



Human-wildlife conflict



Baboon

Papio cynocephalus

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DESCRIPTION

Largest terrestrial monkey	Unlike all other monkey species, they are adapted to open woodlands rather than forests. Large males (25 to 45 kg) in comparison to females (12 to 18 kg), with large, razor-sharp 5 cm canines.
Longevity	Able to live for up to 30 years in the wild.
Large troops	Exist in large troops of 25 to 30, up to 50 to 60, individuals. Males of the troops defend and maintain strict troop discipline.
Male dominance	Within a troop, the male coalition dominates daily troop functions although it is the females that maintain home range boundaries. Dominance among the males is developed and maintained through constant struggle, fighting and aggression against male coalitions.
Communication	Very vocal, far-calling bark, grunting, chattering and screaming.
Diet	Opportunist omnivores that feed on a wide range of food options and are capable of adapting to changing food availability in their environment. Consume bulbs, shoots, roots, fruit or seeds. Also consume small vertebrates, including young antelopes, hares and mice.
Reproduction	Breed throughout the year, reaching puberty around 5 years for both sexes, although males start breeding at 7 to 10 years once they have grown big enough to establish dominance over other males. Pregnancy lasts about 20 weeks.
Dung and footprint	Sausage-shaped dung of variable size with a lot of fibre. Human-type footprint of about 14 cm in length for the back feet.

BEHAVIOUR TO EXPLOIT

Active during the day	Troops roost in dedicated places (trees, cliffs) offering protection against predators. Intrusion in human-occupied environs occurs during daytime.
Exceptional eyesight	Primarily depend on their eyesight to detect danger. Able to detect and identify threats even at a significant distance which they quickly respond to.
Highly adaptive	Quickly adapt to changing circumstances and food availability.

IMPACTS

Crop raiding	Main conflict is crop raiding which they can easily adopt if measures are not applied in time.
Bark stripping	Significantly damage plantations in large monocultures by stripping off barks of trees.
Livestock predation	Capable of killing small stock and chickens by entering their sheds.

Key types of conflict:



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PLACES OF CONFLICT


- Crop fields** Most conflicts occur in crop fields which are raided by large troops of baboons.
- Exotic plantations** Also raid monoculture plantations.
- Neighbourhoods** Enter houses/food stores to steal and spoil food, leaving it unfit for human consumption. They also damage household property, e.g. breaking doors and roofing material. In some cases, they attack and injure humans, especially children, and can also attack pets, like dogs.
- Other places** Food wastage and improper disposal of waste attracts them to enter human communities.

TOOLS THAT CAN BE USED LIMITED IMPACT


LED light
 is a powerful torch that emits an intense strobe light capable of confusing animals, and can also be used to summon people to help.



Electric fences
 are barriers that produce electric charges of several thousand volts of very short duration. When touched they produce an unpleasant electrical charge.

Reinforce livestock kraals
 Existing livestock kraals can be made stronger by putting a chain-link fence around the kraal.

Cage trap
 is a system to capture and remove problem animal populations. Food is placed inside the cages to attract baboons and the trap is triggered when most of the troop enters.

MITIGATION STRATEGY PREVENTION MODE

Crop destruction
 Electric fences are to be installed across paths that baboons can possibly take to reach the crop fields.
Complementarily, LED lights can be used to deter the baboons if they're approaching the fields.
Problem baboons can be removed with cage traps.

Livestock predation and property damage

 Clear off thick vegetation cover which baboons can use to stealthily enter small stock and poultry sheds.
Electric fences can also be installed around the sheds.
LED lights can be used as deterrents if baboons are spotted approaching the sheds.
Reinforce livestock kraals and poultry sheds to make them impenetrable to baboons.

The SWM Programme is a major international initiative that aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. It is being funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). Projects are being piloted and tested with governments and communities in 19 participating countries. The initiative is coordinated by a dynamic consortium of four partners, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). For more information please visit:

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