suburbs would minimize access to human-derived food waste.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed where possible.

- Planting of fruiting trees should be discouraged and/or managed by timeously removing fruit to reduce the area's attractiveness.
- Continued community education to guide residents and business owners on proper baboon-proof techniques for their properties and reduction of attractants.
- Due to increased snare activity on the Cape Peninsula, it is important for members of the public to report incidents to the Baboon Hotline.
- Residents should be educated on the illegalities of using pellet guns within the urban area, as well as the suffering that is inflicted on baboons which are shot.

The public are encouraged to report pellet gun use to the South African Police Service (SAPS) Law Enforcement, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.

- Regular waste management inspections by the City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department By-law Division would help address baboon-waste related issues.

### **3 NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION**

#### **AREA MANAGER – FANUS FERREIRA**

#### **3.1 CONSTANTIA ONE TROOP (CT1)**

##### TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia One Troop spent 96.5 % of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 98.7% of time out of the urban area this month.

##### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop entered the urban area on a few occasions during the month.
- Time in town during the month has reduced significantly compared to the previous month. This is due in part to the spring season and a resultant increase in the productivity of vegetation in the troop's natural ranging areas.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

- The installation and maintenance of baboon-proof electric fencing around wine farms as well as at the top of Price Drive would reduce baboon incursions into them and the suburbs.

### **3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)**

#### TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two Troop spent 99.5% 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 spent the majority of its time in Cecilia Forest during the month.
- The collar has proven valuable in locating the troop when the rangers have lost sight of them.
- As a result of the increased presence of baboons in Cecilia Forest, dog walkers are advised to keep their dogs on a leash when visiting the area. This will help limit injuries to both dogs and baboons.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Wildlife warning 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 in the northern portion of the Table Mountain National Park would assist in alerting recreational users to the presence of baboons. Baboon-proofing of bins and facilities in this area would assist in preventing baboons from gaining access to human derived food.

### **3.3 MOUNTAIN TROOPS (MT1 & MT2)**

#### TIME OUT OF TOWN

- MT1 spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- MT1 individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.
- MT2 spent 99.9% of time out of the urban area this month.
- MT2 individuals spent 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

#### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The Mountain Two Troop (split) was located sleeping above The Range on several occasions this month. They crossed Orpen Road on one occasion
- The Mountain One Troop (main) spent the majority of the time above Buitenverwachting during the month, away from town.

- There are no field rangers allocated to either of these troops. Staff monitor the movement of these troops on an ad hoc basis when they are near the urban space.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Placing a collar on the Mountain Troop split (MT2) would help our team monitor their movements, thereby assisting in preventing them from entering the urban area.

### 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 97.6% of time out of the urban area this month.

#### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- There was one incident where individuals moved towards the houses around Bloekom Laan and Lower Tokai plantation.
- One incident was reported of an adult male accessing tables and visitors at Constantia Uitsig.
- Time in town reduced significantly compared to the previous month. This is partly due to the change in season (spring) and increased productivity of the vegetation within in the troop's ranging area.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Preventing baboons from spending time on Constantia Uitsig, provision of adequate baboon-proof bins and baboon-proofing of shops would reduce the attractiveness of the property, thereby reducing incursions into the urban area.

### 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 100% of time out of the urban area this month.

## FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- As for the Tokai Troop due to ranging area overlap.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- As for the Tokai Troop due to ranging area overlap.

### 3.6 NORTHERN AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The erection of strategically placed baboon-proof fences on Price Drive and the wine farms would prevent baboons from entering urban areas while allowing for the maximum use of their available ranges.
- The provision of suitable baboon-proof street-side bins by the Department of Solid Waste's Cleansing Division as well as recycling bins would minimize access to human-derived food waste.
- Vegetable gardens should be baboon-proofed to prevent access.
- Planting of fruiting trees should be discouraged and managed by timeously removing fruit to reduce the areas attractiveness.
- 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.
- Due to increased snare activity on the Cape Peninsula, it is important for members of the public to report incidents to the Baboon Hotline.
- Residents should be educated on the illegalities of using pellet guns within the urban area as well as the suffering that is inflicted on baboons which are shot.

