



# **Human Wildlife Solutions**

**Monthly Report**

**January 2015**

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report covers the four-week period from 27 December 2014 to 23 January 2015. In general, all the baboon troops' behaviour has been much the same this month as it has been for the past few summer months. There is still adequate forage available in the fynbos and all the troops, with the exception of Misty Cliffs, have been kept out of town for well over 99% of the time.

There has, however, been one rather disturbing new development this month. This has been the sudden rise in status of two young sub-adult males, who have now taken to leading splinter groups of adults away from the main troop to raid in town. In Da Gama, a very young sub-adult male, DG13, has suddenly started breaking away from the troop and often taking a contingent of females and their offspring with him.

In Misty Cliffs another young sub-adult male, MC2, has also suddenly taken to raiding town, but in his case he has already started perfecting the art of breaking and entering, like GOB5, who was most probably his father. The young age of these new raiders is a worrying sign for the future rehabilitation of the baboons of the Cape Peninsula.

## B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

### South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

#### 1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Smitswinkel Troop is doing well in terms of spending most of their time foraging on fynbos and along the coast. In addition to this, they are spending very little time lingering along the road. However, there are worrying signs that will need to be addressed before they become increasingly problematic to deal with.

A young sub-adult male, SWB8, seems to have a fairly high rank in the troop structure as he is already able to take several individuals with him in a different direction from the alpha male, SWB6. Surprisingly he is able to take one to two adult females, as well as younger members of the troop. He often attempts to raid and has to be managed intensively. At present he does not have a VHF collar, so it is planned to fit him with a collar as soon as possible. Dr. Dorothy Breed has attempted on several occasions to dart him for the collaring, but the vegetation and the terrain, as well as the traffic along the route, make it difficult to do this safely. Nevertheless, the radio collaring of this baboon remains a high priority.

On 31 December 2014, another juvenile baboon was electrocuted to death while playing on a power line pole above the road near Castle Rock. This is the fifth death resulting from electrocution on this power line over the last four months. With permission from the Electricity Department, several key poles have been greased in the hopes that this will prevent, or at least discourage, the juveniles from climbing the poles and gaining access to the electrified cables above.

On 2 January a group of unknown individuals entered a cottage at South Winds. It was discovered that there was a damaged box of Rattex in the kitchen and it appeared as if some of the baboons might have eaten the Rattex. The troop has been monitored closely since this incident but no individuals have shown any signs of poisoning.

Another worrying aspect is that the baboons are still attracted to dog food that is left outside all day at the Blue Gums property, which provides holiday accommodation. The baboons, especially the males, go there for the food. On 8 January, SWB8 was cornered by two dogs on the property. SWB8 managed to dart up a tree and flee before any altercation with the dogs took place.

The troop remains a non-raiding troop, with only individuals occasionally going to raid. However, the incidences that have occurred recently have shown that there are still a number of attractants in the area and these issues need to be addressed before it becomes a raiding troop again. It is a very high priority that SWB6 (the alpha male) be preserved as a non-raiding male.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
SE		1 In urban area						4 Attacking pets						7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																	
BABOON TROOP: Smitwinkel		2 Raid bins						5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle						8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																	
MONTH: January 2015		3 Non malicious damage						6 Raid occupied house or vehicle						9 Nocturnal Raiding																	
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	TOTAL	
SWB6	M																												0		
Troop														1											1				2		
UnID Individuals								5																					1		
UnID Fem	F																					1							1		
SWBF1	F																												0		
SWB8	M														1									6			1		3		
UnID Male	M																					1							1		
UnID Juveniles																													0		
SWB7	M																												0		
	%																											HRS			
Troop	0.1																											0.25			
Individuals	0.6																											1.42			
Roost:	AM	1	1	6	5	5	5	5	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	4	5	3	3	4	3	4	5	5	5	3	
Roost:	PM	1	6	5	5	5	5	3	3	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	3	4	5	4	3	4	3	4	5	5	5	3	3		
Roost Sites		1 Smits Caves						2 Partridge Point						3 Bluegums						4 Millers Point						5 Rocklands Farm					
		6 Castle Rock						7 SANParks																							
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 1: Raid sheet for Smitwinkel Troop

## 2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. The two adult males in the troop have discovered the Cape Farmhouse vineyard. The property has alien vegetation leading up to the vineyard from the foot of the mountain, as well as pine trees on the surrounding farms (see Figure 2). The grapes, alien vegetation and pine cones are major attractants for the baboons who run down from the South African Naval Armament Depot (SANAD) sleep site to the area around the Cape Farmhouse early in the morning.

Alternatively they sleep at the Red Hill sleep site which is just a few hundred metres away from the Cape Farmhouse. The fynbos is very dense in the area, and once the baboons enter the alien vegetation it is very difficult for Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS) rangers to stop them from entering the farm.

The troop predominantly spends their time in the alien vegetation or feeding on the pine cones above the vineyards. The males frequently attempt to run down to the restaurant on the Cape

Farmhouse property. Once the baboons are on the property, the HWS rangers may not attempt to move them as they do not have permission to enter the property. When the males are on the property, the females will feed on the top rows of the vineyard. There is no hard boundary, such as a fence, between the farm and the alien vegetation.

When the baboons are in the alien vegetation it is extremely difficult to see them or push them back. It is becoming increasingly difficult in the mornings to prevent the troop from entering the property because two rangers are left at the bottom of the mountain to prevent the males from entering the Cape Farmhouse property, and one ranger is left at SANAD to stop them from running to Simon's Town.

The situation is further complicated by the Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB) occasionally breaking out of the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) and entering that specific area, feeding on the pine cones and sleeping in the pines. On 15 January both troops were in this area together and the rangers reported hearing a lot of fighting in the dense vegetation. The Waterfall Troop went back up to SANAD and the GOB Troop returned to sleep in the pine trees at Shamballah Tea House & Holistic Centre, which is adjacent to the Cape Farmhouse, outside the reserve.



