



For attention Minister B Creecy  
Via Chief of Staff [fshaik@environment.gov.za](mailto:fshaik@environment.gov.za)  
Personal Assistant [BMbuli@environment.gov.za](mailto:BMbuli@environment.gov.za)

Copied to:  
Minister Bredell  
Cape Nature Dr Omar  
Cape Nature Dr Baard  
City of Cape Town Mayor Hill-Lewis  
City of Cape Town Deputy Mayor Andrews  
SANParks Dr Dziba  
TMNP Frans van Rooyen  
SA Navy Admiral Dlamini

Refer Baboon Management Cape Town following public meeting

Dear Minister Creecy,

For more than 25 years Baboon Matters has been at the forefront of baboon conservation, in the face of ever-increasing urbanization and intensive agriculture, and the resulting escalation in baboon/human interaction. We work with any and all organisations and agencies for the betterment of the animals we protect, for the benefit of all.

On behalf of the undersigned organisations (Beauty Without Cruelty SA, Baboons of the South and Green Group Simons Town), we are asking you to follow up on your timely intervention regarding management of the baboon human interface on the Cape Peninsula.

- You have instructed SANParks to fulfil their obligations in respect of managing wildlife, however the relationship and legal obligations of the three relevant authorities (being City of Cape Town, Table Mountain National Park and Cape Nature) are all specific to their mandates, notwithstanding the obligations of the South African Navy, one of the largest landowners in this situation.<sup>1</sup>
- The last 25 years have been hamstrung by the “spirit of cooperative management” between the three partners (noting that the SA Navy has not been included in these management issues).
- None of the authorities have taken full responsibility and accountability for management of the baboon human interface.
- It appears that the “partners” have instead relied on the very lack of accountability to preclude proper planning, agreement on a cohesive strategic management plan and agreement on mitigation strategies, by-laws and education.

- The ad hoc arrangements in place up to now have been un-transparent and difficult for civil society organisations to monitor or participate in, as is their Constitutional right.<sup>2</sup>
- We ask that you insist that the three authorities finally resolve the question of their Constitutional legal responsibilities, preferably by signing an Implementation Protocol in terms of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 13 of 2005<sup>3</sup>, and then agree on a strategic management plan that provides for inclusive and ongoing public participation in baboon management.
- Currently, the CoCT is encouraging public participation and input,<sup>4</sup> but this will have no real value, nor can the current process achieve meaningful long term outcomes, until the authorities have agreed on the fundamental issue of their Constitutional responsibility for the various aspects of baboon management.
- We ask for peer reviewed, scientific data that proves removal of individual so-called “problem” animals resolves areas of conflicts, and shows long term benefits to management.

We request that whilst the authorities resolve the tenuous situation, understanding the delicate nature of the accountability issues, a moratorium on killing baboons is enforced. It is inconceivable that baboons continue to pay with their lives, whilst the authorities continue to negotiate issues which should have been resolved and implemented two decades ago.

We look forward to your positive response to our request.

Jenni Trethowan - Baboon Matters Trust

Signatories:

Beauty Without Cruelty SA

Baboons of the South

Green Group Simons Town

1. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/long-term-solution-sought-manage-baboon-numbers>
2. <https://thegreentimes.co.za/increased-transparency-needed-in-management-of-cape-baboons/>
3. [https://www.acts.co.za/intergovernmental-relations-framework-act-2005/imp\\_proto\\_guide\\_1\\_introduction/](https://www.acts.co.za/intergovernmental-relations-framework-act-2005/imp_proto_guide_1_introduction/)
4. <https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/city-of-cape-town-to-take-the-baboon-management-engagements-to-affected-residents-b3a490d9-9540-495d-a486-6490ad69833b>