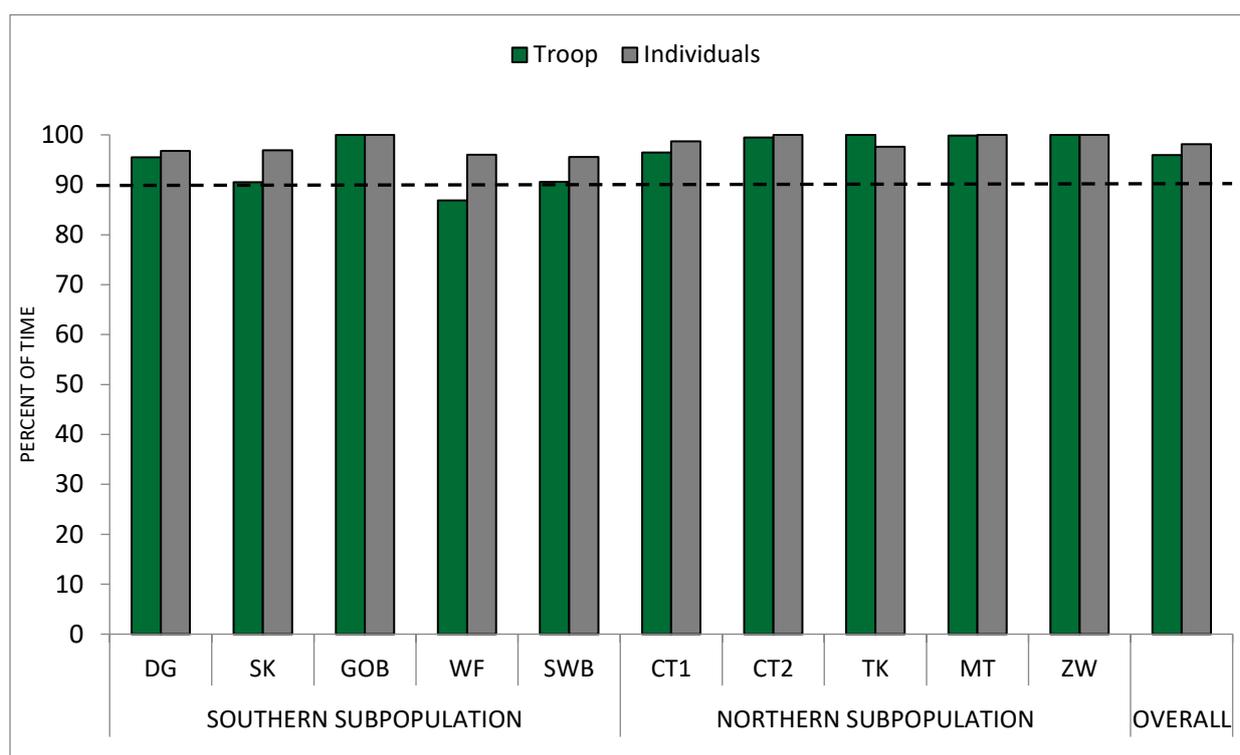
The public are encouraged to report pellet gun use to SAPS, law enforcement, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. Contraception to slow population growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.

- Delays in waste collection has created major challenges. Timeous servicing of private and public bins by the City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department Collections and Cleansing Division is essential.

## 4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

### 4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 95.9% of time out of the urban space this month (**Fig 1**). All troops except for the Waterfall Troop were out of town at least 90% of the time this month. The Waterfall Troop was significantly impacted by waste management issues in Simon’s Town area this month which attracted them to the urban space. The Slangkop Troop’s time out of town improved this month as they spent the whole month in the western portion of their ranging area, away from the village of Kommetjie.



**Figure 1.** Percent of time out of town calculated for each troop and troop individuals for the month of October. 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

Site visits, stakeholder liaison, and community engagement occurred in the following areas:

#### Site Visits

- **Private properties in Constantia and Simon’s Town:**
  - Meeting with residents to discuss concerns and to provide advice on baboon-proofing and appropriate reactive behavior towards baboons and their behavior.