Figure 2: Waterfall Troop (WF) and Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB) home range overlap, as well as, highlighting the alien vegetation leading to the vineyard in red.

The SANAD sleep site is still the preferred sleep site for the Waterfall Troop as they have slept there 22 out of 28 nights in this reporting period. The lack of baboon-proofing at SANAD seems to have triggered the raiding behaviour in the males. If problem areas i.e. waste management, baboon-proofing of doors and windows as well as cutting down young fruit trees at SANAD could be addressed and fixed, then one could attempt to keep the troop completely away from the Cape Farmhouse restaurant and vineyard, as well as the Red Hill Settlement.

Although the raid sheet does not reflect this, the area in and around the Cape Farmhouse is currently a high conflict area because the farmers are very unhappy with the current situation of the baboons raiding the vineyards and houses. The area around SANAD and above the Cape of Good Hope Nursery provides an abundance of natural forage for the baboons but the current raiding cycle needs to be broken. Hopefully as soon as the grapes are harvested the males will lose interest in going to the vineyard.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SE		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: January 2015		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	TOTAL
Troop																														0
RH2	M																													0
WF2	M																								6					1
WFF3	F																													0
WFF4	F																													0
UnID Females	F																													0
UnID Juveniles																														0
UnID Male	M																													0
UnID Individuals																														0
	%																													HRS
Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	0.1																								10					0.17
Roost:	AM	11	10	10	15	10	9	9	9	10	9	9,13	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Roost:	PM	10	10	11	10	9	9	9	10	9	9,13	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Roost Sites	1	Waterfall Cliff			2	Happy Valley Mnt			3	Signal School			4	Waterfall Barracks			5	Mountain Residents side												
	6	Admiral footpath			7	Cape Farm House			8	Happy Valley Home			9	Red Hill			10	SANAD												
	11	Mountain CoGHN			12	Gate 3 - Plateau Road			13	Rocklands farm			14	North peak			15	Bungalow												
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks	South African Naval Ammunition depot (SANAD) area indicated in red																													

Figure 3: Raid sheet for Waterfall Troop

### 3. Da Gama Troop

Since August 2013, SK3 has been the alpha male of the Da Gama Troop and there has been great improvement in terms of the troop spending time out of town and in the mountain. If they sleep at the flats or at the pines adjacent to the flats, they only arrive at the sleep site when it's almost dark. In the mornings, SK3, together with the majority of the troop, come down from on top of the flats into the adjacent natural vegetation, then move up the mountain to the south.

Although the troop spends most of their time in the mountain, and raiding by the entire troop has decreased significantly, there are still several management problems in the area. The biggest problem is the poor waste management and baboon-proofing in Da Gama Park. The abundance of waste and unprotected food is a very powerful attractant to the Da Gama baboons, most of whom were born in, or on the fringes of town, and grew up on a diet which contained significant amounts of human derived foods (HDF's).

In order to rehabilitate this troop, one will need to completely break the current raiding cycle. At present juveniles are still being taught the rewards of raiding by two sub-adult males and some females, and this training cycle is not likely to be broken in the short term while so much food is still so readily available in Da Gama Park. This problem is compounded by the easy access the baboons have to sleep on and in the Da Gama Park Flats and the pines nearby.



Figure 4: Sleep sites utilised by the Da Gama troop since HWS started in August 2012



Figure 5: (a) Compost heap not baboon-proofed (Welcome Glen) and (b) vegetables just harvested and left outside (Da Gama Park).

Currently DG11 is proving very difficult to manage as he breaks away from the troop, with or without other individuals and goes straight to town. He has started sleeping away from the troop with approximately three to four individuals and sometimes spends the entire day feeding far away from the troop. Another very young sub-adult, DG13, has also started forming raiding parties. He then leads his raiding party to different areas from where DG11 is currently raiding.

In December 2014, DG12 had a leg injury from a baboon on baboon fight. Dr. Breed saw him on 23 December and it was decided to monitor him and allow him time to recover. The fight was never witnessed by HWS rangers but it is thought that the fight occurred with DG11, as DG12 is a sub-adult male who breaks away from the troop and is usually followed by SK3.

On 14 January, DG12 was darted in order to assess his injury because it did not seem to be healing. On closer inspection his ligament looked as if it had been torn and he already had muscle atrophy. After being dragged for so long, the bone of the foot had been exposed. It was decided that DG12 should be euthanized because his injury was so severe.



Figure 6: (a) The foot of DG12 shown from the bottom and (b) the top

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SOUTH EAST		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	TOTAL					
BABOON TROOP: Da Gama		1 In urban area	4 Attacking pets	7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																										
MONTH: January 2015		2 Raid bins	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																										
		3 Non malicious damage	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle	9 Nocturnal Raiding																										
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	TOTAL
Troop																													0	
SK3	M																												0	
DG11	M		1	2			1	2		5			1	6,7	1	1	2	6	2	6				1	1			1	17	
DG12	M			1							1							1										3		
DG13	M																												0	
DGF1	F																												0	
DGF2	F															1									2	1			3	
UniD Females	F						1	2			1			1	1									1					0	
UniD Female	F									1														1		1	2	1		6
UniD Juvs				1			1			1				1	1			1	1	1			2	1	1	2	1		14	
	%																												HRS	
Troop	0.0																												0.00	
Individuals	12.4		60	80			45	255			25		105	160	45	480	125	40		155	180	90		135	101	260	50	115	30	42.27
Roost:	AM	1,2	1	1	1,2	1,2	1,8	4,2	8	1	1,2	1,2	18	1	1	1	1,2	1,4	1,2	1,2,3	1	3,1	18	1	1,3,4	1,2	1	1,2,8	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1,2	1,2	4,2	8	1	1,2	1,2	18	1	1	1	1,4	1,2	1,2,3	1	8	24	18	18	1,2	1	1,2,8	1	22		
Roost Sites	1	Flats		2	Pines - Flats		3	Pines - Da Gama		4	Pines - WG		5	Sport Fields Stables																
	6	Compass Bakery		7	Pines - Outspan		8	Jacks Shop		9	Elsie's Peak		10	Rotary Camp																
	11	Witsand		12	Slangkop		13	Platkop		14	Rasta Camp		15	Ocean View																
	16	KL sleep site		17	Maylands		18	Elsies River Valley		19	Red Hill / Windford		20	Grootkop																
	21	16th Avenue, DG		22	Lewis Gay Dam		23	Pinehaven		24	Kleinplaas dam		25	Scarborough																
	26			27			28			29			30																	
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 7: Raid sheet for Da Gama Troop

