



Human Wildlife Solutions
Baboon Management
2017/2018 Annual Report
for
City of Cape Town



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Annual Baboon Management Report (2017/2018)

Preamble:

- This Annual Report is compiled for the City of Cape Town by Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS). Human Wildlife Solutions is the appointed service provider for the City of Cape Town, to manage 11 baboon troops on the Cape Peninsula.
- HWS took over the management of the 11 troops in August 2012. HWS has held three consecutive tenders. The first tender was for a two-year period from 1 August 2012 to 30 June 2014. The second tender contract period was from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017. The current contract commenced on 1 July 2017 and will conclude on 30 June 2020.
- During December 2016, the Misty Cliffs individuals were included in the Groot Olifantsbos (GOB) Troop's numbers because they joined the GOB Troop. The three females later broke away from the GOB Troop and are since referred to as the GOB Individuals.
- In terms of the current tender, HWS have a ranger stationed on Plateau Road to manage the interface between baboons and tourists on the road. However, the Plateau Road (PR) Troop does not raid in the official urban area and is therefore not regarded as a managed troop.
- This annual report covers the period of 1 July 2017 till 30 June 2018. The report a synopsis of trends in baboon management for the past six years, but with particular emphasis on the past 12 months.

Northern Baboon Troops' Ranging Areas

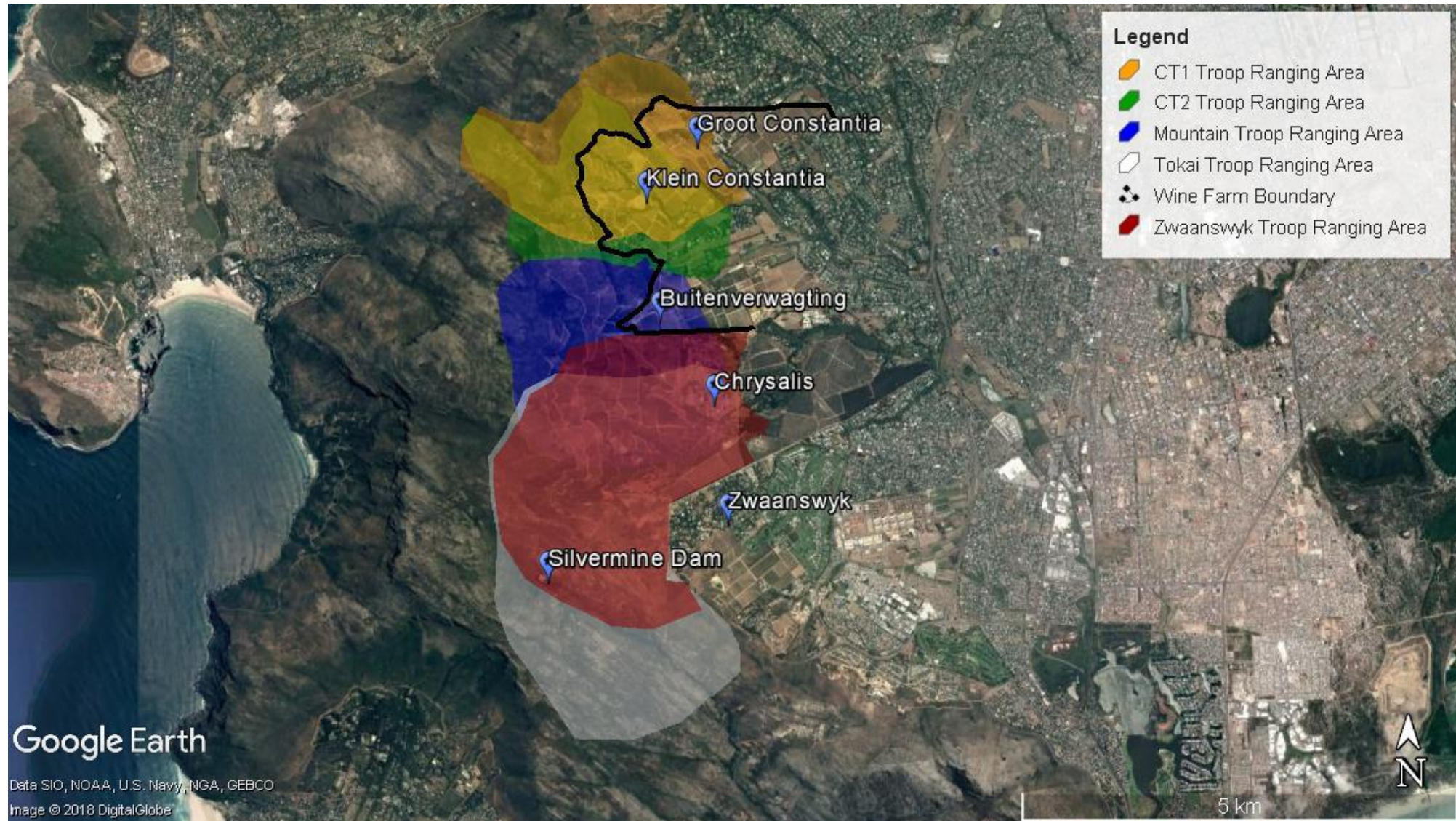


Figure 1: Northern Baboon Troops' Ranging Areas (July 2017 - June 2018)

Southern Baboon Troops' Ranging Areas



Figure 2: Southern Baboon Troops' Ranging Areas (July 2017 - June 2018)

Total Bin Raids: Combined data for Troops and Individuals

Summer (Oct – Mar) Winter (Apr – Sept)

