

CITY OF CAPE TOWN INDIAN HOUSE CROW REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2012

The first NRMP Indian House Crow grant to the City was through CapeNature (2010/11) the second grant through (SANBI EDRR programme) (2011/12) and the third grant (2012/13) through DWA as part of the NRMP/City of Cape Town Implementing Agents (IA) Agreement. The IA agreement was finally approved in November 2012. This report covers the period April to November, prior to the NRMP IA agreement's activation.

Jobs

The house crow team numbers did not stay constant as a result of a relatively high staff turn-over. 67 Job opportunities were created since April 2012. The nature of the job and the risk pertaining to the areas where teams operate has an impact on the number of females employed. Although the teams work in pairs, females feel unsafe in most areas. Ongoing efforts to retain females are ongoing.

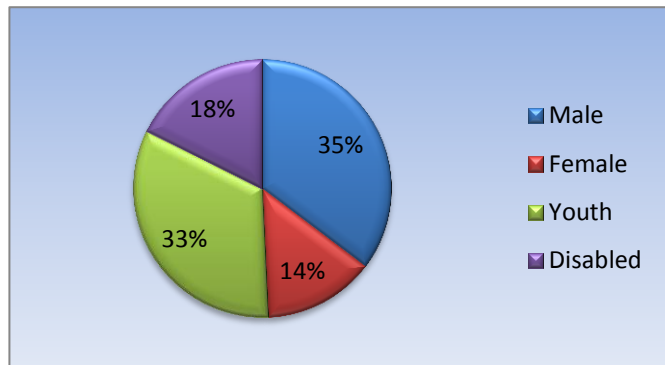


Figure 1: Designated groups expressed as percentage of total jobs

Transport

One vehicle is used to transport the team members to key points from where they do their observations and baiting. The contractor also drives around for the purposes of population, nest and roost monitoring, in addition, he responds to observations by the public. The team also uses bicycles as a more cost effective means of transport.

Monitoring

Monitoring has been ongoing since the project started in 2009. Cybertracker technology was implemented in 2011 and data is transferred to the CoCT house crow database. The data informs management decision making. Four cybertrackers are used by the team.

Refer Appendix A for the consolidated figures

The consolidated data reflected in this report refers to 2009 (December 2009 – March 2010); 2010 (April 2010 – March 2011); 2011 (April 2011 – March 2012) and 2012 (April 2012 – November 2012 unless otherwise indicated).

Population monitoring

The house crow population is monitored through regular roost counts, flight line counts and registering every crow observed. Roost monitoring provides the most accurate indication of population size. Registering every crow gives an overall indication of whether crow numbers are declining following the integrated control measures implemented by the city.

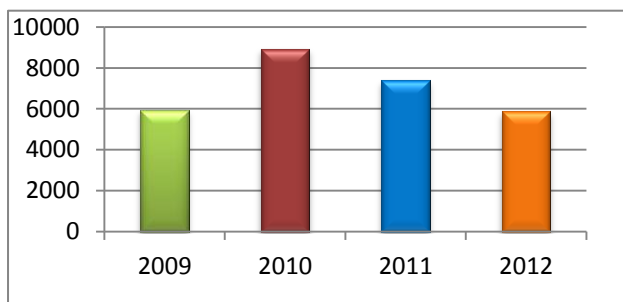


Figure 2: Graph showing the overall number of crows recorded

The City of Cape Town house crow population was estimated to be in the region of 10 000 birds in November 2009 and is estimated to be between 1500 and 2000 in November 2012. A total of 9757 crows were baited since December 2009. Although only 26% of the carcasses were registered, the assumption is that 90 – 100% of the crows feeding on DRC1339 bait died. This assumption is based on trial baiting conducted under strict control conditions in 2003 and then again in 2009/10 in preparation for the registration of DRC1339 under Act 36. The population size in relation to the number of crows baited/killed is impacted by the four breeding cycles since the start of the monitoring in December 2009.

Suburbs monitored

Access Park	Epping Industrial	Mfuleni	Rosebank
Athlone	Gatesville	Milnerton	Ruytewacht
Belgravia	Goodwood	Mitchells Plain	Rylands
Bellville	Grassy Park	Montague Gardens	Samora Mitchell
Bishop Lavis	Gugulethu	Montana	Schaapkraal
Blackheath	Hazendal	Monte vista	Silversands
Bluedowns	Heideveld	N 1 City	Somerset West
Bonteheuwel	Kenilworth	N'dabeni	Sybrand Park
Bridgetown	Kenwyn	New Ottery	Thornton
Brackenfel	Khayelitsha	Newfields	Tygerberg
Browns Farm	Killarney	Nyanga	Weltevreden
Cape Town CBD	Kleinbosch	Ottery	Wesbank
Claremont	Langa	Parrow valley	Westridge
Colorado	Lansdowne	Phillipi	Wetton
Crawford	Lentegeur	Phola & Heinz Park	Woodlands
Crossroads	Lotus River	Pinelands	Wynberg
CT international airport	Lower Mowbray	Portlands	Yesterplaat
Delft	Malibu village	Primrose Park	Maitland
Driftsands	Mandalay	Retreat	Penlyn Estate
Du Noon	Manenberg	Rondebosch	Forest Heights
Durbanville	Mfuleni	Rondebosch East	Eersterivier

Baiting

There is a decline in number of crows fed during a single baiting. The biggest single baiting in 2009 was at the Epping roost. The 2011 baiting was the only one conducted at the main roost in Nyanga. 350 Crows were fed in 2010 at Hotton and this remains the single biggest baiting session. The reason for the decline can be ascribed to dwindling number a house crows in the city.