**Births and Deaths**

Four births were recorded this month:

Two in the Smitswinkel Troop, both on 9 January

Two in the Da Gama Troop on 4 January and 22 January

Two deaths were recorded this month:

One juvenile electrocuted from the Smitswinkel Troop on 31 December

One death (DG12) from the Da Gama Troop on 14 January



### **Recommendations**

- **Powerlines:** A long term solution for the powerline poles along the the Smitswinkelbay route is urgently needed. There have been five electrocution deaths between October 2014 and January 2015.
- **Baboon-proofing:** Implementation of baboon-proofing recommendations and removal of the young fruit trees at SANAD is urgently needed before the winter months.
- **Waste Management/Baboon-proofing:** Continued poor waste management at the Kroonseil and Bluefin flats in Da Gama Park attracts baboons on a daily basis. The current system in place no longer works in controlling the waste. It is recommended that a bin bay is built and an electric apron is put up around both sets of flats. Additionally windows and doors of houses in Da Gama Park should be baboon-proofed. Raids will not be resolved unless both waste management and baboon-proofing is rectified.
- **Compost heaps/Vegetable gardens:** Compost heaps and vegetable gardens should either be baboon-proofed or removed from highly affected areas.
- **Education:** Education regarding baboons and how to deal with baboons should be conducted with the children of Da Gama Park. There is a constant turnover of residents at the flats and many children will not know how to deal with baboons.
- **Holiday Accommodation:** Holiday accommodation residences regularly provide feeding sites for baboons because the residences either do not provide adequate baboon proofing, or do not inform visitors how to cope with baboon incursions. Plans to alleviate these problems need to be considered by the relevant authorities.

### **South Western Region – Area Manager: John de Jager**

#### **1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)**

The GOB Troop has moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) during this reporting period. The troop has been tracked using telemetry and pushed back into CoGH when necessary. The troop moved throughout their home range and exited CoGH on eight occasions. On exiting the reserve no raids occurred, but there was one instance where the troop entered the Cape Farmhouse Vineyards.

On the other occasions they moved through the Protea stands behind CoGH nursery. The troop was monitored with minimal interference from HWS rangers when they were inside the CoGH, but on occasion it was deemed necessary to block the troop from entering the Shamballah Tea House & Holistic Centre and Cape Farmhouse area. This is to prevent any possibility of the troop raiding in the area.

At no time this month did the troop attempt to enter the urban area and no raids were recorded.

Klein Olifantsbos Troop was seen at Groot Olifantsbos on numerous occasions. This could be a factor influencing why the GOB Troop is moving in and out of the area. Currently, as food availability is still abundant, the management plan is to ensure that the GOB troop remains inside the reserve as much as possible. In previous years, during the winter season, the troop has been allowed to forage in the area above the CoGH Nursery and near Shamballah Tea House.

Later this year, when the food reserves inside CoGH have diminished, the troop will again be allowed to forage in this area. The drawbacks of allowing the troop to forage in this area are that they have greater access to human habitation and foods and therefore have to be more actively managed. The nett result is that the troops interaction with humans and their dependence on human derived foods both increase.

## **2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)**

The Misty Cliffs Troop has spent nine days of the reporting period in the Bonteberg region of the CoGH Reserve. The troop spent the rest of the month using the Misty Cliffs and Witsand sleep sites.

Most of the raids that occurred over this period were attributed to MCF2, MCF3 and MC2. On 12 occasions bin raids were recorded for MCF2, with five of these raids occurring away from the troop. Eleven bin raids were attributed to MCF3. MCF3 is a high ranking female within the troop and, as noted on the raid sheet below, raids mainly with the troop as a whole.

MC2 has recently started maturing into a sub-adult male. He has also shown a dramatic increase in raiding behaviour this month. MC2 caused damage to property on six occasions and attempted to gain access to a household at night on two occasions. In addition to these raids, MC2 raided occupied houses, unoccupied houses and bins on numerous occasions.

The troop entered the urban area on eight occasions this month. Bin raids were recorded in both Misty Cliffs and Scarborough, but the troop focussed largely on fruit trees, including grape vines, and lush natural vegetation within the urban space.

KOB1 (the alpha male of Misty Cliffs Troop) is still proving to be a valuable asset to the rehabilitation of the troop as he has shown that he is clearly a non-raiding baboon. He entered the urban area on two occasions in an attempt to collect MCF3 from the troop, but spent the rest of the time on the firebreak calling for the females. KOB1 is currently spending most of his time following MCF3.

MCF3 is a noted raiding individual who often pushes for the urban space then calls the troop to join her there. KOB1 has still not fully consolidated his position as the alpha male. On one occasion he managed to get the bulk of the troop to leave town and follow him into the reserve. Unfortunately, however, MCF3 then called from the urban space and the bulk of the troop turned back to re-join her.

