

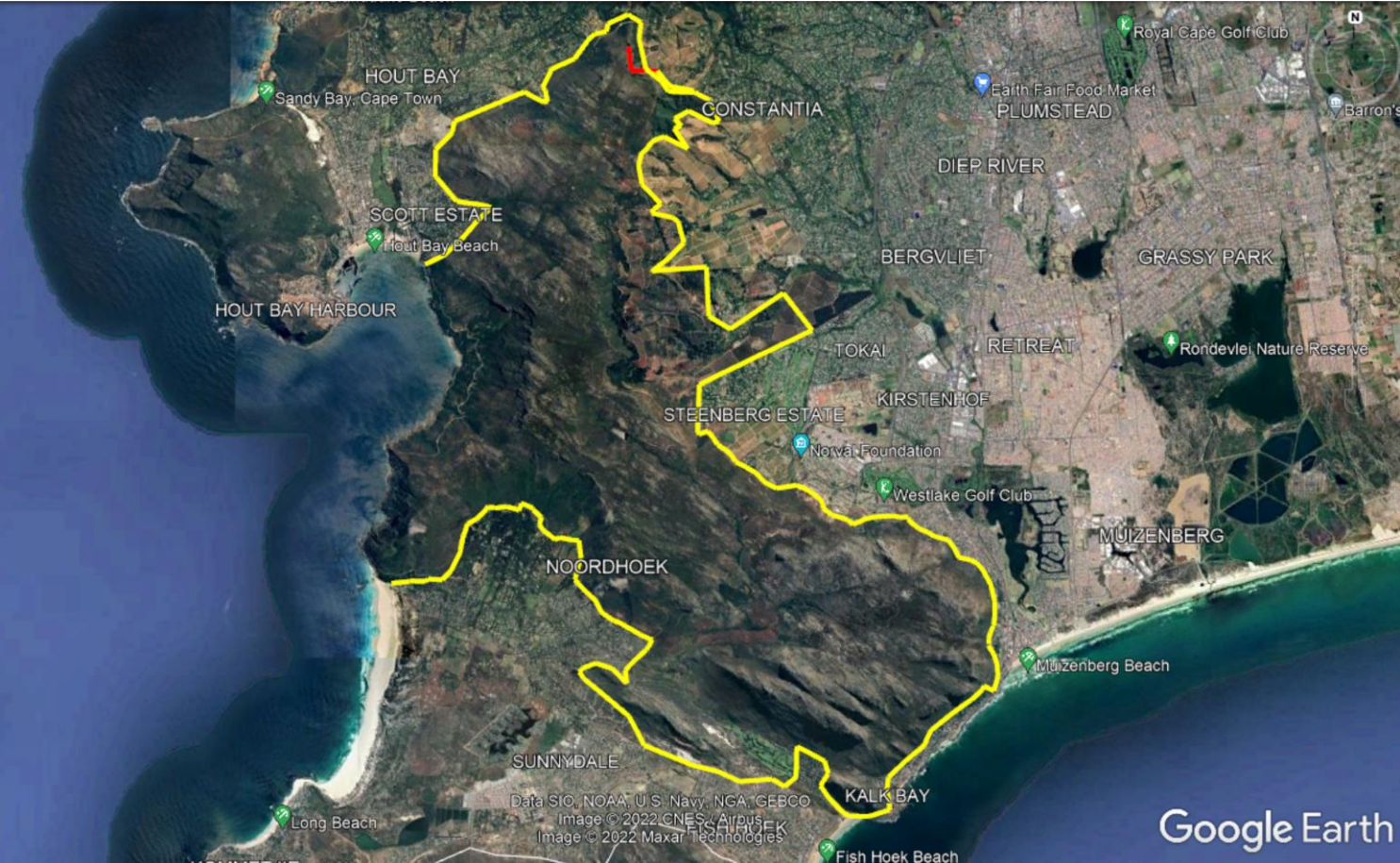
# Common Good Mountain Fence Trust

A way forward to a win-win solution for minimising baboon human  
conflict

# The challenge

- How to conserve an isolated baboon population in a world heritage site encompassing a National Park, embedded in a city/residential/farming mixed use zone.

