

Baboon Management

Cape Town

Monthly Report

For January 2013



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A. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

This month's report covers the five week period from 21 December 2012 to 25 January 2013.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Manager Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

Throughout the holiday season management of the Smitswinkel bay troop proved very successful. According to news reports, 95 000 visitors entered the Cape Point National Park and it was reported that this is the highest number of tourists visiting the area in at least 10 years. Despite this, there was not one car raid during the entire period. In fact, the baboons were kept off the road so successfully that some of the tour operators demanded to speak to the baboon management supervisor or manager for the area as they were accustomed to showing tourists the baboons along this stretch and now could not find any.

A popular stop is at the curio stalls at the entrance to Cape Point reserve. Here again the Plateaux Road troop was managed successfully and was kept away from the road and tourists. Both vendors and tour operators complained that fewer tourists were stopping because there were no baboons to be seen. The rangers and supervisors for this area should be commended for the outstanding work they have done over an extremely busy tourist season.

It was feared that SWB3 would pose a significant problem along this route during the festive season as he regularly raided cars and caravans. However, from 21 December to 25 January SWB3 entered the residential area only once and did not raid throughout this period. This is a significant improvement on his previous behaviour.

SWB4 unfortunately continues to habitually break away from the troop and attempt to raid, and on 26/12 he gained access to a bungalow at Smitswinkel bay through an opened window where he stole bread rolls.

On 29/12 passengers of a white Toyota, registration number NP389, were seen throwing food to the baboons. An attempt was made to stop the vehicle but they drove away.

On 30/12 SWB1 attempted to break the line to enter Smitswinkel bay but was stopped. Again on 31/12, SWB4 followed by SWB1 were pushing to go to Bluegum House. This trend continued throughout January with SWB4 mainly attempting to break away from the troop. And on 17/1 SWB4 managed to draw half the troop with him and spent 20 minutes feeding with them along the coast before returning to the rest of the troop.

The only complaint received throughout the festive season was from Joel Bolnick, the owner of the Bluegum House and Chairman for the Castle Rock Conservancy. The line was being held behind his house along the mountain to prevent the troop from going to the Caravan Park and

the rangers' activity around the house annoyed him and conflict ensued between him and the team. I had a meeting with him and we decided to move the line further up towards Castle Rock but still offering assistance when baboons were near his house. Joel allowed Byron Loubser access to the house but refused permission to Abel Takalani.

The lines have now been pulled back to a gully past Millers Point to allow the baboons more space to forage (see map below).