On 29 December, one birth was recorded. On the same day one death was recorded. The death was attributed to infanticide by KOB1.

The female, MCF2, is continuing to display strange behaviour by spending prolonged periods away from the troop and raiding alone. In addition, she continues to call the rest of the troop to join her in the urban space. MCF3 has exhibited similar behaviour, but as she is a higher ranking female the troop is much more likely to respond to her calls. On multiple occasions MCF3 has managed to get the rest of the troop to join her in town.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Misty Cliffs		1	In urban area			4	Attacking pets			7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing																			
MONTH: January		2	Raid bins			5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle			8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																			
YEAR: 2015		3	Non malicious damage			6	Raid occupied house or vehicle			9	Nocturnal raiding																			
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
MCF2	F			2	2		2	2					2	2	2	2										2	2	2	2	12
MCF3	F						2						2	2	2	2,2									2	2	2		10	
KOB1	M														1														2	
MC2	M						2	8					2	5	2,6	2		8,9	8,9	8,6					8	8	2	8,6	19	
Troop							2						2	2	2	2									2		2		8	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS					
Troop	6,2						180						60	150	300	30										240	60		180	20
Males & Females	6,4			60	30		180	60							60		300	180	180						40	100	40		20,5	
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	
		1 Misty Cliffs		2 CoGH Reserve		3 Witsand		4		5		6		7		8		9		10										
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks		1 Birth: 29/12/14 1 Death on 29/12/14																												

Figure 8: Raid sheet for Misty Cliffs Troop

### 3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop has spent all of the reporting period roosting at the Compass Bakery roost site. At no time did the troop as a whole did enter the urban space.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1	In urban area			4	Attacking pets			7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																			
MONTH: January		2	Raid bins			5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle			8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																			
YEAR: 2015		3	Non malicious damage			6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																							
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	TOTAL
DG6	M					2		2				2	2	2	2					2		2	2				2		10	
SKF1	F						2					2												2					3	
SKF2	F						2					2																	2	
Un-ID Sub-adult	M																									2			1	
Troop																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							Hrs					
Troop																														
Males + Females	0,6				10		10					10		10	5	10				8		10	15	20			10		1,97	
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost Sites		1 Slangkop		2 Ocean View		3 Compass Bakery		4 Witsand		5		6		7		8		9		10										
ID Features of Baboons		DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag																												
General remarks																														

Figure 9: Raid sheet for Slangkop Troop

Bin raids were recorded in Ocean View and Compass Bakery. Most raids can be attributed to DG6, the alpha male, but all raids were very brief with a maximum of 20 minutes being spent in town. On two occasions individuals managed to gain access to the bins at Compass Bakery in the late evening. This is normally due to individuals running down the mountain while they are on their way back to the sleep site.

DG6 has proved to be a very protective male. His raiding behaviour is currently not of concern as it is merely a few raids on unsecured bins and no raids on houses. He spends very little time in town and always returns to the troop within 15 minutes or less.

The Slangkop Troop has spent most of the month foraging on the alien vegetation above Imhoff's Gift and in the mountains above Ocean View. Each evening they have returned to the Compass Bakery sleep site, which is their preferred sleep site during the summer months. The troop has, on occasion, attempted to move towards Slangkop or the Kommetjie cliffs, but have been prevented from doing so. Past experience has shown that it is extremely difficult to manage the troop in these areas with their steep slopes, large rocks and dense vegetation.

### **Births and Deaths**

One birth was recorded in the Misty Cliffs Troop on 29 December.

One death (infanticide) was recorded in the Misty Cliffs Troop on 29 December.

### **Recommendations**

- **Education and waste management** should both be addressed again in the Ocean View area. The Slangkop Troop has a sleep site close to town and the two top rows of houses usually get raided on bin day. These houses should all be baboon proofed, and residents should also be advised on baboon-proofing their vegetable gardens or compost heaps.
- **Law enforcement:** A stronger law enforcement presence is required in Scarborough, to prevent people from intentionally feeding baboons or creating 'feeding patches'. Baboon proofing of vegetable gardens and compost heaps should be enforced.

## **Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury**

### **1. Tokai Troop**

Following the usual pattern of the Tokai Troop, they have spent this month in Tokai Plantation. The troop spent the first week of this reporting period on the Zwaanswyk side of Tokai Plantation, near Zwaanswyk Road, and above Steenberg Estate. In an effort to avoid raids in Zwaanswyk (see raiding descriptions below) the troop was encouraged to spend more time on the northern side of Tokai Plantation, above Chrysalis Academy, Porter Estate and near Buitenverwachting. From the middle of January they have been keeping to this area.

Males that have been difficult to manage this month include TK28, TK40 and TK43. TK28 is the previous alpha male of the Tokai Troop, who has lost his canines and has since lost his position as alpha. It is suspected that the alpha of the troop is MT3, a non-raiding immigrant, Mountain Troop male. TK28 is still however an integral member of the troop, yet he does leave the troop to raid. TK40 and TK43 are beta males who leave the troop to raid alone, or in partnership with one another.

On 30 December 2014, Tokai Picnic Site bins were raided by TK28, TK40 and TK43, who left the troop together to raid. Although the Tokai Picnic site have baboon-proof bins, these bins do not work if overflowing, which was the case in this instance. Despite this incident, these baboon-proof bins have been working very well throughout summer.

Chrysalis Academy kitchen was also raided opportunistically by TK40 and TK43 this month. HWS are currently in the process of implementing baboon education at Chrysalis Academy in an effort to increase awareness at the Academy. This should help to prevent raiding opportunities in the future.

