



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD



# Urban Baboon Programme

## September 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 96% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 90.1% 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.
- Baboons accessed bins on several occasions in Welcome Glen this month.
- On 02 September, adult male TK57 climbed an electricity pole in the natural area behind the Da Gama Park flats and died from electrocution.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a 3km above ground electricity line running through a section of the DG Troop's natural ranging area. This line should be removed and diverted underground to protect baboons and other wildlife from future electrocutions.
- 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 increased its use of the Groot Olifantsbos sleep site towards the end of September. It is a general summer trend for the GOB Troop to spend more time inside the CoGH.

### 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 Airbnbs 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 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 of 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.
- 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 84.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 95.5% of the time out of the urban area.

### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The majority of bin raids took place in Ocean View followed by Capri during September.
- A few occupied house raids took place in Capri this month.
- The troop dynamics continued to be affected this month as a younger male (SK12) continued to challenge SK10 (the current alpha male).
- On 21 September, the troop moved past the rangers and onto Slangkop Mountain. They roosted on the cliffs of Slangkop Mountain that night.
- The troop spent the following four nights roosting on the roofs of buildings within the village of Kommetjie.
- Our field staff noted and reported that there has been a significant improvement to waste management in Kommetjie. Most of the bins appear to be baboon-proof and secure.
- Despite this improvement, the troop still routinely seeks to enter the village when they are in that section of their ranging area, indicating that Kommetjie remains an attractant to the baboons even though their access to waste has been reduced through the efforts of residents.
- Seven house raids were recorded by our field staff during this period.

## 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 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 95.6% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 99.7% of the time out of the urban area.

### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop and/or individuals moved through Murdock Valley during September. When in the urban space, the baboons were moved out quickly leading to a reduction in time spent in the village. Towards the end of the month, WF8 was fitted with a satellite collar which has proven useful in helping to keep baboons away from the urban space.
- The troop increased their use of their sleep sites in the southern reaches of their ranging area.
- The troop spent time foraging along the slopes of the Swartberg Mountain and, at low tide, in the coastal intertidal zone.
- WF8, the alpha male, managed to visit The Black Marlin Restaurant on one occasion. However, the field rangers were able to move him away quickly.

### 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 94.2% of the time out of the urban area.
- Individual baboons spent 95.9% 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, the West Dockyard and SANAD.
- The untagged male, possibly from the CoGH, continued to remain 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 as well as the bins at Waterfall Barracks.
- The troop increased the use of their natural sleep sites this month, compared to August. However, they continued to roost on the Waterfall Barracks roof's during the second half of the month.
- Waste management is a key factor attracting the troop into the urban space of Simon's Town. Unfortunately, poor waste management at the Waterfall Barracks attracts the baboons to the Barracks and further facilitates the troop's movement deeper into the urban space.

### 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.

- 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 reported to the authorities or 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 which are shot. Members of the public are encouraged to report pellet gun use to SAPS, 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 92.3 % of time out of the urban area this month.
- Individuals spent 99.5% of time out of the urban area this month.



## FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- The troop entered the urban area on ten occasions during the month.
- Time in town during the month has reduced compared to the previous month however. This could be due to the availability of new vegetation growth co-inciding with the start of the spring season. The troops amount of time spent in town however is still quite high and a hard boundary like a baboon-proof electrical fence along Price Drive would reduce the number of urban incursions.

## 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.
- Baboon-proofing of bins around the Constantia Area will also reduce the attractiveness of urban areas for baboons in the Constantia area.

### 3.2 CONSTANTIA TWO TROOP (CT2)

#### TIME OUT OF TOWN

- The Constantia Two Troop spent 93.9% 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 spend majority of their time in De Hel Nature Reserve and Cecilia Forest this month.
- The collar has continued to prove valuable to assist staff to locate the troop when they have lost sight of them to prevent urban incursions.