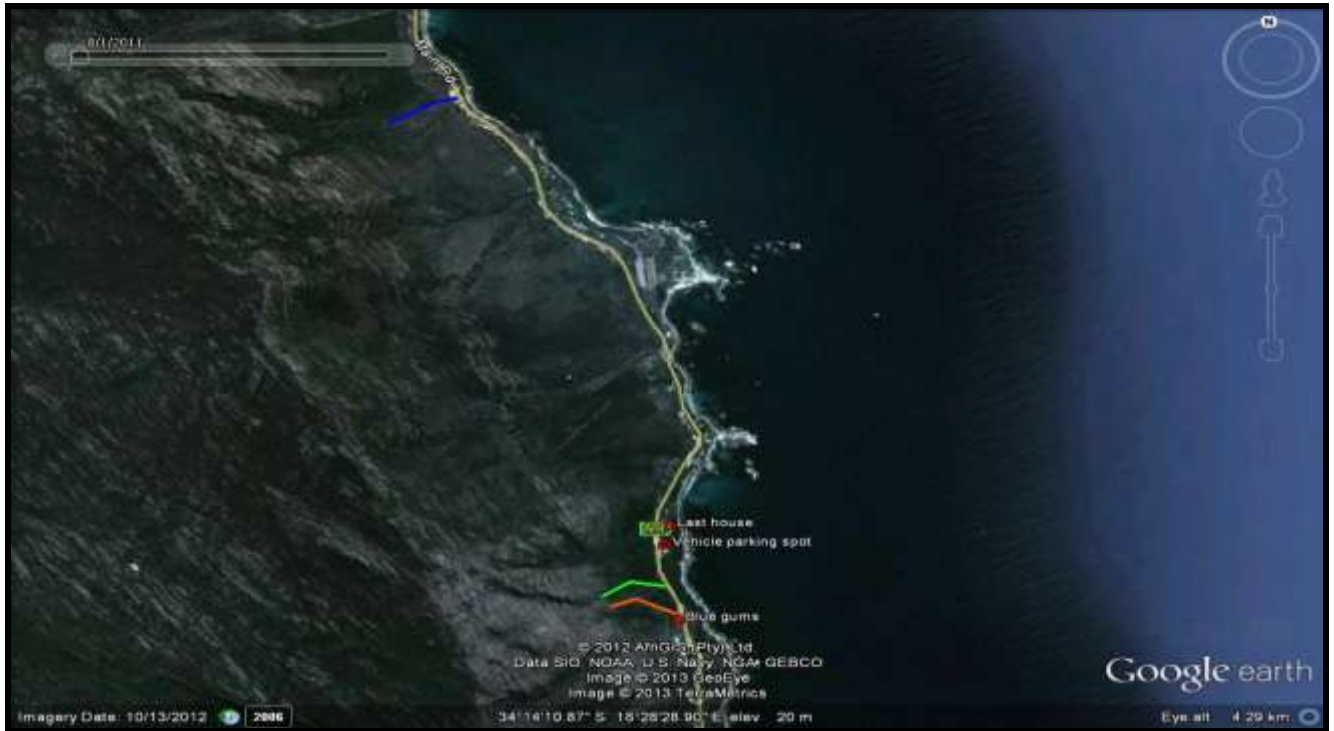


Fig.1. Map of the lines that are held along the Smitswinkel Bay route (a) Orange: line held during the majority of the festive season; (b) Green: retracted line at request of Bluegum House owner; (c) Blue: furthest point baboons will be allowed to go.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																						
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																				
SE		1 In urban area		4 Attacking pets		7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																																
BABOON TROOP: Smits		2 Raid bins		5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle		8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																
MONTH: January YEAR: 2013		3 Non malicious damage		6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																																		
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	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	24	25	TOTAL
SWB3	M																				1																1	
SWB1	M						5																															1
SWB4	M	1													1												1		1	6						1		6
SWB5	M																					1													2		2	
Troop																					1																1	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS										
Troop	0.03																				5															0.08		
Males	1.03	10					10								5						40	5					10		20	30		15		10		2.58		
Roost:	AM	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	6	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	2	6	
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	6	6	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	6	2	1	1	6	6		
Roost Sites		1 Smits Caves		2 Partridge Point		3 Bluegums		4 Millers Point		5 Rocklands Farm																												
ID Features of Baboons		6 Castle Rock		7 SANParks																																		
General remarks		SWB3: collar, SWB4: Collar + double white tag, SWB1: Collar + blue & white tag, SWB5 = Red/Blue tags																																				
		Town/Urban area = Millers Point boat launching area, caravan park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock Houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses																																				

Fig.2. Smitswinkel Raid Sheet



WF2 currently needs identifiable tags and he also has a skin condition which causes his skin to appear red and inflamed and results in hair loss. The condition has unfortunately spread through the troop with the most severe case being an adult female where half of her body has no hair. A skin biopsy will be done on her as soon as possible to determine the cause and treatment or management strategy. Unfortunately the only photo we have of her is of poor quality (Figure 4).

Fig.4: Adult female with severe skin condition.

3. Da Gama/Glencairn

Baboon activity and raiding attempts in Da Gama increased dramatically when the Big Troop (BT) sleeps at the naval flats. From 21 – 31 December, the BT slept at the Witsand sleep site. During this period there was virtually no raiding and the paintball usage dropped dramatically. DGF3 however attempts to break the line on a daily basis to head back into Da Gama. DGF3 is normally the individual that leads the group and is also the first baboon to enter town. She is highly illusive and will hang back from the troop and then begin to call forcing the troop to come back and fetch her. She does not break and enter but DGF3, DGF4 & DGF5 are regular instigators of raids.

DGF3 had her leg amputated in 2006 as a result of a gunshot wound and was one of Esmé Beamish's study animals for her thesis on the impact of injury on baboon behavior. The results showed that permanent injury (loss of a hand or foot or limb) had a significant effect on the behavior of baboons on the Peninsula:

- Injured baboons spent more time resting (they get tired) and travelling (they are slower) than uninjured counterparts, and they also spent less time feeding.
- Injured baboons conserved energy by travelling more slowly and resting more often and thus had less time to feed. To compensate for the reduced time available for foraging, injured baboons improved their feeding efficiency by targeting high return food items. In Da Gama the injured baboons raid human derived food more often than non-injured baboons.
- Resting more often and travelling slowly also creates challenges for an injured baboon in a troop that is actively kept out of urban areas and in natural areas where foraging may require longer travelling times.

Also of concern is the fact that DGF3 is pregnant and, while she has successfully reared 2 infants with access to energy rich human derived foods, she will be nutritionally challenged in the natural areas. This will make her more determined to seek human derived foods particularly when the high energy demands of lactation kick in. This problem will be exacerbated at the end of summer which is typically a season which is hot and dry and nutritionally very challenging in

the fynbos. This will also impact on the ability of the baboon rangers to keep the troop in the natural areas, which is the primary aim of our baboon management program.

Waste management continues to be a problem around the Naval Flats. The building contractors, Ruwacou, have three skips around the flats. One is situated between Bluefin and Kroonseil Court and is half full with construction rubble. The residents of the flats have however thrown household refuse into the skips and as a result the baboons spend a lot of time around the skips.



The skips pose a constant attractant to the baboons and although attempts have been made to get the contractors to empty them, the request has been turned down as they claim to only empty the skips once they are full of construction rubble.