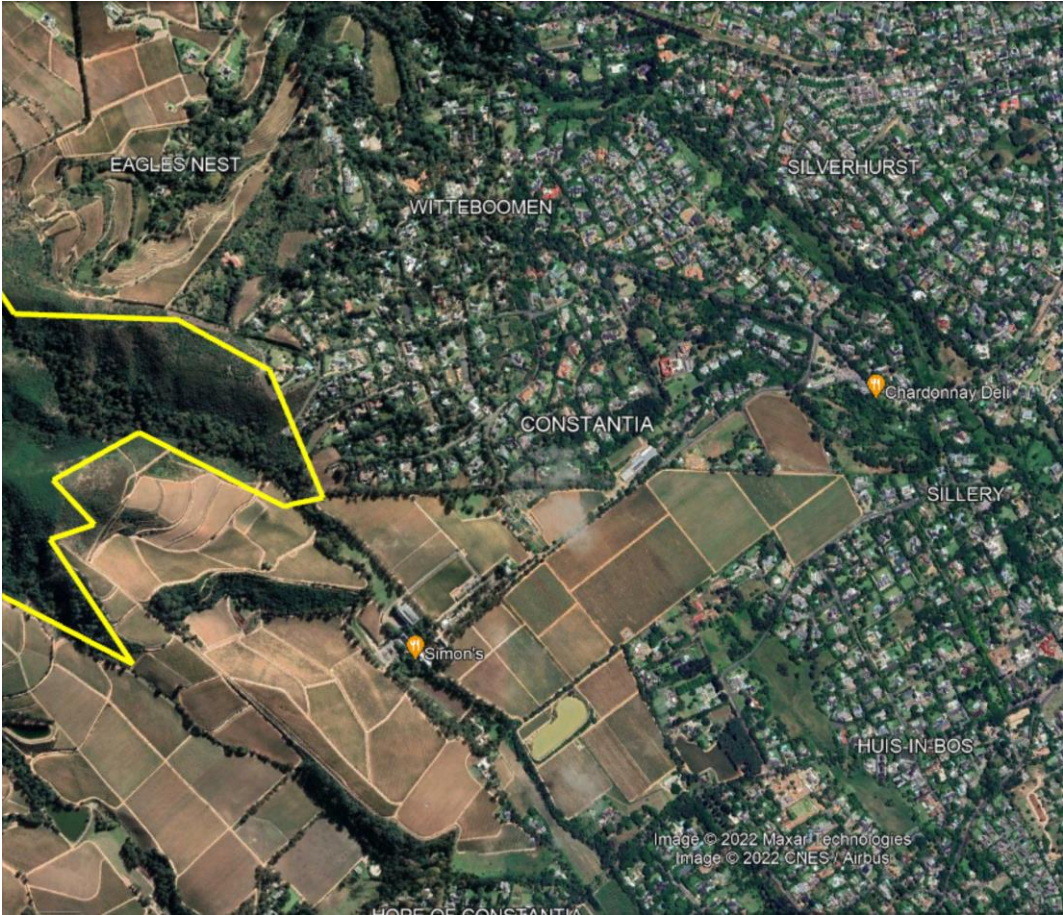
# The current problem – Hard Urban edge



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# Solution: Electric Fence

- 100% effective barrier
- Keeps baboons out of residential area
- Keeps baboons safely in their natural area
- Takes away the need to use aversive techniques
- Allows baboon to use their whole natural range
- Eliminates conflict with baboons
- Minimises conflict between residents, residents and authorities eliminates reputational damage.