From the Zwaanswyk side of Tokai Plantation, TK28 ran down the mountain several times this month, breaking the line HWS rangers were holding, and jumped over the Steenberg fence. As he did last month, TK28 used the overhanging trees and large rocks adjacent to the fence to jump over, and then enter Zwaanswyk residential properties (for descriptions of exact access points see December 2014 monthly report).

TK28 was recorded in Zwaanswyk at the end of December, and at the beginning of January 2015. On most of these occasions he entered occupied houses and stole whatever food was available. All of these occasions were brief, not lasting more than 45 minutes in town. House entries were always less than five minutes at a time.

On 8 January the troop was moved to the northern side of Tokai Plantation. Since then TK28 has mostly stayed with the Tokai Troop and has not entered Zwaanswyk again. The troop will be held in the northern section of the plantation until the fencing issues of the Steenberg fence have been resolved. Zwaanswyk Residents, Steenberg Estate and HWS will be meeting shortly to discuss these issues.

While the troop were being kept on the northern side of Tokai Plantation, TK40 and TK28 left the troop together and headed to Forest Glade where they raided an unoccupied, open house. They were returned to the troop within an hour.

Additionally, the Tokai Troop have occasionally been entering Buitenverwachting vineyards and eating the ripe grapes, because this is on the northern edge of Tokai Plantation. HWS rangers are helping Buitenverwachting baboon rangers to keep the baboons off the farm because it is in every ones best interest to prevent the troop from becoming dependent on grapes.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1 In urban area												4 Attacking pets						7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealin										
BABOON TROOP: Tokai		2 Raid bins												5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle						8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging proper										
MONTH: Dec -Jan		3 Non malicious damage												6 Raid occupied house or vehicle						9 Nocturnal Raiding										
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total
TK 28 (B-G) Collar	M	1, 6	6	6	<b>5</b>						<b>2, 6</b>	6	1					6	6										8	
TK 40 (P-Y) Collar VHF	M	1			<b>5, 5, 5</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>							<b>6</b>	6										9	
TK 41 (Single Pink)	M																													
TK 42 (Blue Yellow)	M																													
TK 43 (Single White)	M				<b>5, 6</b>			<b>2, 6</b>																					4	
MT 3 (Purple Blue)	M																													
UnID male	M																													
UnID Sub ad male	M																													
Un ID Female 1	F																													
UnID Female 2	F																													
UnID Juvenile																														
TKF 1 (B-B)	F																													
TKF 2 (Untagged)	F																													
TKF 8 (W-W)	F																													
Tokai troop																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Tokai Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	0.0																													0.00
Males	1.1	45	30	15							30	15	20							60									3.58	
Roost:	AM	2	2	1	2	6	12	1	9	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	6	6	6	6, 9	6	9	8	9	8	8	9	
Roost:	PM	2	1	2	6	12	1	2	6	6	1	1	3	9	1	6	6	6	6	6	6, 9	6	9	8	9	8	8	8		
Roost Sites		1 Tea Garden										2 Level 1 Zwk Gums					3 Level 2 stream				4 Level 2 Pines				5 Level 4 Pines					
		6 Guest House										7 Level 1 Tokai clearing					8 Level 1.5 Quarry gums				9 Level 1 new clearing gum				10 Picnic site 1					
		11 Picnic site 2										12 Other					13				14				15					
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 10: Raid sheet for Tokai Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place inside non-urban areas.

## 2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop foraged widely this month, using their entire home range, from the northern side of Tokai Plantation to the far south, above Steenberg. Their daily pattern was to sleep in the lower levels of the plantation, either at Lister's Tea Garden, Tokai Manor House or in the Blue Gums on Level 1. From there they would slowly move up the mountain throughout the day. By late afternoon they would start to move down again to one of their sleep sites. This pattern occurred with very little influence from HWS rangers.

On a few occasions however, the alpha male, MT2, led the troop to the Tokai Picnic Site, and raided the overflowing bins and some occupied tables. The other large untagged sub-adult male (TK44) in the troop also raided bins, and the occasional table. The Tokai Picnic Site has become very easy to access. New road signs relating to the new speedbumps along the road, as well as overgrown trees, have created platforms from which the baboons can leap over the fence.

On 14 January 2015 the majority of the Zwaanswyk Troop gained access into the Zwaanswyk properties via the upper Steenberg Fence (same place as TK28's entry – see December 2014 report) and raided bins and a house. They were all pushed out after an hour and fifteen minutes. To avoid a repeat of this situation, HWS rangers are keeping the Zwaanswyk Troop (as well as the Tokai Troop) away from this area until the fencing issues are resolved.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding											
BABOON TROOP:	Zwaanswyk																													
MONTH:	Dec - Jan	YEAR:	2015																											
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total
Zwaanswyk Troop (ZT)																					6.2									3
MT 2 (Untagged alpha)	M	2			2		2	2,6	2,6		2																		7	
TK44 Untagged Adult Male	M				2	2,2,5	2	2,6	2,6						2	2,6,6,6													14	
TKF 4 (Grey)	F																													
TKF 5 (Green)	F																													
TKF 7 (Red)	F																													
Sub adult	M																													
Un-ID fem	F																													
Un-ID Juvenile																						1							1	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Zwaanswyk Troop	0.4																				75								1.25	
Individuals	0.1																				15								0.25	
Males	0.0																												0.00	
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	2	8	3	1	3	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	8	12	12	1	9	8	9	8
Roost:	PM	1	1	2	8	3	1	3	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	8	12	12	1	9	8	9	1	8
Roost Sites	1	Tea Garden														2	Level 1 Zw Blue gums	3	Level 2 Stream	4	Level 2 Pines	5	Level 4 Pines							
	6	Guest House														7	Level 1 Tokai clearing	8	Upper Tea Garden	9	Manor House	10	Tokai Bridge Gums							
ID Features of Baboons	11	Picnic site 2														12	Other	13		14		15								
	General remarks																													

Figure 11: Raid sheet for Zwaanswyk Troop. Bold and italics represent raids that took place inside non-urban areas.