Fig.5. View of one corner of the skip during December. The waste in the skip has since increased and the situation deteriorated.

The Small Troop (ST) has been sleeping mainly at the Kroonseil flats which are in the process of being renovated. However construction has been put on hold for the time being, so the flats remain easily accessible as a sleep site and the skip remains half full.

Bluefin flats are also used as a sleep site, and although they have been 'baboon proofed', the baboons are able to climb up the drain pipes, windows and walls.

The ST has behaved peculiarly on at least three mornings when they have stayed up on the roof and even inside the roof of the flats until 09h30, and even as late as 10h30. Residents have also seen them walking through Welcome Glen and Da Gama at 20h10 and 20h20 at night.

On 30/12 cooked rice and chicken was found dumped around Kroonseil flats.

On 8/1 the ST went all the way to Capri where they raided two houses. The adult male and juveniles were found inside the houses on both occasions. They had gained access to one of the houses through an open balcony door and the other house through a window which they broke.

From the evening of 31 December until 14 January, the BT was back in Da Gama and raiding increased.

On 13/1 DG7 broke the bathroom door of a flat to gain access and then raided the fridge. On the same day he raided a second flat by entering through an open window.

On 19/1 DG8 and two females split away from the BT and stayed on Slangkop on their own, rejoining the BT on 22/1.

On 24/1 DG8 split off again with two females and slept on Slangkop.



Night shift commenced on 20 December with a team of three rangers. It did not prove to be successful as the rangers did not know the area and holding the line in the dark proves very difficult. The decision was made to increase the team to 8 rangers. They started a month later on 22 January but to date it has also not been successful. The rangers that work night shift have been placed with the day shift rangers for a while so that they can get to know the area and the troop in order to hold the line effectively at night.

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	24	25	TOTAL												
BABOON TROOP:	DA GAMA BT	In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																														
MONTH:	January	YEAR:	2013																																				
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	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	24	25	TOTAL	
Big Troop											5							1				2																2	3
DG8	M	5										5						1				2																2	8
DG8 splinter																		1				2		2													2	4	
DG1	M																	6				2															2	3	
DG5	M	5										5					5	1				2		2			6	2									2	11	
2x Sub-ad males	M	5																1				2															2	4	
DGF3	F	5								6								1				2				2											2	6	
DGF4	F	5																1				2															2	4	
DGF5	F	5																1				2															2	4	
DG7	M	5										5						1				2				5,8											2	6	
UnID Sub-adult	M																	1				2				8								1			2	5	
UnID Juvs x3										6								1				2				8											2	4	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS											
Big Troop																			100				10													60	2.83		
Males		2.2										30						30				20		120			30	30						5		60	7.08		
Roost:	AM	11	11	1	11	11	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1+2	2	1	1	1	1+2	11	1+2	1+2	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Roost:	PM	11	1	11	11	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	11	1+2	1+2	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	
Roost Sites		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25													
		Flats	Compass Bakery	Misty Cliff	Pines - Flats	Pines - Outspan	Slangkop	Pines - Da Gama	Jacks Shop	Pines - Welcome Glen	Elsie's Peak	Sport Fields Stables	Rotary Camp																										
ID Features of Baboons	DG5: red yellow tags + Collar. DG1: Collar, DGF3: Three legs, DGF4: Crooked tale + old.																																						
General remarks																																							

Fig.6. Da Gama Big Troop raid sheet

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	24	25	TOTAL												
BABOON TROOP:	DA GAMA ST	In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																														
MONTH:	January	YEAR:	2013																																				
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	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	24	25	TOTAL	
Small Troop		1				2	1				1	1	1					2	1	1	1	1	2					2		2		2	2						16
DGF1	F	1				2	1				1	1																											7
DGF2	F	1				6	1				1	1																											6
UnID sub-adult	M	1									1	6											8												2		2	7	
UnID Juv		1									1	6											8													2		5	
ST Male	M	1				2	1				1	1,7	6						2	6			8	2	2									2	2	2		15	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS											
Small Troop		4.0	60				15	40				300	30	90				45	10	10	10	10	60	15				10		40		15	20				12.83		
Males		5.1	60				15	40				300	30	90				45	10	10	10	70	15	120			10		40		15	20		60	30		16.5		
Roost: (Small)	AM	1	1	5	10	10	10	5	5	9	1	1	10	10	5	3	3	3	3	1	3	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	5	3	5	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost: (Small)	PM	1	5	5	10	10	5	8	9	1	1	10	10	5	3	3	1	3	1	3	5	5	3	2	3	3	3	5	3	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1		
Roost Sites		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25													
		Flats	Compass Bakery	Misty Cliff	Pines - Flats	Pines - Outspan	Slangkop	Pines - Da Gama	Jacks Shop	Pines - Welcome Glen	Elsie's Peak	Sport Fields Stables	Rotary Camp																										
ID Features of Baboons	DGF1 - Female with collar + blue/white tags DGF2 - Female with crooked hand																																						
General remarks																																							

Fig.7. Da Gama Small troop raid sheet



Births and Deaths

No births or deaths were recorded this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) Waste management at the Naval Flats in Da Gama and Waterfall continues to be a problem and the Navy needs to address this issue if we are to keep baboons out of the residential areas.
 - (b) Alien vegetation clearing has started but is essential behind the flats in Da Gama and along the water courses.
-
-

South Western Region – Manager Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

The GOB troop has been in the Cape of Good Hope Reserve for the period 21st December 2012 to 25th January 2013. The troop has moved between the areas of Groot Olifantsbos and the cliff site on the Bonteberg ridge (C2).

