

# BABOON MANAGEMENT IN NUMBERS

# BABOONS

## A lifestyle choice



## 2006

# 379

baboons in 16 managed troops on peninsula.

INCLUDING CAPE POINT BABOONS

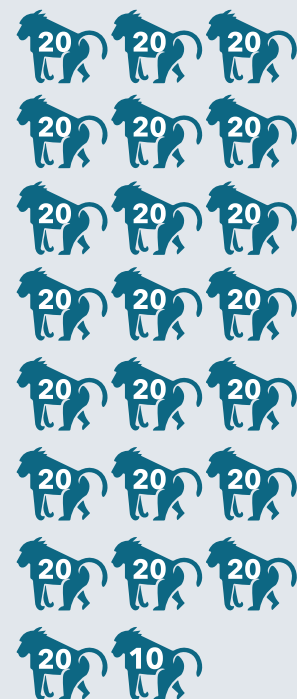


## 2019

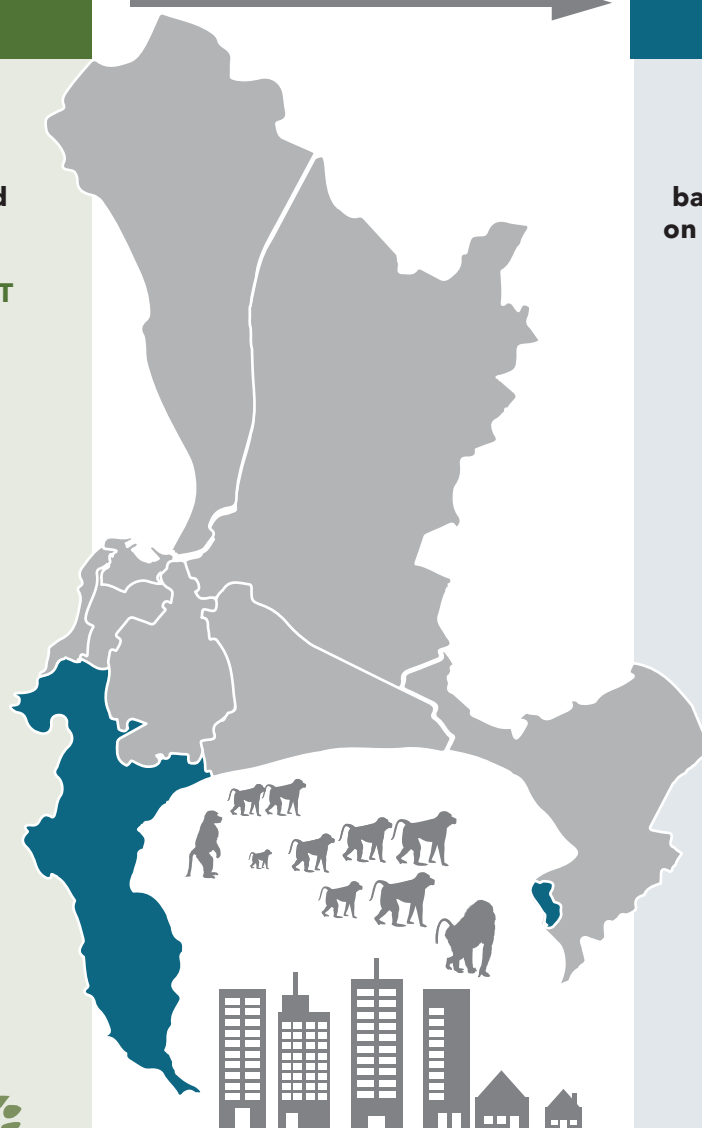
# 449

baboons in 11 managed troops on peninsula increasing 3.5% on average since 2013,

EXCLUDING CAPE POINT BABOONS



**449 baboons** in 11 managed troops increasing 3.5% on average since 2013



% Time spend 'out of town':  
for baboon troops **over 99%**  
for individual baboons **over 94%**

## FEEDING BABOONS IS ILLEGAL

You may be liable  
for a fine of up to

# R40 000

or one year of  
imprisonment.



### WHY DO BABOONS COME TO SUBURBS?



**In their natural state baboons forage extensively, ranging from the vegetation on the mountains down to the beaches where they feed on shellfish.**

The urbanisation of the Cape Peninsula has drastically reduced the baboons' foraging ranges.

