

Baboons

Why in News?

Recently, #JusticeForRaygun widely shared on social media due to encounters between baboons and people in Pretoria.

*A young male baboon named **Raygun** burned to death by the teenagers in Africa.*

- **Scientific name** - Papio.
- **Baboons** - They are **world's largest monkeys**, and there are 5 different species of baboons.
 - **5 species** - Olive, Yellow, Chacma, Guinea, and Sacred baboon
- **Habitat** - Savanna, woodlands, bushlands, mountains, tropical forests and semi-arid regions.
- **Distribution** - Dry regions of Africa and Arabia.
- **Morphology** - Long bodies, not including substantial tails of varying lengths, large head, cheek pouches, dog-like noses and powerful jaws.
- Long snout, sharp canines, red (or black) backside, thick fur and its colour varies depending on the species.



- **Sexual Dimorphism**
 - **Males** - They are largest species, but females are only half this size.
 - They have a thick coat of fur, especially around their chest and head, where they have thick manes.
- **Uniqueness** - It doesn't have a prehensile (gripping) tail, meaning their tails are not used as a hand.
- **Behaviour** - Highly social, intelligent, travel in large noisy troops, and communicating by calls.
- **Diet** - They are omnivorous feed on fruits, grasses, seeds, eggs, insects, bark, roots,

birds, rodents, antelopes and sheep.

- **Threats:**

- Hunted for their skins
- Overgrazing
- Agricultural expansion
- Irrigation projects
- Overall human settlement growth.

- **Conservation status**

- **IUCN status** - Least concern.
- **CITES** - Appendix II.

References

1. [Down to Earth| Baboons and Human Fear](#)
2. [National Geographic| Baboons](#)
3. [AFW| Baboons](#)