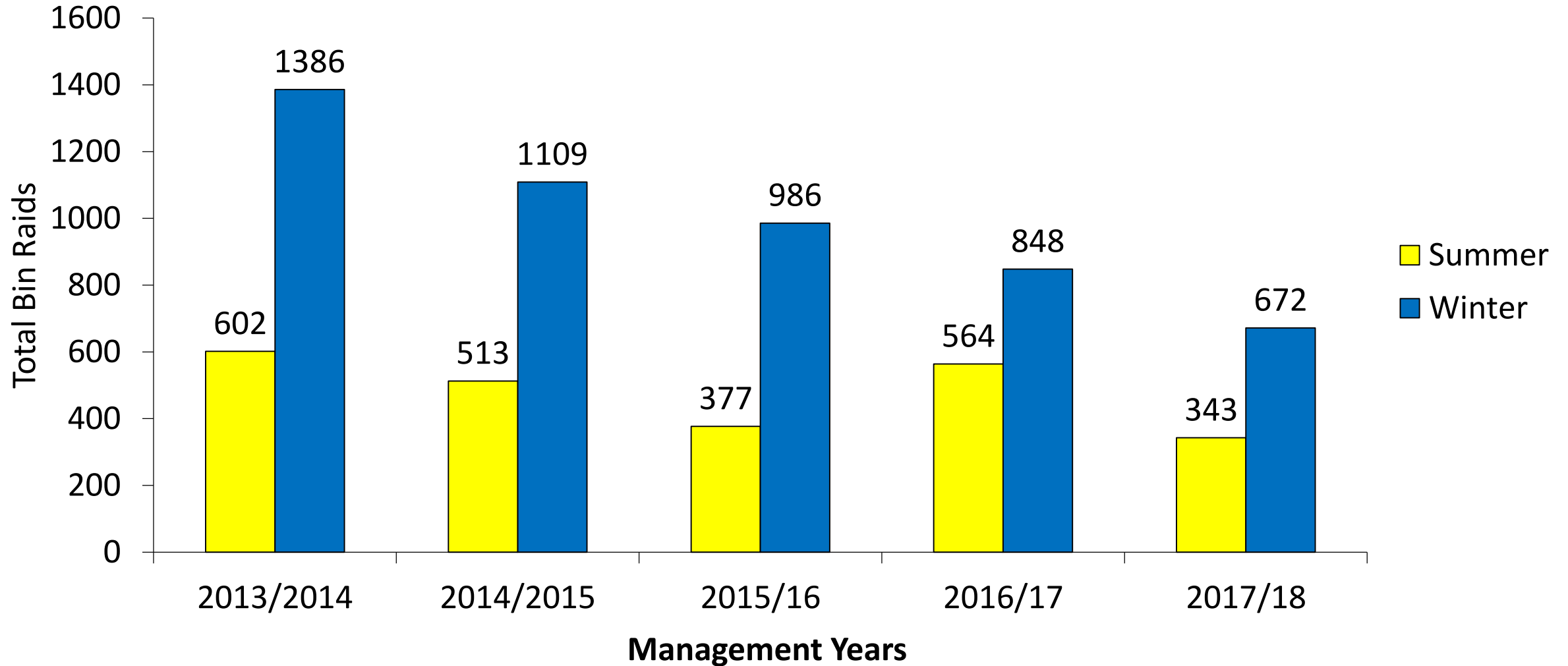


Figure 3: Total bin raids per season per management year (June to July). Data for troops and individuals are combined to reflect annual trends. Note an increase in summer raids in 2016/2017.