# How do we know Electric Fences work

- Proposed 22 years ago
- Primate sanctuaries and zoo's
- Residential estate's
- Zwaanswyk road fence

# Why is it not adopted universally?

- Plenty of examples of fences that do not work
- Capital expense
- Complexities of erecting fences on other people properties
- Vandalism
- Requires individual ongoing maintenance and upkeep

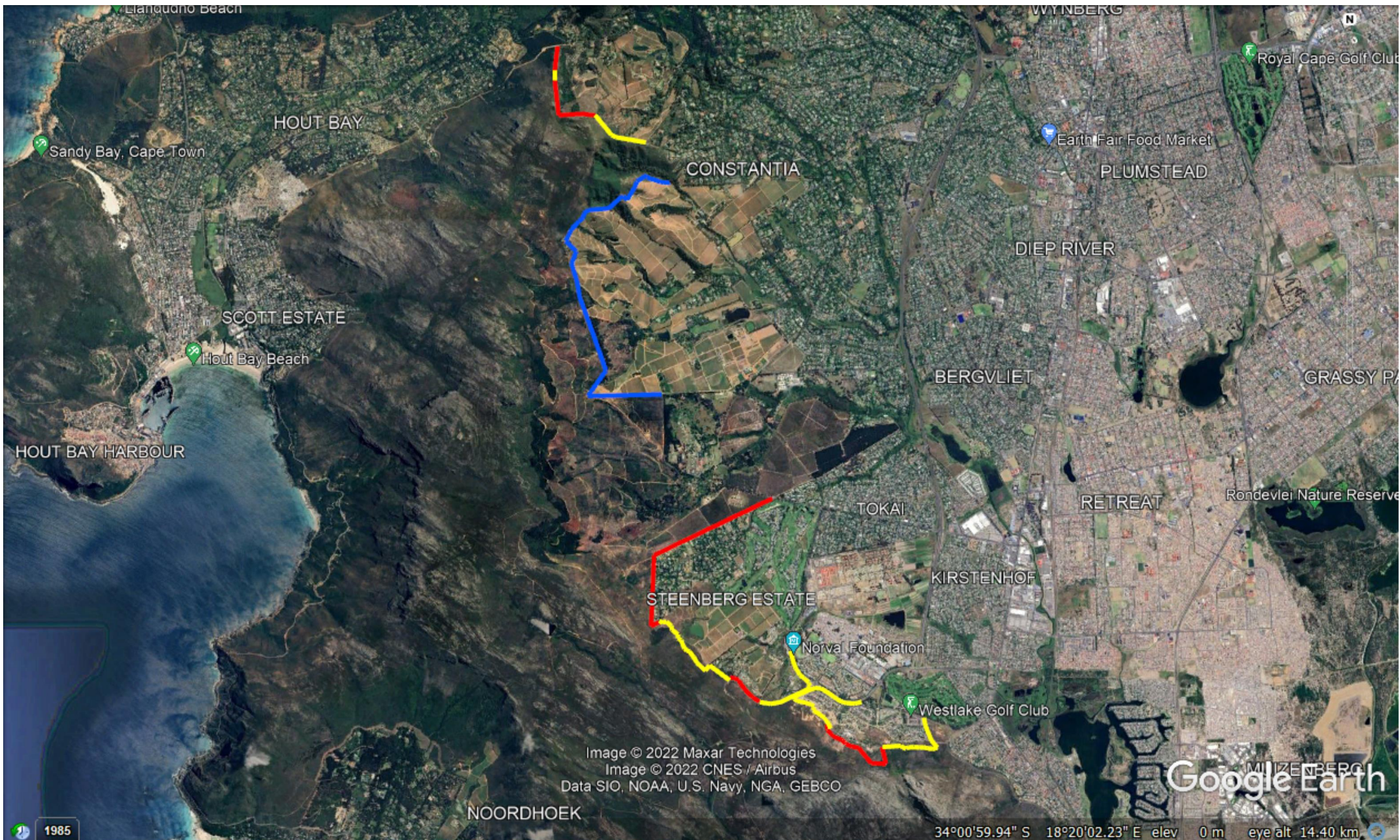
# Why do some fences not work ?

