



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Living Alongside Wildlife

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Cape Town: Most Biodiverse City in the World



Rapid Urbanization a threat to Biodiversity.

- Urban edge keeps expanding due to rapid development
- Previously home to our wildlife, they've lost a lot of their natural habitat, and food sources
- They now find themselves either living at the edges of urban areas or within the urban areas, making their relationships with humans (whether positive or negative) inevitable.



Feeding: Major attractant

- It takes that “one time”, but it may be reinforced repeatedly by multiple people
- Forage for hours vs. easy pickings
- Feeding of wild animals is prohibited in the Animal Keeping By-Law 2021
- Negligent feeding is also considered illegal in the Animal Keeping By-law
- Illegal dumping is a criminal offence in the Integrated Waste Management By-law (please take a picture of offenders and direct to authorities)
- To enforce the By-Law, we need to ensure people are educated on it.

The Ideal: Protect wildlife from dangers in urban space, such as:

- Vehicle-related injury and mortalities
- Access to domestic waste and other artificial food sources
- Exposure to pollutants
- Disease spread
- Direct human-wildlife conflict
- Habituation



Cape Clawless Otters in Green Point Park

- IUCN Red List: 'Near Threatened'
- Not normal behaviour for wild otters
- An otter is a wild animal, moves freely
- Focus: control human behavior
- It is likely that the otter in this video has been fed
- Critical for residents not to interact
- Can lead to legal ramifications for the City



Chacma Baboons (*Papio ursinus ursinus*)

- Presence in residential areas and businesses
- Waste attractants- issue
- Baboon-proof properties
- Education and awareness
- Primates are adaptable, cause human-wildlife conflict- global problem
- Some anti-baboons, some pro-baboons. We aim with our conservation partners to manage the species according to conservation best practice



Porcupine (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*)

- Highly adaptable
- Diet: roots, geophytes (bulbs), flowers, fallen fruit, sapling bark
- Behaviour: Mostly nocturnal, solitary or small family groups, utilizes burrows, known to make use of storm water drains for movement
- Often found foraging in gardens due to the presence of palatable species like arum lilies, root vegetables and exotic plants– these are often more nutritious and higher in energy than indigenous plants. This provides the porcupine with the opportunity to forage for less time and receive the same amount of nutrients and energy than it would receive feeding on indigenous plants
- If we remove individual porcupines, other populations are likely to move right back in afterwards, and this will be creating a new problem elsewhere.



Caracal

- Highly charismatic species
- Becoming habituated due to increased interactions with humans
- Weight 5.8 –22kg, shoulder height 46 cm