## 3. Constantia Troop

The Constantia Troop has been very easy to manage this month from a HWS perspective. They have been at, and above, the bike trails for most of the month. This keeps them very far away from the urban area, which helps to prevent raids. The only raid this month was made by TK33, who entered an unoccupied, open house on Price Drive and stole some fruit.

Although the urban situation is under control, the Constantia Troop has been pushing onto Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting farms to eat grapes. Both these wine farms have their own

rangers to manage the baboons, and HWS rangers have been assisting them in doing this. This collaboration assists in keeping the baboons both off the farms and out of the urban area.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR				CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																										
NORTH																														
BABOON TROOP:		Constantia		1 In urban area				4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																		
MONTH: Dec - Jan		YEAR: 2015		2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																		
				3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle				9 Nocturnal Raiding																		
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total
TK 33 (R-O)	M																	5											1	
TK 15 (Y-O)	M																													
TK 19 (R-W)	M																													
TK 16 (W-W)	M																													
TK 11 (O-W)	M																													
CON 1 (Untagged)	M																													
CON 2 (B-O) Collar VHF	M																													
CON 3 (G)	M																													
CON 4 (B)	M																													
CON 5 (G-G)	M																													
CON 6 (O) Collar VHF	M																													
CON 7 (P-G)	M																													
MT 1 (G-W)	M																													
Untagged male	M																													
Sub adult male	M																													
Un-ID fem / Juv	F																													
Un-ID/Unknown																														
The Troop																														
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS			
Con Troop		0.0																												0.00
Individuals		0.0																												0.00
Males		0.2																30												0.50
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost:	PM	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost Sites		1 KC/GC Border - Upp. Blue gums				2 KC Lwr Blue Gums				3 KC/SANpk MTB trail upp.				4 Middle Plantation KC				5 Mckenzie's/Groot												
		6 Other				7				8				9				10												
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 12: Raid sheet for Constantia Troop

#### 4. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop was seen occasionally by HWS rangers during the month. They have mostly been above Buitenverwachting, and have been pushing to raid for grapes on the farm. The Buitenverwachting rangers are generally able to chase the baboons off the farm, but it is a daily struggle to protect the vineyards.

This troop committed no urban raids.

#### Births and Deaths

Three births were recorded this month:

One in the Tokai Troop on 30 December 2014

One in the Zwaanswyk Troop on 19 January 2015

One in the Constantia Troop on 31 December 2014.

No deaths were reported.

#### Recommendations

- **Tokai Picnic Site Bins:** Baboon-proof bins at the picnic site cannot work if they are filled to capacity. They should therefore be emptied on a regular basis, particularly on weekends.
- **Tokai Picnic Site Access:** The road signage and overgrown trees have made the picnic site easily accessible for baboons. The trees should be trimmed regularly and the signs moved to the opposite side of the road. Even if the bins are working, picnic tables are often covered with food, and these alone provide a powerful incentive for baboons to raid.

**C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS****Population Data**

In January there was another flurry of births (eight in total), similar to that recorded for December (seven births). In both months the births exceeded deaths by five, so over the past two months the population has increased by 10 individuals. At present there is no explanation for this spike in births, because in the past the trend has always suggested that the baboons breed all year round with no obvious peaks.

It is perhaps feasible that now, with baboons having less access to human derived foods (HDF's), the females are breeding less often and timing their births better to coincide with the most optimal time of year, which would be mid-summer when forage is most easily available. Data will need to be collected for several years before such a trend could be verified or not.

**Population Data for the Ten Managed Troops  
on the Cape Peninsula**

<b>TROOP</b>	<b>Total End Dec 2012</b>	<b>Total End Dec 2013</b>	<b>Total End Dec 2014</b>	<b>Jan Births</b>	<b>Jan Deaths</b>	<b>Total Births 2015</b>	<b>Total Deaths 2015</b>	<b>TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION</b>
Da Gama Troop	54	44	50	2	1	2	1	51
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	23	2	1	2	1	24
Waterfall	28	30	29			0	0	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17	16	1	1	1	1	16
Slangkop	33	40	44			0	0	44
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>183</b>
Zwaanswyk	25	30	29	1		1	0	30
Tokai	61	70	68	1		1	0	69
Mountain	33	44	47			0	0	47
Constantia	60	72	75	1		1	0	76
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>405</b>

Table 1. Population data for the ten managed troops on the Cape Peninsula.

**Hotline Data**

This month over half of all hotline calls were in response to raids in Scarborough (31 calls). Virtually all of these calls were in response to raids by just three individuals. The low ranking female, MC2, has been raiding Scarborough mostly alone for well over a year. Although she generally tries to call other troop members to join her in town, she is very often not successful. More recently however, the alpha female, MC3, has also been raiding town frequently. She is generally much more successful in enticing the rest of the troop, including the new alpha male, KOB1, to join her in town.