- Fences not on
- Fences not delivering adequate voltage
- Vegetation not cleared
- Wrong spacing and gaps that baboons can exploit
- No follow up of failure points
- No maintenance
- Not a priority in land managers busy schedule, especially for remote fences

# Results in Non-Functional Fences



# In Fact 74% of the Mountain Boundary is Already Fenced



# Only 26% Still Needs to be Fenced



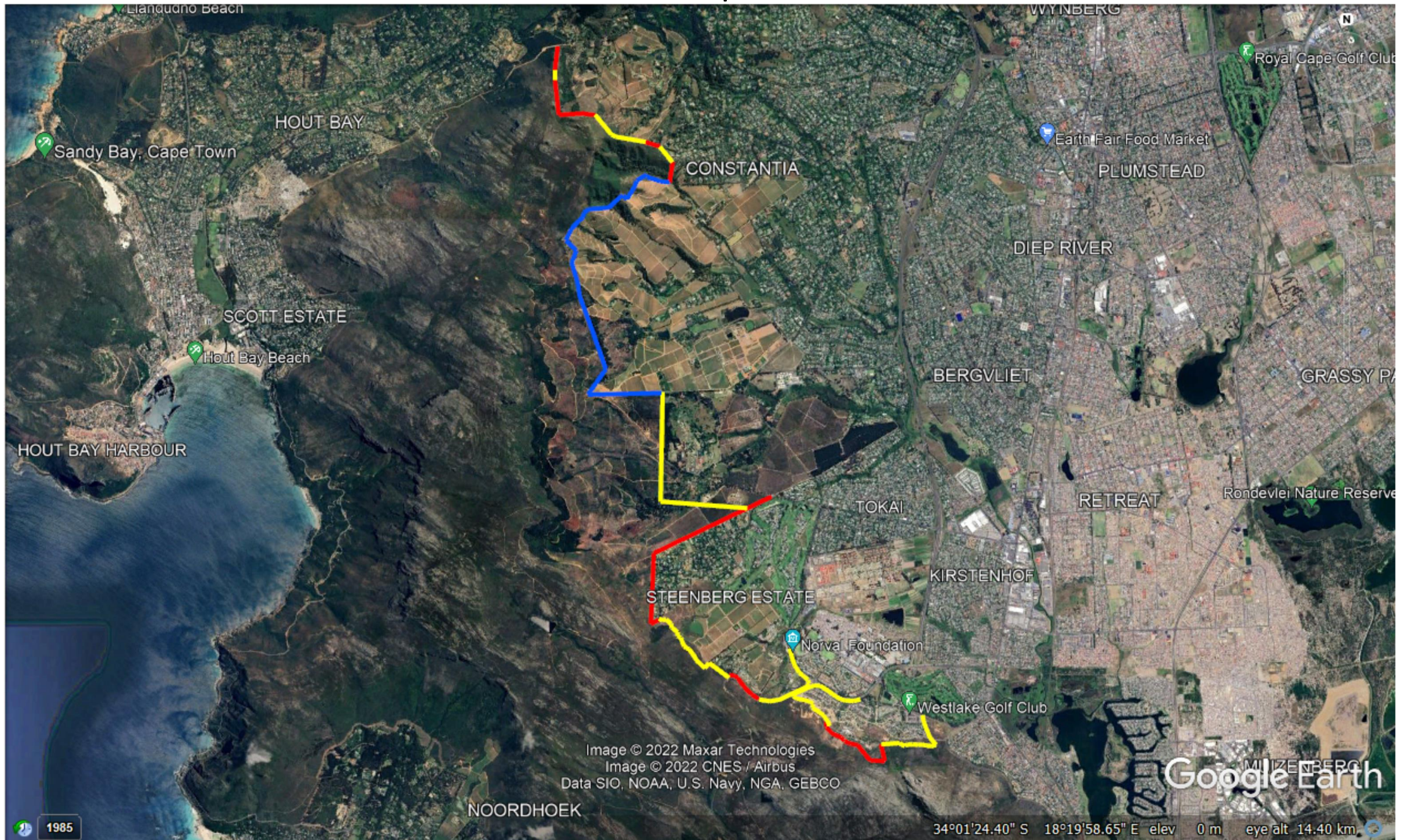
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies  
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth

1985

34°00'34.19" S 18°19'53.90" E elev 0 m eye alt 14.40 km

# 3.5km Needed to complete 13.5km fence



We Need to Collaboratively  
Build, Upgrade and Manage the  
Mountain Fence For the  
Common Good

# Why is a Common Good ?

- The length of the mountain fence is really very short compared to landowners individually fencing in their own properties.
- Much more effective for everyone to have a continuous mountain fence than one with gaps that baboons can get through
- Benefits all people below the fence, rather than individual property owners who manage to build and maintain a baboon-proof fence
- Maintenance is much easier and is bundled with ongoing monitoring and maintaining a continuous **fire break** and a **secure perimeter**
- It benefits authorities, as it avoids conflict and reputational damage
- Make baboon monitoring project more effective
- It protects the baboons



# How to make this happen?

- Create not for profit Common Good Mountain Fence Trust
- Sole purpose of the trust is to upgrade, build and maintain baboon-proof fences and 20m firebreaks on an ongoing basis on the Cape Peninsula
- Consist of a director, operations manager and a team of workers who will build the fences, regularly monitor and maintain them on behalf of the stake-holders, who contribute to the Trust for the materials for the fence and ongoing salaries to build fences and then monitor and maintain the fences and fire breaks on a weekly basis.

# What are the advantages of doing it this way? - 1

- Single entity responsible for building, upgrading, monitoring and maintaining fences and fire breaks (ensuring they are indeed baboon-proof)
- Clarity about responsibility of maintaining an effective baboon-proof fence
- Takes this responsibility from conservation managers, farm managers, estate managers, city official, all of which are already too busy
- It solves the problem of high initial costs of fence construction as the fence is constructed by the Trusts workers rather than contracted out.

# What are the advantages of doing it this way? - 2

- The people building the fence are the same people monitoring and maintaining the fence, so have an incentive to do it well and constantly improve it.
- Solves ongoing maintenance and issues of responsibility
- Economy of scale as more baboon proof fences are built around communities.

# What are the advantages of doing it this way? - 3

- Simplifies responsibilities and standards
- It circumvents issues around different authorities building fences on other authorities/people's land
- Trust is more agile than authorities in implementing this

# Why it is not so expensive? - 1

- Fencing materials cost R350,000 per km
- Contractors will charge between R1 million to R1.5 million per km
- Trust with 1 director, 1 manager and 12 workers, vehicles, running cost etc. will be R2 million a year
- 12 workers will be able to build and 24km of fences in a year while maintaining all other fences thus the labour cost of fences would be R83,000.00 per km
- Thus the cost of building fences would be R433,000.00 per km a saving of R567,000.00 – R933,000.0 per km while: 1) Getting **ongoing monitoring and maintenance**; 2) Ongoing **incentive for maintaining effective** fences.

# Why it is not so expensive? - 2

- Unlike merely continually investing in baboon monitors where the costs are ongoing without increasing effectiveness of keeping baboon out of residential areas Fences make the task easier after a once off payment and thus are an investment
- The city spent ~R12 million on baboon monitors per year over the past 10 years. If 1 million of that was allocated to fences that would have been enough to fence from scratch 27km of fences under the Common Good Mountain Fence scheme.
- That's enough to have fenced the gap in Constantia fencing, Da Gama Park /Welcome Glen, Simonstown, Kommetjie, Ocean View, Capri, Scarborough and Misty cliffs
- Money spent in the Common Good Mountain fence is not expensive – It is an economical investment in the Common Good

Thank You