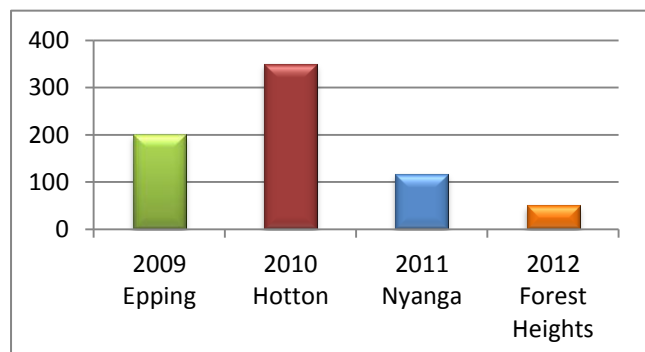


Figure 3: Graph showing biggest single baiting sessions

Baiting is conducted whenever crows are observed and baiting conditions are favourable. Bait consists of bread (pre-baiting), pasta and meat. Meat continues to be a challenge, mainly because of the cost involved. Day-old chickens and meat are supplied as and when available and through contacts that were established over time.

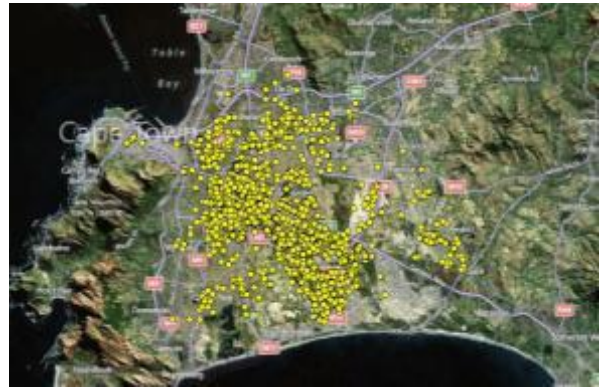


Figure 2: Baiting sites indicated in yellow dots

Avicide

DRC 1339 has now been registered in South Africa into Act 36 under the name “Corvicide”. The DRC 1339 purchased in 2009 is still used and shared between Richards Bay and the City of Cape Town.



Figure 3: Red dots indicate sites where carcasses were observed and/or collected

Roosts

A total of 11 known roosts are currently monitored in the following areas

- a. Kenilworth (Rosemead)
- b. Edgemoed (Letchworth Dr)
- c. Epping 2 (Bofor Circle)
- d. Rylands (Noll Ave)
- e. Penlyn Estate (Dolomite Ave)
- f. Nyanga (Oscar Mpetha) main roost
- g. Forest Heights (Silweriek Str)
- h. Mitchells Plain (Swartklip Rd)
- i. Mitchells Plain (Park Ave)
- j. Mitchells Plain (Michells Ave)
- k. Mandalay (Parker Str)



Figure 4 Roost monitoring: Red dots indicate roosts

Nests

Nest monitored: 90

15 Nests were destroyed and the six fledglings were euthanized.



Figure 5 Green dots indicate nests

Trapping

Four crows were trapped, but one escaped. The two trapped crows were euthanized and the lure bird is still left in the cage.

Crows trapped:

- 31 October 2012 – 1 crow
- 24 November 2012 – 3 crows



Figure 6 House crow trap

Challenges

- To address the high team turn over and reach the target of 60% women employment
- How to respond to crows becoming bait shy
- To improve trapping success
- To improve baiting success
- How to find the last crow

Appendix A: Consolidated figures

CAPE TOWN HOUSE CROW MONITORING December 2009 - October 2012														
Month	Year	# of IHCs observed	# of IHCs fed on starlicide	# of IHC carcasses observed	# of carcasses collected	Age			Quantity of bait in kg	DRC 1339 used in grams	Km travelled	Hours worked	Biggest single baiting	Suburb
						juveniles	Adults	unidentified						
December	2009	809	567	90	0						1671	94.5	200	Epping
January	2010	1152	502	39	52				8	10.4	2474	99.45	50	Westridge
February	2010	2160	780	133	75				11	14.3	2136.22	101.38	170	Epping
March	2010	1820	787	63	73				20	26	1915	90.2	66	Colorado
TOTAL		5941	2636	325	200	0	0	0	39	50.7	8196.22	385.53	200	Epping
April	2010	579	350	55	42				16.5	21.45	1822	89	13	Gugulethu
May	2010	1263	553	64	33				15	19.5	2178	93	25	Athlone
June	2010	1094	416	36	0				18	23.4	2134	86.7	125	Nyanga
July	2010	783	256	70	38	0	0	38	12	15.6	1688	86	23	Montclair
August	2010	934	356	117	106	7	85	14	13	13	1599	67	90	Woodlands
September	2010	800	196	82	58	0	51	7	5	6.5	1783	66.9	12	Nyanga
October	2010	489	95	16	7	0	5	2	6	7.8	1830	77	5	Colorado
November	2010	77	29	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.3	658	20	5	Forest Heights
December	2010	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	
January	2011	114	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.3		44	1	Mitchells Plain
February	2011	1890	1025	161	152	121	18	13	9.5	10.4	-	38	350	Hotton
March	2011	877	448	59	60	32	18	9	6	11.7	-	44	59	Forest Heights
		8930	3725	660	496	160	177	83	103	131.95	13692	Persondays	350	Hotton
April	2011	730	563	42	41	17	14	11	2.5	605	568	135	45	Epping
May	2011	323	54	1	1	1	0	0	3	3.9	656	180	10	Langa