As opportunistic omnivores, now surrounded by suburbs, baboons have developed a preference for the more nutritious and abundant fruits, flowers and foliage of alien vegetation.

They have also learnt that foraging for high-calorie human food in suburbs is more rewarding, especially on waste collection day.

### MORE ABOUT BABOONS



- Baboons have a canine-sharpening tooth in their lower jaw.
- Female baboons have their own hierarchy, separate to the male's hierarchy.
- Baboons act as important plant seed dispersers in the biodiverse fynbos ecosystem.
- The average male baboon is stronger and faster than the average human.
- Baboons would rather flee than fight.
- Baboons are attracted to places where they have been successful in finding food before.
- Favourite targets are unsecured wheelie bins, vegetable gardens, compost heaps, and fruit trees.
- They will enter open windows/doors or break into houses if they see anything tempting inside, such as open grocery cupboards, full fruit bowls, food left lying on kitchen work surfaces, and bowls of pet food on the floor.

### SECURING YOUR PROPERTY



#### Make your premises unappealing to baboons

- Ensure your household waste is securely stored in lockable bins that are kept in the garage until waste collection day.
- Completely enclose vegetable gardens and compost heaps within a secure structure or surround them with an electric fence.
- Do not plant fruit trees, otherwise remove the fruit when ripe.
- Feeding of birds, porcupines, squirrels and other wildlife also attracts baboons.
- Baboon-proof electrified perimeter fencing is the best defence.
- Electrified barriers under the eaves prevent baboons from climbing onto the roof.
- Install burglar bars and security gates with bars less than 8 centimetres apart.
- Feed your pets inside only and conceal their food when they are not eating.



## WHEN BABOONS ARE IN THE AREA, YOU SHOULD



- Keep all doors locked and all windows closed (especially when you are not at home).
- Put away all food sources; no food should be visible through windows.
- Stay calm and back away slowly if the baboon is near you.
- Identify the baboon's escape route and make sure that its path is clear.
- Spray a strong stream of water at the baboon to encourage it to leave.
- Never corner a baboon.
- Keep pets out of the way.
- Call the Baboon Hotline for ranger assistance.



## BINS AND BABOONS



- Advise and educate new residents in the area on the use of baboon-proof bins.
- Store your bin in a lockable refuse room, garage or shed.
- If outside, secure your bin off the ground using hooks attached to a wall or pole. Baboons have difficulty opening upright bins as their own weight keeps the lid shut.
- Keep the bin locked on waste collection day.