On the 28th December a single young male together with 4 juvenile baboons entered Scarborough in the Bontebok/Blesbok Rd area.

The rangers managed to prevent the rest of the troop following this group and after half an hour the whole troop was pushed back up to the Bonteberg cliff site (C2). This was the first time since July 2012 that any baboons from this troop have crossed the urban edge into Scarborough. During the half hour that they were in Scarborough there was some raiding of bins but no house raids were recorded.

From the 5th to the 13th January the troop was at the C2 cliffs site. This was the longest period of consecutive days that they have spent at this cliff site since August 2012 and on most days they approached the Scarborough fence and had to be pushed back by the rangers to prevent them entering into Scarborough.

From the 14th to the 25th January the troop has been in the Olifantsbos area.

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs troop was kept in the CoGH Reserve (C2 cliff site) from the 21st December 2012 until the 2nd January 2013. Just before sunset on the 2nd January the troop managed to slip past the rangers and return to the Misty Cliffs (C1) cliff site.

On the 16th January the troop was pushed back into the Reserve where they have been for the remainder of the month.

During the period 2nd to 16th January when the troop was in the Misty Cliffs/Scarborough area there were a number of raids of bins and houses. The municipal waste collection was not done in the first week of January which resulted in numerous bin raids over a few days.

During the last week of 2012 one of the older females in the troop gave birth. This female, together with MCF1 were the two individuals that led most of the raids into Scarborough in January.

On the 24th January, while the troop was in the Reserve, the old female with the baby broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough on her own. GOB5 followed her into Scarborough and raided a house in Seagull Rd. It is possible that the pressure of providing sustenance for her baby is encouraging this female to seek out human derived food in Scarborough.