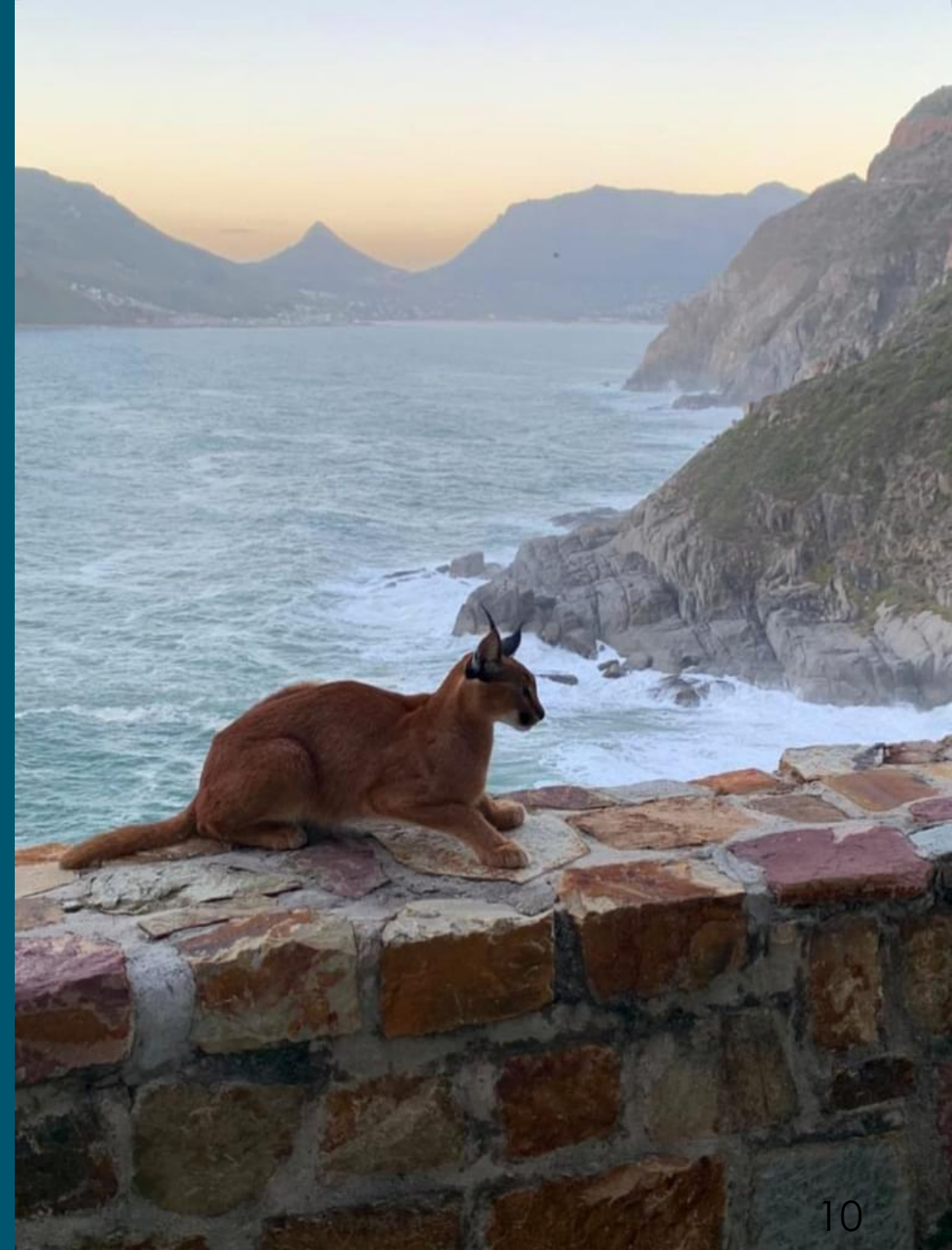


Caracal in Cape Town

- Approximately 50-60 live on the Peninsula
- Evidence of caracal almost everywhere in the City
- Interestingly – rare in Steenbras NR, where leopard occur
- Opportunistic predators
- Ecological role: Small mammal predation population control- important to control pets (cats) confined

Threats:

- Habitat fragmentation
- Road mortality
- Vulnerable to secondary rodenticide poisoning



Management

- Relocation and Translocation of 'nuisance' or damage causing animals is not sustainable, likely to have a negative impact on the receiving environment and does not resolve the attractant issue, also compromises welfare and is mostly not permitted (Unlikely get a permit from CN)
- Prioritising co-existence practices with the species that remain on the Peninsula is vital.

Management Options

- More proactive rather than reactive approaches
- Education and awareness programmes
- Community partnerships
- Partnerships with other conservation organisations
- Frameworks and mandates
- Strategic fencing (in appropriate areas)
- Early warning system
- Waste Management & Property Management
- Signage
- Traffic calming
- Inter-departmental approach

Take-home message

- Promote the benefits offered by ecological services
- Engage your respective communities, particularly communities adjacent to natural areas
- Environmental Education strategies (e.g. make it 'cool' to keep your **distance from wildlife**)
- No to the feeding and habituation of wildlife
- Promote Waste Management solutions
- Secure one's property
- Be involved!

PROTECTING NATURE
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

GET INVOLVED!
ENGAGE IMMERSE
INTERACT





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THANK YOU | DANKIE | ENKOSI

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