## 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 99.7% 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 Mountain Troop split was located sleeping above The Range on 12 occasions this month.
- The Mountain Troop main spent majority of their time above Buitenverwachting during the month, away from town.
- The Mountain Troop split crossed Orpen Road on six occasions during September but no raids occurred.
- There are no field rangers allocated exclusively to this troop.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Placing a collar on the Mountain Troop split would assist us in monitoring their movements and more readily predict movements into 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 84.6% 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.
- There have been three incidents of individuals moving towards the Cape Academy and 18 incidents during which individuals moved towards the houses around Bloekom Laan and Lower Tokai.
- Individuals entered Constantia Uitsig on one occasion during the month that we witnessed. Once the baboons are inside Constantia Uitsig, they can move freely towards Nova Constantia and the Cape Academy.

- There have been continued reports from the public who visited Constantia Uitsig regarding baboons accessing bins and food from restaurants.

#### 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.
- Preventing baboons from being able to gain access into Constantia Uitsig
- 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.
- Repairing the electric fence surrounding the picnic area will prevent baboons from entering as picnicking increases.
- Removing of the fruit trees along Orpen Road or putting a fence along Orpen Road to prevent the baboons from being able to cross it.

### 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 99.7% of time out of the urban area this month.

#### FACTORS THAT IMPACTED MANAGEMENT

- Individuals entered the urban area on two occasions during the month.
- Same factors as for the Tokai Troop due to their home range covering the same areas.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Same recommendations as the Tokai Troop due to their home range covering the same hotspot 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.
- 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 reported to the authorities or 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 SAPS, CapeNature & the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.
- Contraception to slow the growth of this baboon subpopulation should be considered.