Total Annual Assertive, Bin and Urban Area Raids

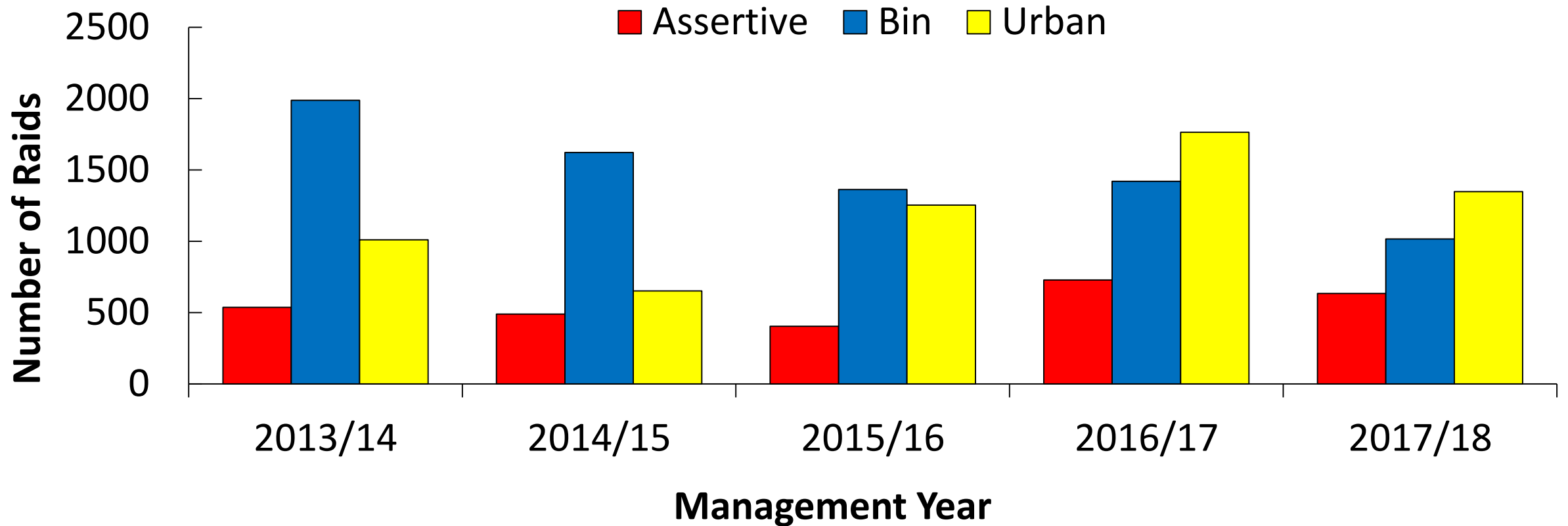


Figure 4: Total Annual Assertive, Bin and Urban Area Raids per year. Data for troops and individuals are combined to reflect annual trends.