June	2011	1075	144	4	4	1	3	0	3	3.9	781	176	16	Schaapkr aal
July	2011	496	158	78	70	8	53	9	5.25	7.8	413	160	40	Philippi
August	2011	733	198	60	54	1	51	3	4	5.2	1319	107	17	Epping
September	2011	783	96	45	41	1	35	9	11.25	11.05	1451	78	20	Browns Farm
October	2011	933	404	24	22	1	15	8	14	18.2	1817	131	117	Nyanga
November	2011	364	51	6	1	0	0	6	4	5.2	745	107	9	Forest Heights
December	2011	140	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.2	1393	59	15	Nyanga
January	2012	1255	245	64	61	42	12	7	23	6.5	1994	98.5	33	Hanover Park
February	2012	161	34	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.3	679	0	6	Lower Crossroad
March	2012	380	84	0	0	0	0	0	4	5.2	1841	189	12	Nyanga
		7373	2081	324	295	72	183	53	75	678.45	13657	1420.5	117	Nyanga
April	2012	736	262	47	40	15	20	12	10	13	2298	121.5	50	Forest Heights
May	2012	236	82	8	5	0	2	5			158	128	30	Forest Heights
June	2012	925	331	7	7	1	6	1	6.5	8.45	126	99	23	Nyanga
July	2012	1632	205	12	12	0	8	4	2.5	4	9	70	19	Nyanga
August	2012	1104	186	8	8	0	8	0	3.5	4.55	1423	163	14	Bridge Town
September	2012	411	107	8	6	0	6	2	3.5	4.55	2084	162	9	Cape Town CBD
October	2012	369	48	7	7	1	6	0	10	13	1609	173	7	Nyanga
November	2012	470	94	12	5	0	5	7	5	6.5	2037	185	10	Mitchells Plain
December	2012													
January	2013													
February	2013													
March	2013													
TOTAL		5883	1315	109	90	17	61	31	41	54.05	9744	1101.5	50	Forest Heights
TOTAL		28127	9757	1418	1081	249	421	167	258	915.15	45289.22	2522		

Appendix B: NRMP Report

SUMMARY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	CCT	Louise Stafford comments
% budget spent	36%	City funded the project to date. The IA agreement between NRMP & CoCT only activated in November 2012.
% PD's achieved	87%	
Cost per PD for the month	R 166.02	
Cost per house crow	R 139.07	
Expenditure April - November	R 182 876.00	City funding: Contracts and management
Original budget for 2012/2013	R 506 992.17	Not yet started spending NRMP money, this is the NRMP allocated budget. It will be great if we can claim the city expenditure since April 2012 back (R122 876)
Co-funding/ contributions	R 60 000.00	
Amount spent	R 182 876.00	City Funded - pending finalization of IA agreement
% spent of original budget	36%	
% of year (all funding sources)	32%	
Budget committed/in field expenditure	R 68 723.26	NRMP funding
PERSON DAYS		
Original planned operational PDs	1260	
Actual operational PDs paid	1101.5	
Management PDs	144	
Operational PDs done as % of original planned PDs	87%	
Overall Actual PD done (operation+management)	1245.5	
PDs done as % of overall planned PDs	99%	
COST PER PERSONDAY		
Original planned cost-per-PD	R 402	
Actual cost-per-PD	R 166.02	
HOUSE CROWS		
Total estimated population of house crows start of the fin year year	3000	
Number of house crows seen in total per month	5413	Every time a crow is observed, it is counted. Possible to count one crow several times
Approximate number of house crows remaining	+/-2500	We cannot make this assumption, because the same crow can be counted several times during general observations.
Number of house crows shot	0	

Number of nests destructed	0	15
Number of house crows trapped	0	4
Number of house crows baited	1315	Biggest single baiting this fin year: 50 crows at the Forest Heights roost
Number of known roosts	6	
Number of baited house crows recovered	90	
Amount of DRC 1339 used	47.55	
Number of carcasses observed	109	
COST PER HOUSE CROW		
Cost per house crow planned	R 169	
Cost per house crow actual	R 139	
Number of days monitored	114	
Kilometres planned	24000	
Kilometres travelled	9744	
Kilometres remaining	14256	