## 4 MONTHLY GENERAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY

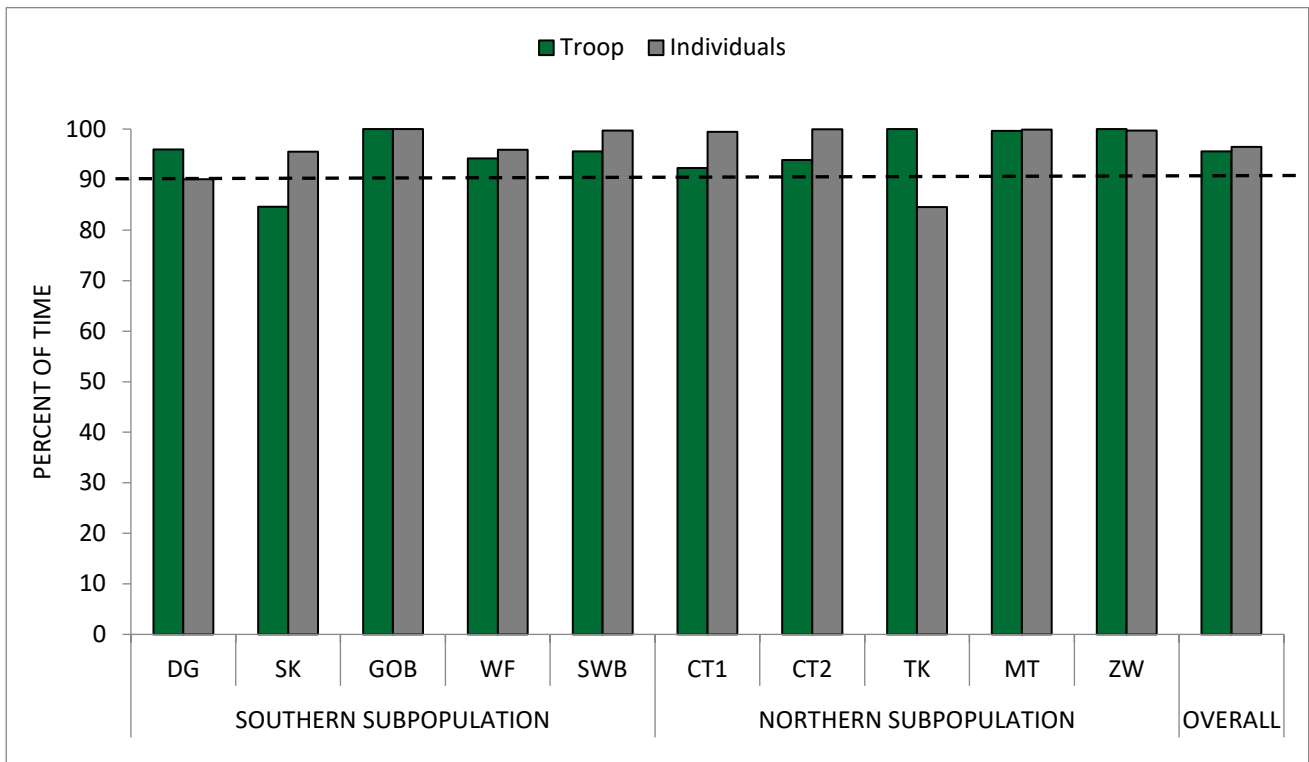
### 4.1 OVERALL TIME OUT OF TOWN

The troops overall spent 95.6% of time out of the urban space this month (**Fig 1**).

The Slangkop Troop was not out of town 90% of the time this month as they spent just under a week in the portion of their ranging area near the village of Kommetjie. When the troop is in this area, it is especially difficult to keep them out of the urban space due to the challenging topography and abundant food rewards in the village.

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 Troop comprises 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 September. 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

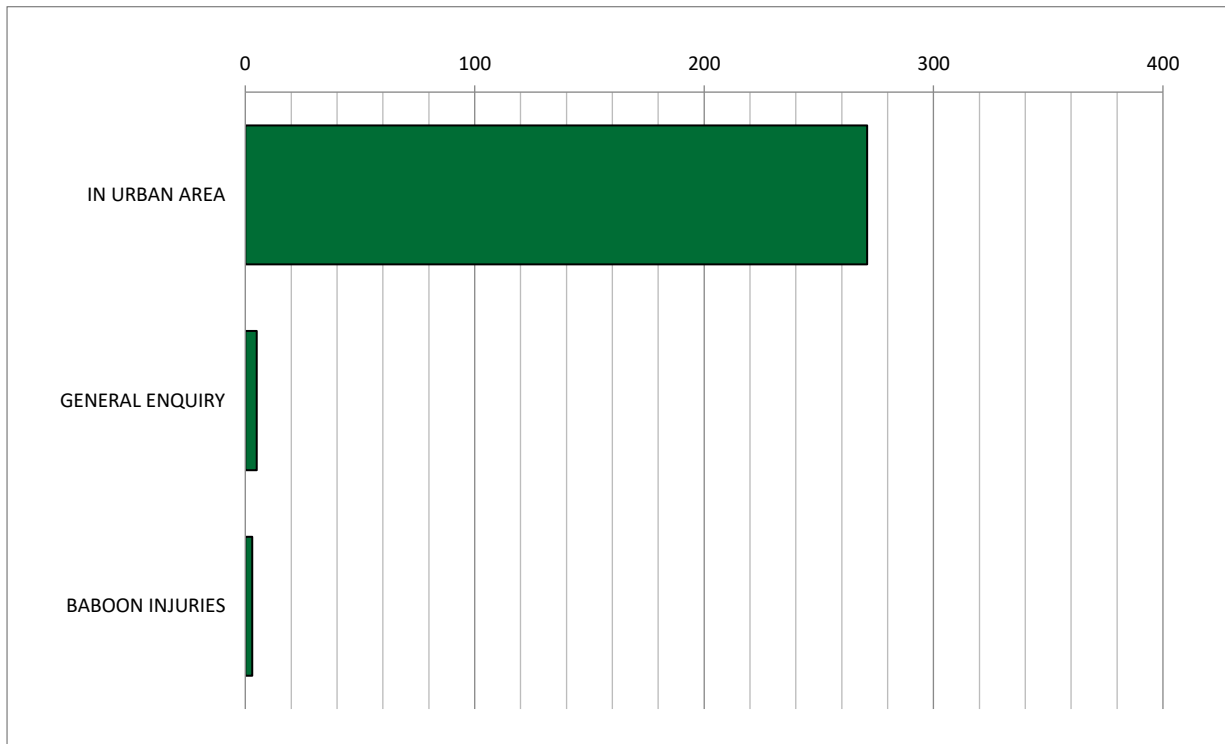
A new Community Conservation Manager has been appointed, who is responsible for the majority of the community engagement throughout the Peninsula.