- Liaised with Constantia residents about the potential benefits of a baboon-proof fence on Price Drive.
- Provided advice to residents on how to mitigate against damage caused to gutters by baboons.
- **SANParks Picnic and Research Centre, Tokai:** Investigated presence of attractants in skips and picnic site bins, none were identified.
- **Cape Research Centre, Tokai:** Skip inspections were conducted and non-compliance with regards to use reported to SANPARKS. Alternatives will be investigated.
- **Forest Glade Residential Complex, Tokai:** Inspections on the bin cage were conducted and residents liaised with about baboon access and appropriate measures to manage this.
- **Forest Glade Retail Centre, Tokai:** Inspection on bin cage usage revealed an acceptable level of compliance.
- **Cape Academy, Constantia:** Inspection of bin room, showed a good level of compliance.
- **Chrysalis Academy, Tokai:** An inspection revealed that waste was stored securely. The new tented area and chalets are a potential point where future human baboon conflict could occur. Continued liaison with Chrysalis management on baboon issue is required to reduce conflict.
- **Film set at The Range, Tokai:** Communicated with staff to advise them of appropriate behavior around baboons to help prevent potential issues. Hotline details were provided.
- **Constantia Uitsig, Constantia:** Inspected the property, taking note of attractants and points of entry for baboons. Discussed current conflicts and challenges with restaurant owners.
- **Miller's Point picnic site, Simon's Town:** Followed up on the dumping of litter after the public bins had been removed. All was in order and no waste was found in the area.
- **Peach Pip Farmstall, Kommetjie Road:** All bins were found to be secure inside the enclosure.
- **Kogelfontein skip, Scarborough:** Site inspection carried out to assess the cleanliness of the skips and both skips were found to be closed.
- **Waterfall Barracks, Simon's Town:** Site visit carried out at the kitchen and dining areas. The bins were found to be secure, but the recycling was accessible.
- **Signal School, Simon's Town:** Baboons are still able to access the kitchen due to a broken security gate and doors being broken or left open often. The main bin enclosure was secure and closed.
- **In2Foods, Kommetjie Road:** Site visit at In2Foods Compass Bakery to assess waste area. The area was found to be clean, and the recycling cage as well as the skip were closed.

## **Stakeholder Liaison**

- Met with volunteers where local challenges and solutions were discussed. Points for future collaboration were also identified.
- The Simon's Town Civic Association and Simon's Town Business Association have established an Environmental Health subcommittee to support environmental initiatives and improve waste management within the Simon's Town area. NCC have committed to assist with this project going forward, with the goal of reducing human-baboon conflicts in the area.
- Continued engagement with the City of Cape Town's Solid Waste Department regarding waste collection delays and poor waste management of public roadside bins.
- Continued communication and education with SANParks regarding the Kogelfontein skip.

## **Community Engagement**

- Meetings were held with community members of baboon impacted suburbs in the southern peninsula.
- A meeting was held with residents of Constantia Hills regarding the increase of baboon incursions around Fir Grove and Sweet Valley. Baboon attractants were identified and discussed, and mitigation measures were suggested.

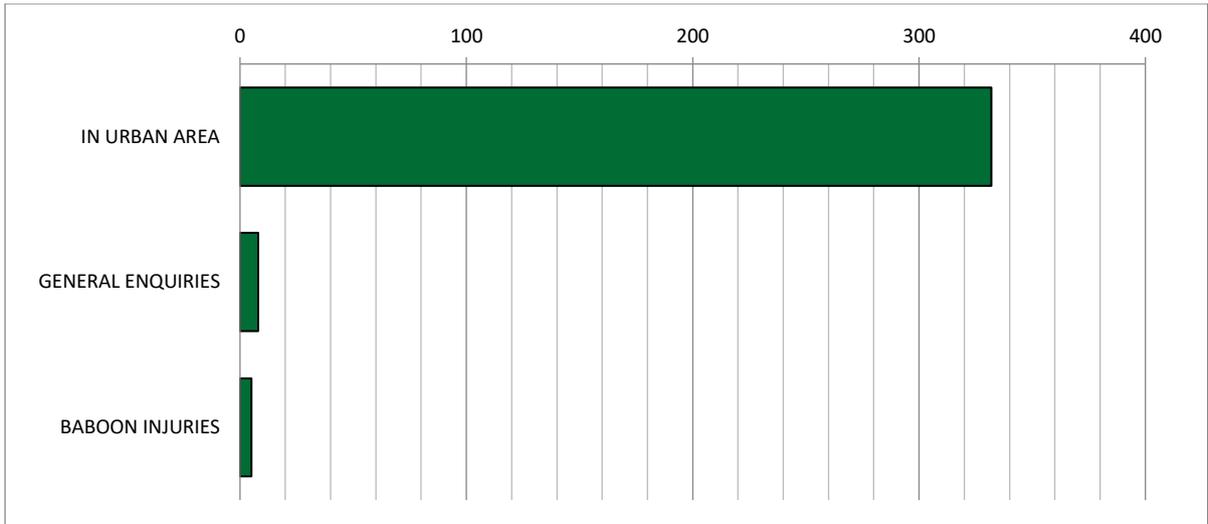
These include the removal of specific litter bins that serve as a point source attractant for the baboons, and the implementation of a community WhatsApp group that serves as an early alert system when baboons enter the area.