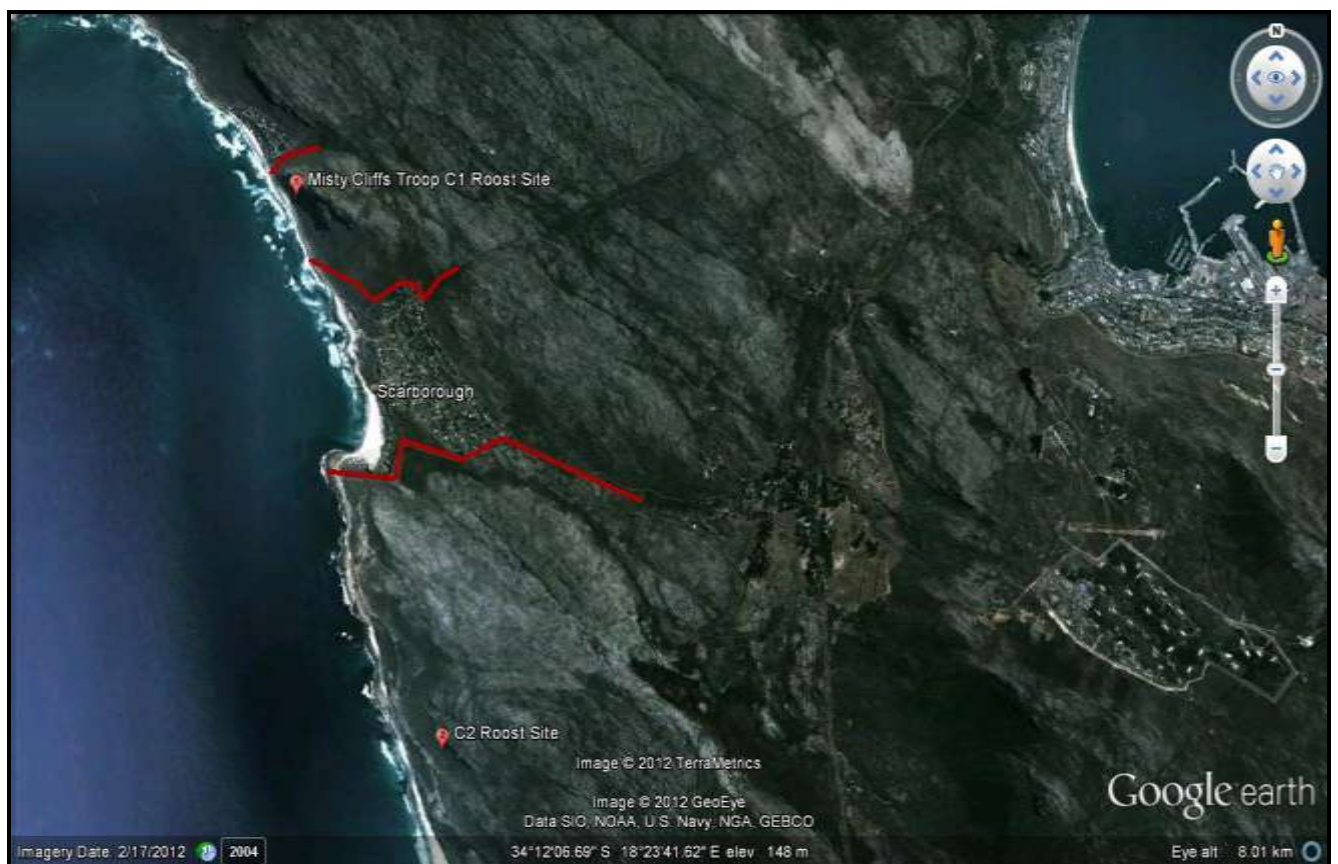


Figure 8: Misty Cliffs Troop Roost Sites for January 2013

January Raids:

On the 29th December 2012 MC1 and MCF1 broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough to raid bins.

On the 7th, 10th, 14th and 15th GOB5 entered occupied houses in Scarborough. In the most serious incident, a caller to the hotline reported that GOB5 had pushed a domestic worker out of the way to gain access to the house while she was trying to close the door.

On the 11th and 13th MC1 raided occupied houses in Scarborough and Misty Cliffs.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																							
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																					
BABOON TROOP: Misty Cliffs		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: 2013		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																																		
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	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	24	25	TOTAL	
GOB5	M													1	2	2	2	2	6	1	2	6,7	2	2	6	6	6										6	14	
MC1	M												2																										10
MCF1	F												2																										11
Female with baby	F																																					1	1
Troop														1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2																	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS											
Troop	4.6																																					21h20	
Males	5.7												135																								15	26h40	
Roost:	AM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost Sites	1	Misty Cliffs				2	CoGH Reserve				3	Olifantsbos				4					5																		
	6					7					8					9					10																		
ID Features of Baboons	GOB5 has a double red tag and a VHF collar MCF1 has a missing forearm. MC1 is an untagged young adult male																																						
General remarks	On the 30th December the rangers recorded a birth																																						

Figure 9: Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Troop: January 2013

Comments and Observations

It has been difficult to hold the troop in the Reserve and they will attempt every day to break back to the Scarborough/Misty Cliffs area. The troop will usually try to break through the line from 06:00 to 12:00 after which time they will relax and begin to forage.

Recently it has been noted that the troop has begun foraging on the rocks at low tide which they have not done in the last few months while in the Reserve. This is encouraging as marine foraging is an important supplementary food source in the dry summer months.

For the two weeks after the troop managed to get back to the Misty Cliffs (C1) area the rangers found it very difficult to push the troop towards the Reserve as they were determined not to leave the Misty Cliffs/Scarborough area. MC1 and MCF1 would consistently break away from the troop to enter Scarborough alone or with a couple of other females and juveniles. The rangers would try to maintain the rest of the troop on the mountain while waiting for these individuals to join the troop again but this usually took time and often led to the whole troop managing to break the line to enter Scarborough from Hilltop Rd.

Of the whole troop, MCF1 was always the first to enter Scarborough on her own and was also the last to leave. When she breaks away from the troop, GOB5 will usually leave the troop to follow her.

3. Slangkop Troop

From the 21st until the 31st December 2012 the Slangkop troop was at the Compass Bakery Roost site (C3). From the 1st until the 25th January 2013 the troop was on Slangkop at the C1 roost site.

While on Slangkop the troop has raided Kommetjie on an almost daily basis. There are numerous factors that make managing the troop on Slangkop very difficult.

- The topography of Slangkop and the lack of a buffer zone between Slangkop and the urban edge make it very difficult for the rangers to prevent the troop from entering the urban area.
- The dense stands of large trees in Kommetjie offer the troop refuge to elude the rangers when in the urban area.
- The mature fruit trees in the urban area provide the troop with large incentive and reward and are visited regularly.
- Poor waste management and easy access to houses also provides incentive and reward for the troop when they enter the urban area.
- In the last month the rangers have reported possible incidents of intentional feeding of the troop both in Kommetjie and along the road at the C1 roost site.
- SK2 regularly breaks away from the troop to enter the urban area. He is usually accompanied by one to four females, one or two young adult males and a number of juveniles. These are the same individuals who used to follow TK5 into the urban area when he was the one leading the raids.