*Community Engagement:*

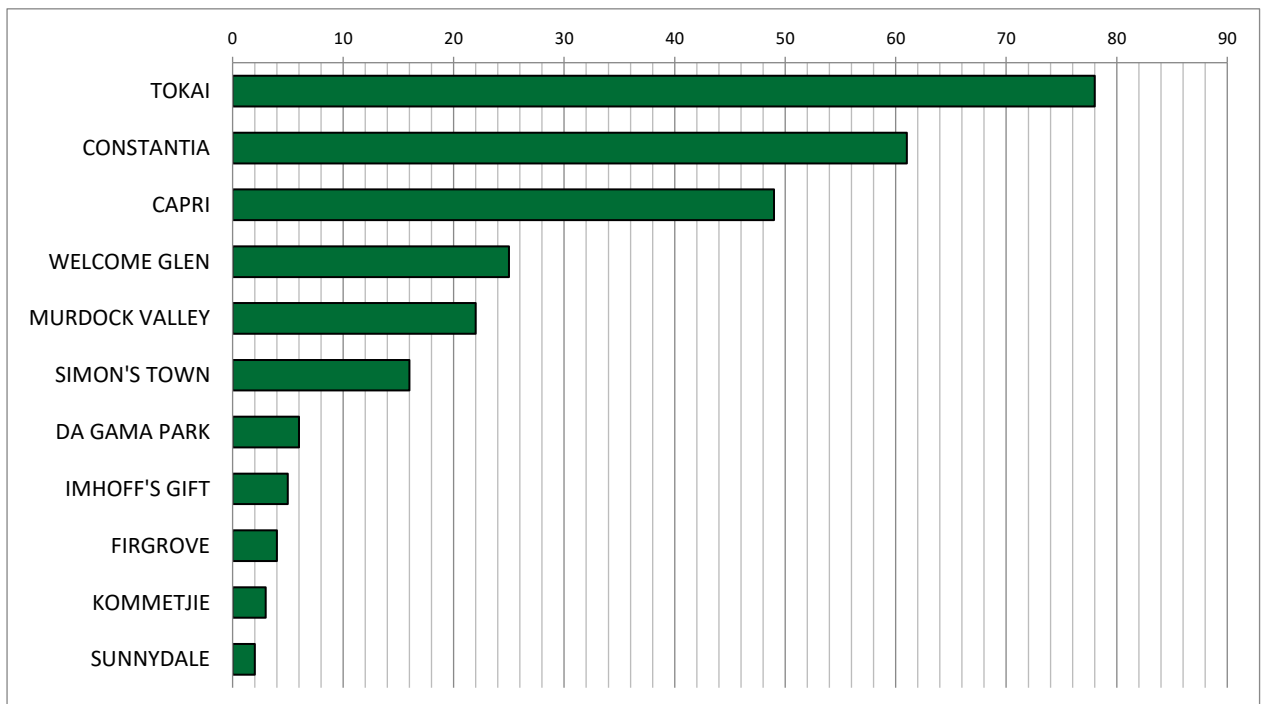
- **Private properties in Kommetjie, Firgrove, Simon’s Town, Constantia:**
  - Communicated details of the paintball marker standard operating procedure.
  - Communicated appropriate re-active behaviour to visits from baboons.
  - Provided information how to baboon-proof properties and reduce attractants.
  - Communicated details of the Nature Conservation Ordinance ban on hunting and feeding baboons as well as animal by-laws pertaining to the control of domestic dogs.

#### 4.3 HOTLINE REPORTS

We received 279 hotline calls during the month of September. The majority of the hotline calls received were regarding baboon(s) in the urban area (271), followed by general enquiries (5) and reports of injured baboons (3) (Fig. 2).



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



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

The highest number of calls reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area this month came from the Tokai area in response to the increased presence of individuals from the Tokai Troop and their movement 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 individuals' subsequent use of the property as a thoroughfare into the urban space.

This trend has resulted in the baboons discovering, and now routinely visiting, previously unimpacted suburban areas such as Constantia Hills and Nova Constantia.

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