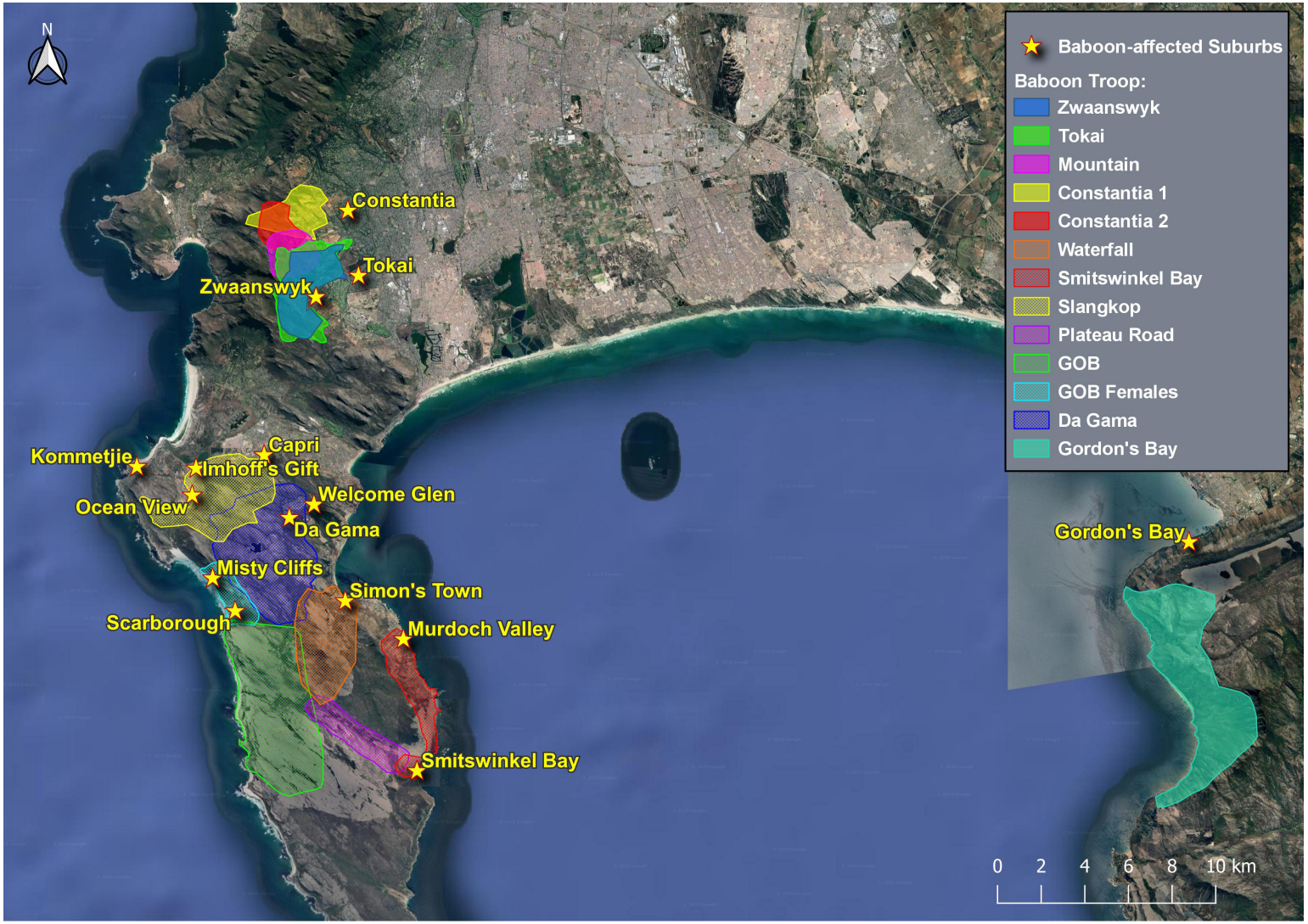


## STAYING WILD KEEPS BABOONS SAFE



- It can be detrimental to a baboon's health if it has regular access to human food and waste.
- Baboons can suffer from tooth rot, obesity, diabetes and high cholesterol owing to the excessive sugars and fats found in human foods.
- When baboons become more dependent on human foods, they start to protect their findings more fiercely and compete with humans to get access to it.
- This can lead to increased aggression in baboons as they lose their fear of humans and cause them to spend more time in town where they face threats such as dog bites, car accidents and harm by humans (e.g. shooting, poisoning, stone-throwing).
- Baboons and humans also pose a risk to each other in the form of cross-transmission of pathogens.
- For these reasons, baboons and humans should be kept separate. This way baboons can remain wild and safe.

## HOW TO GET A LOCKABLE BIN



**Residents of the following baboon-affected suburbs may apply for baboon-proof bins (at no extra charge):**

- Constantia
- Capri
- Da Gama
- Gordon's Bay
- Imhoff's Gift
- Kommetjie
- Misty Cliffs
- Murdoch Valley
- Ocean View
- Scarborough
- Simonstown (Waterfall)
- Smitswinkel Bay
- Tokai
- Zwaanswyk



**TO APPLY FOR A LOCKABLE BIN**  
Email: [wastewise@capetown.gov.za](mailto:wastewise@capetown.gov.za)



**Call: 0860 103 089**  
(Solid Waste Management - CCT call centre)



**TO REPORT INCIDENTS WITH BABOONS**  
Call the baboon reporting hotline: **071 588 6540**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BABOONS**  
Visit:  
<http://www.baboons.org.za>  
<http://www.capenature.co.za>



**TO ENQUIRE ABOUT BABOON MANAGEMENT**  
Email: [baboons@capetown.gov.za](mailto:baboons@capetown.gov.za)

**Baboons CAN open unlocked bin latches.**

**Baboons CANNOT open these latches if they are both locked.**

**Place the locked bin face down on the ground, with locks facing downward.**