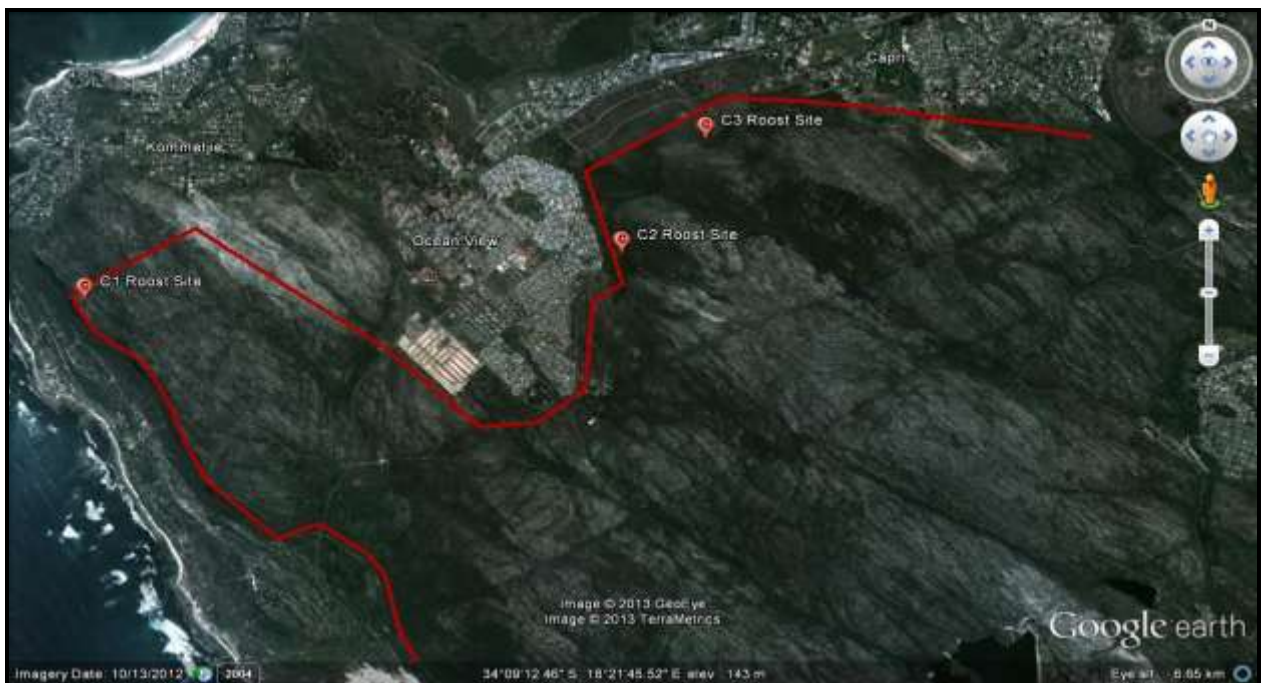


Figure 10: Slangkop Troop Roost Sites January 2013

January Raids:

On the 25th, 27th and 28th there were a number of raids in Imhoff's Gift. SK2 was reported to have raided occupied houses on each occasion. DG6 raided an unoccupied house on the 27th.



SK2 reportedly raided unoccupied houses on eight occasions and occupied houses on seven occasions in Kommetjie between the 1st and 25th January.

On the 11th, 19th and 23rd January, DG6 raided unoccupied houses and on the 25th he raided an occupied house in Kommetjie.

On a few occasions in January the whole troop or most of the troop managed to gain access into houses in Kommetjie.

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: 2013		3	Non malicious damage			6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																															
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	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	24	25	TOTAL
DG6	M						5						2	2	2	2		2	2	2		2	2,5	1			2		2	1	5		1		2,5	5,6	21	
SK2	M				6		2,6	2,6					2	2,5	2,5	2	2,5	2	5	2	2,6	2	5,6	6	6		6	2		5	5,6		2		2,5	5,6	33	
Troop							2						2	2	1	2		2	2	2,6		1	1	1			2		2	1	1		2		2,5	5,6	21	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS										
Troop		5.5					40						30	40	40	45		120	90	80		50	130	50			140		80	30	100		45	360	75	25h45		
Males		7.0				30	40	45					30	40	40	45	60	120	90	80	60	50	130	50	80		315	135	80	30	180		120	360	75	32h35		
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost Sites		1 Slangkop			2 Ocean View			3 Compass Bakery			4			5			6			7			8			9			10									
ID Features of Baboons		DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag SK2 has a green/red tag and a VHF collar																																				
General remarks		In the month December to January there were 2 births recorded																																				

Figure 11: Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – January 2013

Comments and Observations

It is very evident that it is much easier to manage this troop when it is at the Compass Bakery (C3) site than when it is on Slangkop. The lack of a buffer zone on Slangkop as well as other factors mentioned above make it very difficult to prevent the troop from entering Kommetjie.

The management plan for when the troop is on Slangkop is to try and move them further down Slangkop towards the Soetwater end and to encourage the troop to sleep at the cliffs there instead of the cliffs at the Kommetjie side of Slangkop. This is done in order to try and establish a buffer zone between the troop and Kommetjie.