Hotline Calls per Area (July 2017 - June 2018)

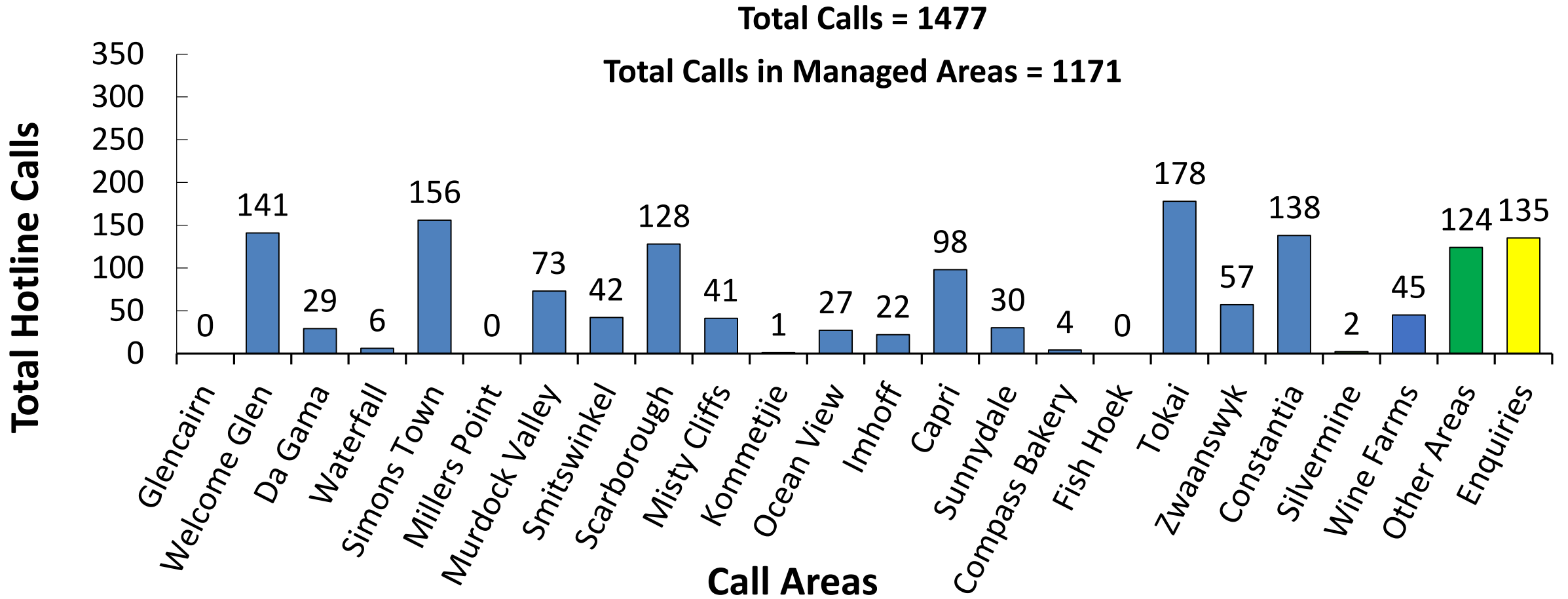


Figure 5: Total Hotline Calls for period July 2017 to June 2018.

HWS manages a 24-hour Public Hotline to deal with reports of baboons observed in urban areas. The information recorded, includes the callers' contact details, the area for dispatch, any coloured identification tags and an incident description. Raid related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons observed in urban areas. Managed Areas are those urban areas in which the managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas represent those areas beyond the urban edge, or the range of managed baboons, from which calls relating to baboons are made.