## **4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS**

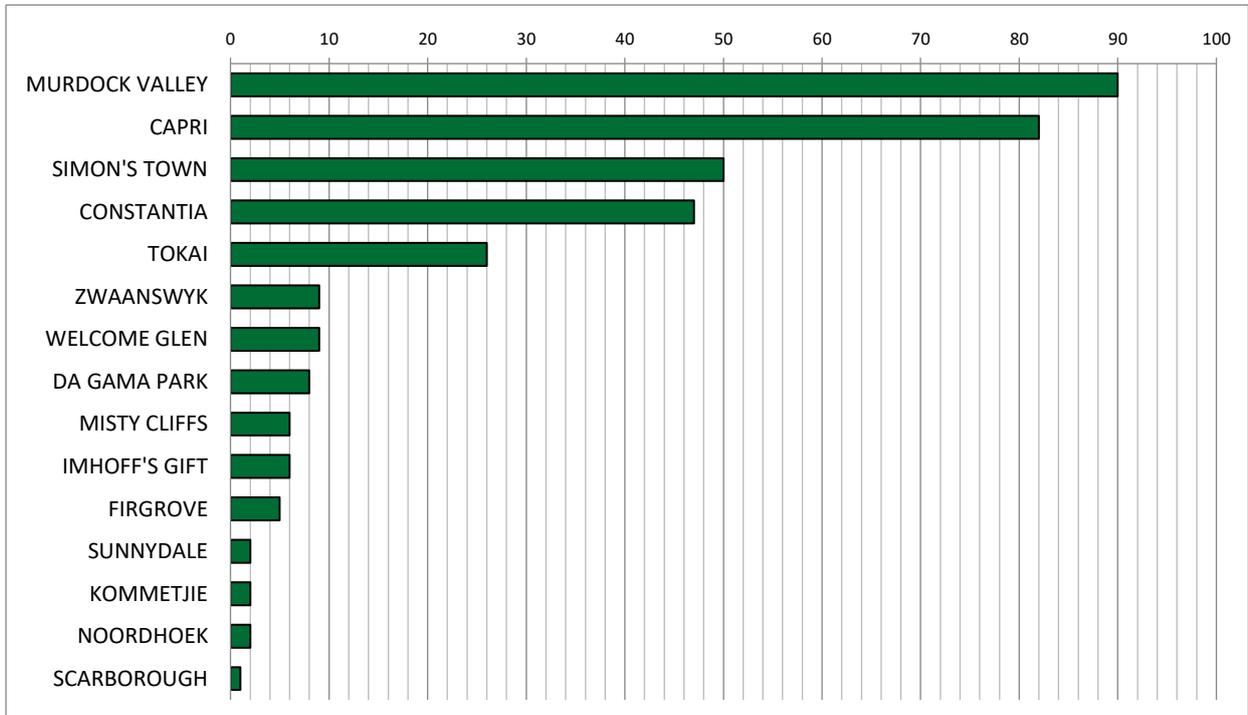
We received 345 hotline calls during the month of October.

The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (332), followed by general enquiries (8) and reports of injured baboons (5) (**Fig. 2**).

The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area this month came from the Murdock Valley area in response to the presence of the Smitswinkel Bay Troop and individuals from this troop (**Fig. 3**).



**Figure 2.** The number of hotline calls by type in October 2021.



**Figure 3.** The number of calls reporting baboon presence in the urban space by suburb in October 2021.

Though the troop/individuals were out of the urban space just over 90% of the time this month, they spent more time in town this month than last (95.6%). The high number of calls in Capri and Simon's Town coincided with delayed waste collection and subsequent baboon access to bins.

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