

25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## CONSENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF DAMAGE CAUSING BABOONS IN NATURES VALLEY

Dear Natures Valley ratepayers and property owners

In our recent progress update for the Baboon Management Plan (BMP) we gave positive feedback on the impact of monitors on baboon activity in NV. One area of concern which we have pointed out in our progress update is that we have no current way of detecting when the troop first appears in the Valley other than when they are seen at the Groot River and/or west pass. Consequently, the monitors are often only able to interrupt initial raids after receiving WhatsApp alerts.

During the first 3 months of the monitors programme, there have been many reports of "lone male activity/raids" with frequent accounts of aggressive behavior. This in turn has raised the level of anxiety of many property owners as well as visitors to Natures Valley prompting further requests for intervention through the removal (euthanasia) of damage causing baboons (DCB).

We now wish to determine whether the majority of property owners support such a removal and if supported, to apply for the necessary permit(s)

The following points have been very recently clarified with CapeNature and Bitou and are relevant to the issue;

- a. CapeNature will not support the relocation of DCB's. Any identified DCB for which CapeNature has issued a permit will therefore be euthanized (termed as a "restricted activity").
- b. Any property owner in Natures Valley may submit a permit application but only to carry out a restricted activity on his/her property but no other property. Practically, a large number of property owners would need to apply for a permit on each of their properties to be able to safely and efficiently carry out a restricted activity in Natures Valley. Multiple consents from property owners is therefore an essential prerequisite for a permit application in Natures Valley.
- c. The number and location of consenting permit applicants with reference to the total of all property owners in Natures Valley may be taken into consideration by CapeNature in assessing the risk of issuing a permit in circumstances where a restricted activity could fail for any reason and may result in losing control of the DCB on or through excluded or "no-consent" properties. (this would be a subjective CapeNature consideration)
- d. Bitou is the authority for all public open spaces in NV (roads, park, verges). Bitou has confirmed that although any property owner may apply for a permit, the Bitou Municipality will only grant consent to undertake restricted activities on Council property should such permit come through the NVRA and in the manner set out in this notice
- e. An application for a "blanket" permit for x number of unidentified baboons in an urban area would not be approved by CapeNature. A permit application will therefore be for an individual identified baboon based upon the criteria included in the CapeNature protocol attached to the BMP (protocol BTTG3).

- f. The period of the permit would be 3 months (the maximum period currently used by CapeNature)
- g. Issuing a restricted activity permit in a heavily populated township during peak holiday season is not recommended for safety reasons and that it may unduly upset some people and invite adverse reaction from uninformed holiday makers and others. The same can be said for obtaining approval from Bitou for access to roads in the township during the same peak holiday period. It is likely then that the earliest a permit could be activated, if granted, would be Feb/March 2022.

The NVRA would facilitate a permit application from a majority of the property owners in NV subject to receipt of consents from those property owners.

Failure to achieve majority support of property owners for a restricted activity would not negate the right of individual property owners to proceed with their own permit application.

Please find in the attachments, a consent/no-consent form which we would ask you to complete as soon as possible and return it to the NVRA at [office@nvra.co.za](mailto:office@nvra.co.za) as soon as possible. In addition, we have included a damage and mitigation report required by CapeNature based upon alerts posted by residents during the period in which the monitors have been active in NV

Once we have received your replies, we will provide feedback and proceed with application submissions if the required level of support is obtained.

Dave Owen



Chairman

Natures Valley Ratepayers Association





# NVBV / NVRA

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## PROPERTY OWNERS WRITTEN CONSENT

Attention: CapeNature Permits (permits.fax@capenature.co.za)

**Re: Permit application for restricted activity to manage damage causing baboons in Natures Valley**

I/we **CONSENT** **DO NOT CONSENT** (*strike out whichever is not applicable*) to Natures Valley Ratepayers Association (NVRA) carrying out a restricted activity on the property tabled below according to the provisions of the National environmental management: biodiversity act, 2004 (act no. 10 of 2004) subject to the issuing of all applicable approvals and permits from the relevant authority(s)

Name of person or Entity in which the property is registered	
Physical Address (Natures Valley)	
Erf Number	
Street Name	
Name of Representative if an Entity	
Name of Owner if a person	
ID Number	
Cell Number	
Email	

Date .....

Signature .....

## DAMAGE AND MITIGATION REPORT

Att: CapeNature Permits (permits.fax@capenature.co.za)

Re: Permit application for restricted activity to manage a damage causing baboons in Nature's Valley:

The NV Baboon Management Plan including a baboon monitor programme commenced on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The following incidents involving a large/lone male have been provided by residents using a WhatsApp alert group message system. When considering the troop size and composition (16 baboons), the large male (the alpha male) is unmistakable due to his size and is substantially larger than any other baboon in the troop.

The following incidents have been reported since the baboon management plan has been initiated. There are numerous incidents involving the large alpha male prior to the start of the BMP which are not recorded here as the BMP commencement date is considered to be the time from which adequate mitigation measures have been employed by the NVRA.

### Schedule of recent incidents involving the large alpha male

Incident	Date	Erf	Incident Description	Damage caused	People present	DCB description
1	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	82	Entered through window	Broke coffee machine	Yes	Large lone male
2	24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	410	Entered property past wife and took a bag of apples	No	Yes	Large lone male
3	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	413	Attempted entry	No	Yes	Large lone male
4	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	31	Took large bowl of nuts from inside house	No	Yes	Large male
5	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	83	Entered house	No	Yes	Big lone male - unafraid
6	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	XX	Chased monitor	No	Yes	Large male
7	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	125	Aggressive male pushed past to steal bananas	No	Yes	"Huge aggressive" male
8	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	290	Break in through locked door	Yes (door damaged)	Yes	Large single male
9	20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Salt river trail	Large male baboon aggressively approached a couple hiking on Salt River trail	No	Yes	Large lone male
10	21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	311	Entered house and stole food	No	Yes (same room)	Large lone male
11	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Shop	Entered shop, no fear, challenged staff until food was thrown at him	No	Yes	Large lone male
12	various	R102	Charges cyclists	No	Yes	Large dominant male



### **Mitigations undertaken by the NVRA during the reporting period**

The following mitigation activities have been employed during the report period;

1. Baboon monitors have been employed from the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 with 4 monitors on duty between 06:00 and 18:00. All monitors are equipped with paintball markers
2. Refuse bins, with some exceptions, are secured with tie downs when made available for collection by the municipality
3. The waste transfer station is now enclosed though this has not been a focus of attention of the troop during the reporting period
4. A WhatsApp group alert system has been in operation for some years and has proved to be an effective warning system. Due to the thick vegetation surrounding Natures Valley, the warnings posted on the group alert are usually the first indication of baboon presence unless monitors pick the troop up at the Groot River crossing or on the R102 approach to the value. Alerts therefore are very useful but often too late.
5. A baboon management plan has been initiated and is attached for information
6. The cost of implementing the Baboon Management Plan to date is approx. R100,000 spent on monitoring activities including equipment