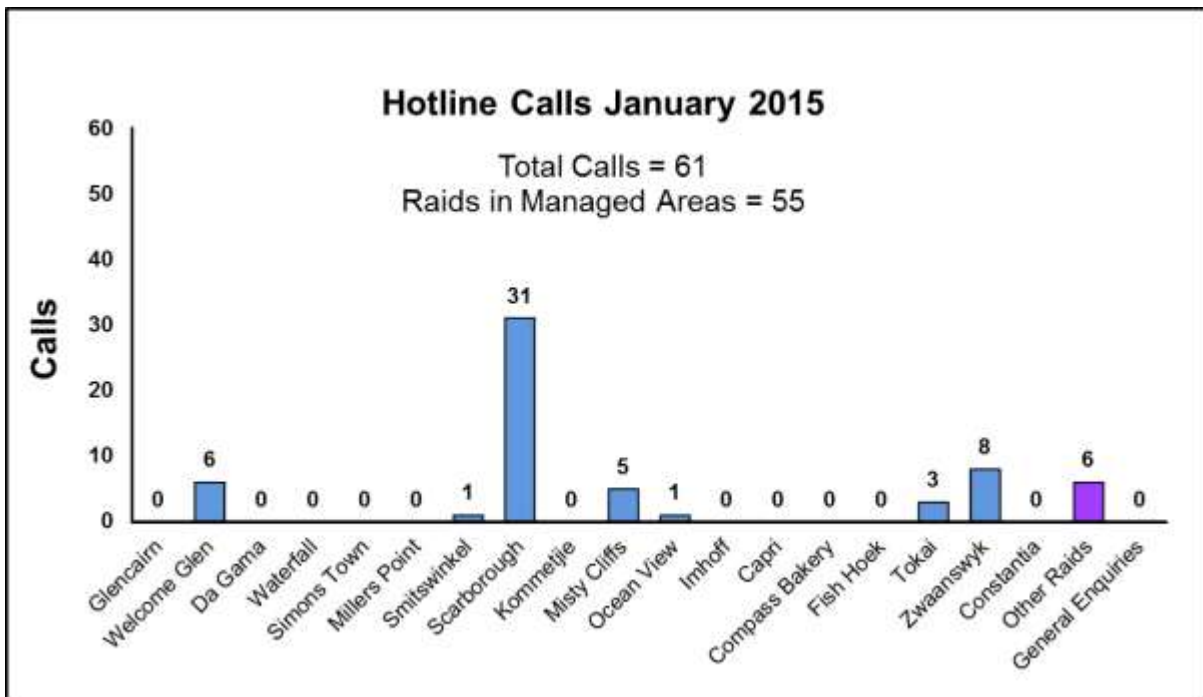


Figure 13: Hotline calls summary per urban area

Very recently, the young sub-adult male, MC2, has also begun raiding town on his own. It seems reasonable to presume that his father was the infamous raider, GOB5, who was the alpha male of the Misty Cliffs troop for many years. GOB5 had the reputation not only for being very aggressive, but also for being an incredibly successful house breaker. There was virtually no glass sliding door that he could not open. It is pertinent to note that MC2 has only been noted as a house raider for a month, and yet this month he has already raided three occupied houses, caused damage to property six times, and attempted to break into two houses at night. He presumably must have learnt a great deal from GOB5, and probably has his genes as well.

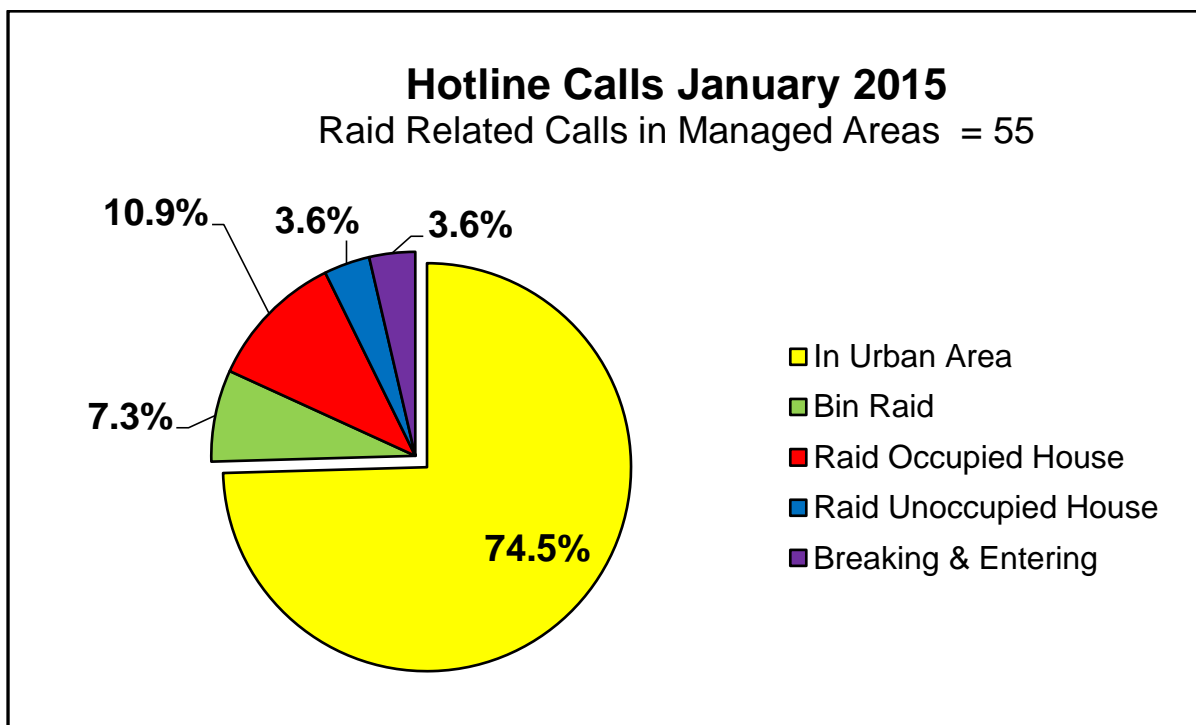


Figure 14: Composition of raid-related hotline calls

The composition of the hotline calls this month to a large extent reflects the new developments in Scarborough. Breaking and entering has not featured so prominently on this graph for a long time. Neither has raiding of unoccupied houses. The total number of raid related hotline calls, is reasonably low (55 calls) this month, but the data do still show a trend towards increased aggression by individual raiders, when compared to previous months. Much of this behaviour refers back to the two young sub-adult males, MC2 and DG13, that have recently started raiding town for food.