The problem the rangers face is that they are trying to control the troop along a continuous cliff face which is where the troop feels most comfortable and where the movement of the rangers is very limited. This, together with the breaking off of SK2 from the troop to go off raiding on his own with a few followers are the biggest challenges to the management of the troop on Slangkop.

The other reason for trying to move the troop further down Slangkop is that there is a water tank positioned there for the troop to access water which is not available anywhere else on



Slangkop during the summer months. The troop however does not use the water tank on Slangkop and prefer to access water from swimming pools in Kommetjie.

Births and Deaths

During the period covered by this report, there was one birth recorded in the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop and two births recorded in the Slangkop troop. Two of these births, one for each troop, took place during December 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop over the next month will be continue to hold them in the Reserve and prevent them from entering Scarborough and returning to the Misty Cliffs roost site. It is hoped that the troop will continue to forage naturally in the Reserve and that they will be encouraged to further exploit the marine resources on the coastline at the C2 area. The long term goal is to condition the troop to thinking of the C2 cliff site in the Reserve as their preferred roost site.
 - b) In discussions with the Misty Cliffs/Scarborough community it was recently decided to set up an early warning sms system for when the Misty Cliffs troop breaks out of the Reserve back to the Misty Cliffs (C1) site and for when the rangers manage to push them back into the Reserve again. The aim of this will be to inform residents when they need to most vigilant with regards to securing bins and houses.
 - c) The management strategy for managing the Slangkop troop on Slangkop is proving ineffective. It will need to be decided if we are going to allow the troop access to this area or if we are going to limit the troop's home range to the areas around the C2 and C3 roost sites between Capri and Ocean View. The possibility of erecting a fence in strategic locations between Slangkop and Kommetjie in order to reduce the troop's access points into Kommetjie should be discussed as part of the future management plan for the troop if they are to be allowed access to Slangkop.
 - d) It is still vital that the Slangkop troop is provided with an artificial water source on the mountain close to the C3 roost site. This will reduce the urgency for the troop to access water at the municipal treatment plant and in residential areas. The two options for accomplishing this are to put a water tank on the mountain above the C3 roost site on SANParks land or to put one on privately owned land below the C3 roost site. Negotiations for both sites are currently underway.
 - e) The alien vegetation on the mountain above Capri should be removed to allow for better access to areas above Capri and to aid in maintaining the buffer zone.
-
-

North Region – Manager Stefan Theron

1. Tokai Main Troop and the Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop

The period from 21st to 26th December 2012 was characterized by both troops ranging quite extensively. TK9 (tagged Green/White) moved from the Tokai main troop to the Zwaanswyk splinter troop after a major conflict with TK28 (tagged Blue/Green) who assumed the alpha male position in the Tokai main troop. There is a good chance that TK28 will maintain this role within the troop for a while because he is in his prime, has a full set of canines and is the largest male in the area, whereas TK9 recently lost both his upper canines.