Total Annual Hotline Calls 2013 - 2018

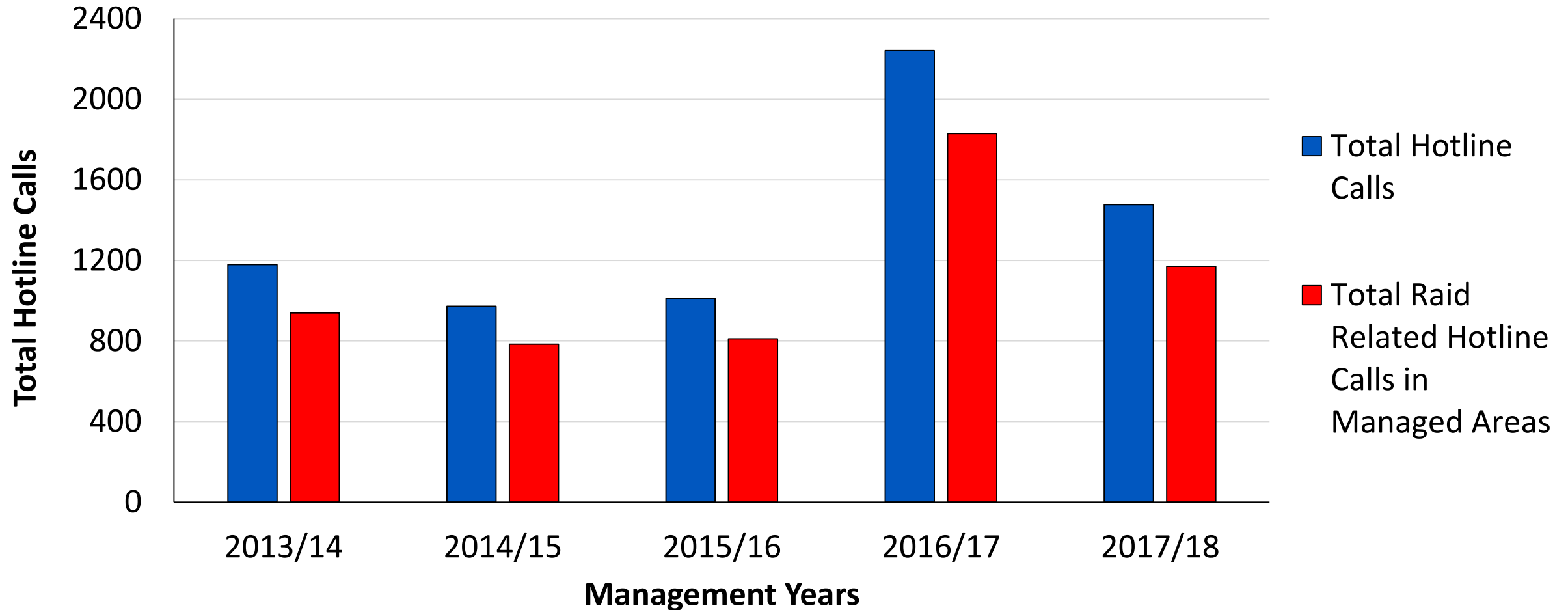


Figure 6: Total Annual Hotline Calls for all managed baboon troops and surrounding areas (August 2013 – June 2018).

Raid related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons observed in urban areas. Managed Areas are those urban areas in which the managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas represent those areas beyond the urban edge, or the range of managed baboons, from which calls relating to baboons are made.

Total Hotline Calls per Management Year

Management Year	Total Hotline Calls	Total Raid Related Hotline Calls
2013/14	1179	939
2014/15	972	784
2015/16	1011	811
2016/17	2241	1829
2017/18	1477	1171

Table 1: Total hotline calls for all managed troops per management year (July to June).

Note that total hotline calls started to increase in 2015/2016, then more than doubled all previous records in 2016/2017. This huge increase can largely be ascribed to three things: i) The 2015 fire in the north; ii) the 2016 and 2017 fires in the south, and iii) the severe 2016 - 2018 drought.

Population Data for the 11 Managed Troops (2013 – 2018)

TROOP	June Population Totals:						TOTAL BIRTHS July 2017 to June 2018	TOTAL DEATHS July 2017 to June 2018	EMIGRATION/ IMMIGRATION changes to population totals from July 2017 to June 2018	TOTAL EXPECTED POPULATION per Monthly Report Figures for June 2018	REMOVED per CapeNature Permits to Two Constantia Wine Farms	TOTAL COUNTED/ OBSERVED ON THE GROUND @ 30 June 2018
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018						
Da Gama Troop	42	43	46	52	52	55	17	8		62		55
Smitswinkel Bay	21	22	24	29	33	35	6	4	1	35		35
Waterfall	28	29	31	33	37	40	9	2	-1	44		40
Groot Olifantsbos*	20	19	16	17	23	29	4	1	1	25		29
<i>GOB Main Troop*</i>						23				19		23
<i>GOB Individuals*</i>						6	0	0		6		6
Misty Cliffs*	17	16	9	11	0	0	0	0		0		0
Slangkop	37	40	35	41	40	44	6	2		43		44
SUB TOTAL	165	169	161	183	185	203	42	17	1	209		203
Zwaanswyk	28	28	27	28	30	20	8	14	3	25		20
Tokai	64	70	61	65	69	75	14	7	-1	74		75
Mountain	41	47	49	47	57	60	16	8		62	3	60
Constantia 1 & 2:	70	69	77	81	85	56	19	8	-3	94	4	56
<i>Constantia 1**</i>					63	46	10	7		65	2	46
<i>Constantia 2**</i>					22	10	9	1		29	2	10
SUB TOTAL	203	214	214	221	241	211	57	37	-1	255	7	211
TOTAL	368	383	375	404	426	414	99	54	0	464	7	414

Table 2: Population data for all managed troops per management year (July to June), from 2013 to 2018.