### Percentage Time out of Town

The time troops and individuals spent out of town this month was also heavily influenced by just a few individuals. In the Misty Cliffs Troop, MC2 and MCF2 were largely responsible for individuals being out of town for a considerable amount of time, while MCF3, the alpha female, was largely responsible for pulling the whole troop into town.

In the case of the Da Gama Troop, the whole troop mostly stayed with the alpha male, SK3, who is basically a non-raiding male. The sub-adult males, DG11 and DG13, were, however, responsible for many individual raids, often taking many other raiders with them. Despite these disruptive influences, the percentage time that all troops spent out of town was still well over 99%, and the percentage for individuals was just under 98%.

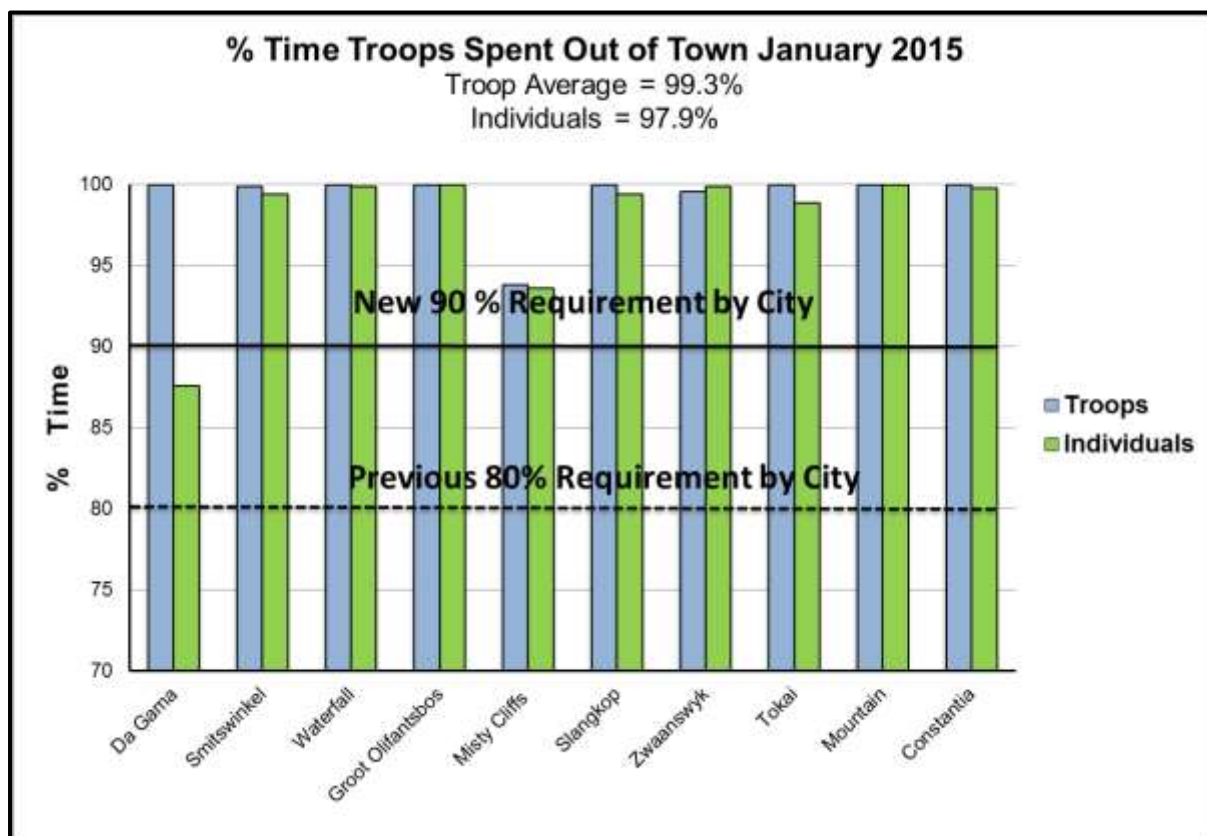


Figure 15: Percentage time troops spent out of town.

## Conclusion

This month, like the other summer months this season, the baboon troops have generally been well behaved with most troops and most individuals averaging well over 99% of their time out of town. However, a very disturbing feature of baboon behaviour that has become evident this month, is how very young males (only just sub-adult) can easily slip into a cycle of raiding without apparent encouragement from other males.

It has been noted in the past, that often when a renowned raiding male had died, his place as a raider had often been taken over by a younger male who had previously not been noted as a raider. Given this, it is remarkable that DG13 became a raider in the Da Gama troop although there were still older (sub-adult) males (DG11 and DG12) who were raiders. It may be pertinent that DG12 had recently become seriously injured during a fight and this, ultimately lead to his death. Maybe it was the poor health and basic absence of DG12, that spurred DG13 to take over his raiding role.

What is very disturbing though, is that this young male is so young that he does not even have adult canines and is still slightly smaller than adult females. It is incredible to comprehend that with just the first pubertal pulses of testosterone coursing through his veins, a young male suddenly summons the courage to take on the challenges of aversive conditioning in order to raid for extra food.

The other disturbing thought, is that the training cycle for raiding must start at a very young age. The urge to raid could lie dormant for several years, but as soon as a young male reaches puberty he may very easily assume the behaviour taught to him by his parents / relatives two or three years previously.

The conclusion therefore, is that if one is going to break this apparently endless cycle of training young baboons to become raiders when they become adults, one will need to raise almost a whole generation of baboons who have not been exposed to raiding since the age of two years old or less. Any break in this process could lead to the corruption of another whole generation of baboons.

Dr Phil Richardson

**Human Wildlife Solutions**