*The Misty Cliffs individuals have been included in the GOB Troop totals since January 2017, when they merged with the GOB Troop. These individuals later returned to Scarborough and continued to move above and between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs. Sub-totals are shown in this table to differentiate between the GOB Main Troop and the other six individuals (three adult females and 3 juveniles). **The Constantia Troop split into CT1 and CT2 late in 2015. The totals for the separate troops are illustrated here from 2017 onwards.

Annual Baboon Mortalities with Classifications

Deaths	2012*	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 to Date (to June 2018)	TOTAL	Average Annual Deaths
Management	17	16	8	7	7	12	2	69	2.6%
Human Induced (HID)	8	7	10	11	7	6	10	59	2.2%
<i>Direct **</i>	8	6	6	8	4	3	3	38	1.4%
<i>Wine Farms per CN permits**</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0.5%
<i>Indirect ***</i>	0	1	4	3	3	3	0	14	0.5%
Natural	7	30	19	33	16	28	8	141	5.1%
Unknown	1	3	0	4	7	13	10	38	1.3%
TOTAL DEATHS	33	56	37	55	37	59	30	307	11.2%
TOTAL POPULATION	354	355	380	390	419	446	414		

Table 3: Annual Causes of baboon deaths since 2012 (January to December)

This table shows the breakdown of the causes of baboon deaths since 2012. (*Data collected during the first half of 2012 provided by Baboon Research Unit, UCT). All recorded baboons deaths have been summarised into three categories: **Management** – baboons euthanased for management reasons according to the WAAC raiding protocol; **Human Induced Deaths** are divided into two categories; (a**) **Direct** – baboons killed by dogs, car accidents, poisoning, shootings etc.; (b***) **Indirect** – electrocutions, human related fires. This category also includes baboons seriously wounded by the above causes, then humanely euthanased; **Natural** – baboons dying from old age, fights, infanticide etc.; (iv) **Unknown** – occasionally a baboon is found dead and the cause could not be determined.

Baboon Troops' Percentage Time Out of Town

Management Year	Troops	Individuals
2013/14	98.8%	96.4%
2014/15	98.7%	97,0%
2015/16	98.9%	95,9%
2016/17	99.4%	95.1%*
2017/18	99.7%	93.3%*

Table 4: Percentage time troops and individuals spent out of town per management year (July – June)

*Although troop time out of town continued to increase year on year, individual time out of town decreased over the past two years, to levels below 2012/13.

Troops Annual Average % Time out of Town

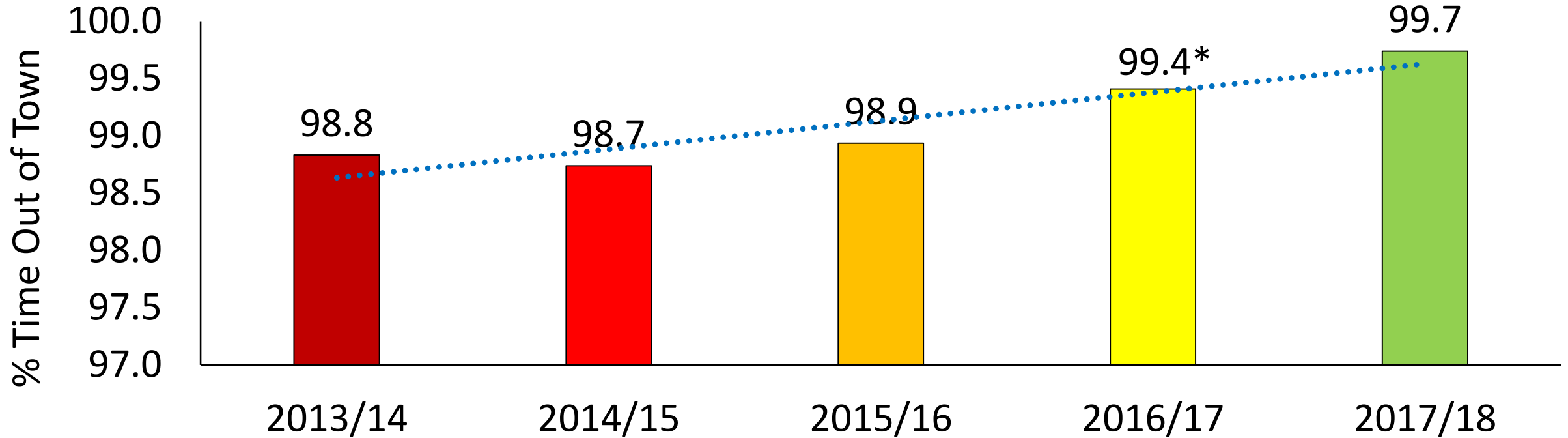


Figure 7: Managed baboon troops average percentage time out of town per management year (June – July). The City of Cape Town’s 2017 requirement is that time out of town is, on average, at least 90%.

Summary of Trends in Baboon Management: 2017/2018

- **FIRE** has probably had the most significant effect on the managed baboons troops over the past three years. In 2015, the fire in the north burnt almost the entire foraging range of the four troops that lived there. This resulted in most of the pine trees in the plantations needing to be felled and removed a high percentage of the baboons' normal diet.
- There were three major effects of the fire in the North:
 - The Constantia Troop split into two sub-equal groups, thus increasing the total number of baboon troops in the north from four to five.
 - After the pine plantations were felled, the trees were not replaced by fynbos, but mostly by a bank of invasive alien vegetation. This rapidly grew into an almost impenetrable thicket that limited both baboon and human movement, and severely restricted the baboons' access to natural forage.
 - As a result of reduced forage for baboons and long sections of the Constantia wine farms' electric fences being burnt, three baboon troops severely increased their foraging efforts on the wine farms in the summers of 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.
 - As a result of this increased baboon activity on the farms, in 2017 two wine farms applied to CapeNature for a permit to hunt the baboons as damage causing animals. To date seven baboons have officially been shot during 2018 on the farms in terms of this permit.
- **FIRE IN THE SOUTH:** Baboon troops in the south were hardly affected by the 2015 fires in the north. However, there were widespread fires across the south in January 2016 and again in January 2017. The only baboon troop in the south whose home range was not seriously effected by these fires, was the Smitswinkel Troop.
- **DROUGHT:** The drought of 2016 and 2017 compounded the effects of all the fires, but particularly in the south as they came just after the fires and then provided almost no rain for regrowth. The regrowth of fynbos only became evident in 2018 but by then many effects had become evident for all the troops after these traumatic natural events.
- The combined effects of the **FIRES** and **DROUGHT:**
 - Raids by both troops and individuals increased quite markedly in 2016/2017. This was particularly evident during the hot dry summer season (drought).
 - This was evident for all types of raids.
 - Hotline calls increased dramatically in 2016/2017 but reduced again the following year. Nevertheless hotline calls in 2017/2018 were still significantly greater than in any other previous year.
- Over the past five years the populations of the troops in the north have consistently grown faster than those in the south. This has been ascribed to the troops in the north having access to the products of the pine plantations (pine nuts and mushrooms) and farm crops (barley in winter and grapes in summer). Improved electric fencing and the declared hunting could potentially have led to the decline in the northern troops' population this winter.
- **TIME OUT OF TOWN:** It is pleasing to note, that despite the fires and the current drought, the average percentage time the troops have spent out of town has consistently increased almost every year. It is currently averaging a high of 99.7% for 2017/2018. The effects of fire and drought and poor waste management in some areas, particularly in Simon's Town and Da Gama, are more evident for solitary raiding individuals however. Here the average percentage time out of town has decreased over the past two years to a low of 93.3%.

Dr Phil Richardson

Project Manager

Human Wildlife Solutions