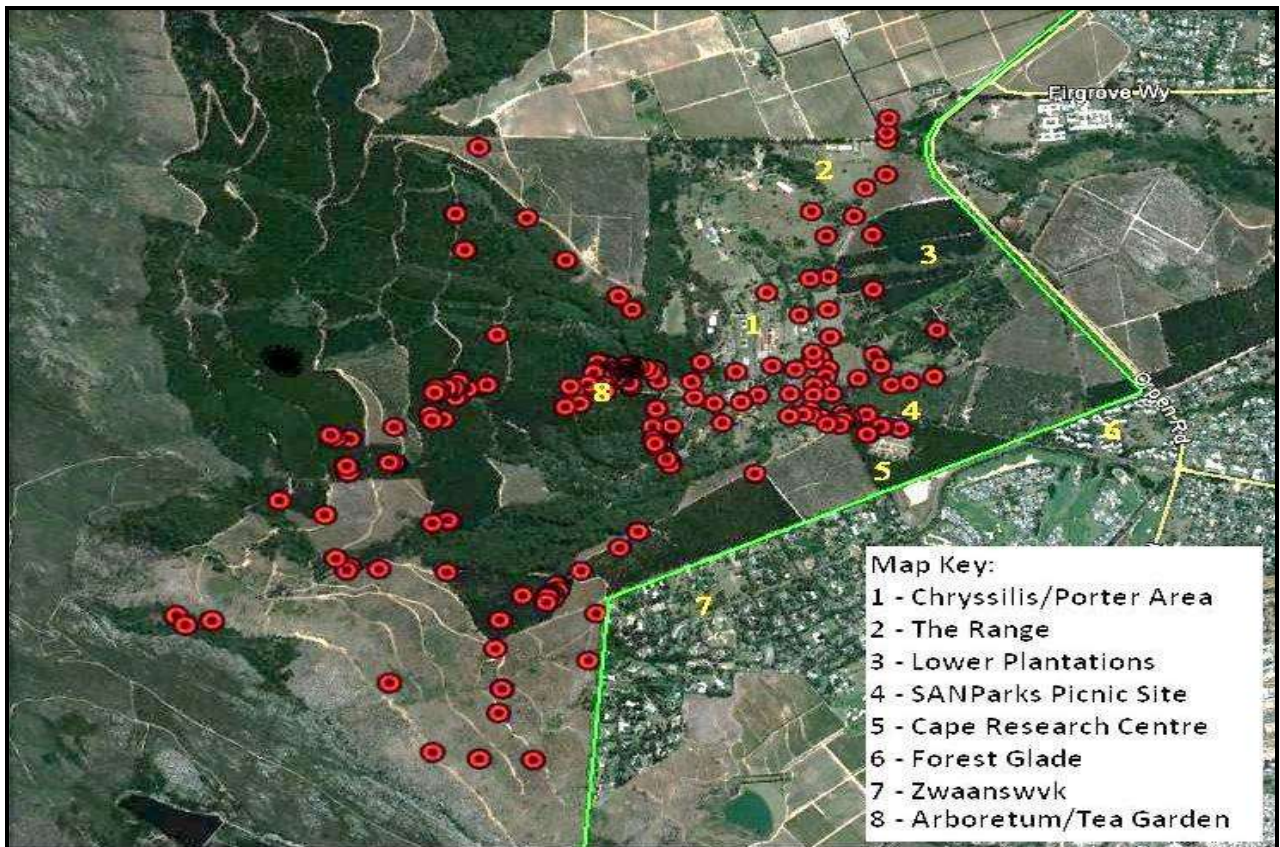
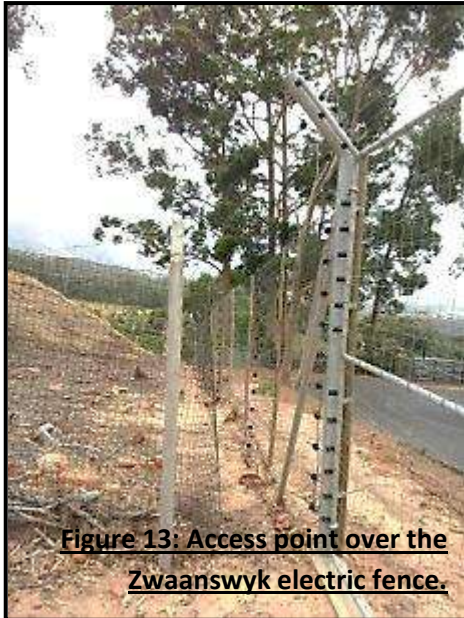


Figure 12: GPS Collar Data from TK28 representing the spatial ranging of the Tokai main troop from 21 December 2012 to 25 January 2013.

The Tokai main troop continues to follow the Zwaanswyk splinter troop as it has done over the past couple of months. TK35, a sub-adult male from the Tokai main troop, joined the Zwaanswyk splinter troop. He was interested in the unguarded females in the troop and once his presence became known numerous conflicts ensued between him and TK9.

Both troops spent the majority of their time ranging in the lower areas around the Chrysalis Academy and the SANParks picnic site. This resulted in baboons from both troops occasionally foraging on the open garbage skip at the Cape Research Centre. TK9 and TK35 appear to have taken over as leaders in the Zwaanswyk splinter troop and the troop has predominantly been following them. These two males have been having daily conflicts over dominance and this has

resulted in both of them sustaining injuries. TK28, the alpha male of the Tokai main troop, occasionally chased after the Zwaanswyk splinter troop females when they came into view. This resulted in the Zwaanswyk splinter troop moving higher up on SANParks land in order to avoid conflict with the Tokai main troop in the lower areas.



During the nine day period from 25th December 2012 to 3rd January 2013, TK9 and TK35 managed to enter the Zwaanswyk residential area on three occasions by going over the electric fence. The access point was identified later, when TK9 and TK35 were seen attempting to get over the fence. The baboons had been using a concrete fence pole from the old reservoir fence to jump on top of the Zwaanswyk electric fence strut pole and from there leap into the urban area (See Figure 13). The baboons were immediately prevented from entering Zwaanswyk, and the offending fence pole was pushed to the ground.

The garbage skip at the Cape Research Centre has been left open more often than not and as a result TK9, TK23 (tagged Yellow/White) and TK24 (tagged White/White) forage in the skip on an almost-daily basis. It appears that TK9, TK24 and TK35 would first check if the skip was open or not, and if not, they would then attempt to enter the urban area via Forest Glade to get their garbage sustenance. However, most raiding attempts were blocked by rangers anticipating their movements at the urban boundary. It is remarkable to note that TK28 avoids foraging on garbage and tends to lead the troop away from the skip - he has never shown any inclination to raid. Garbage removal at this site has apparently been put out to tender, so it may still be some time before this source of food is removed.

From 4th January to 15th January 2013 the troops ranged predominantly around the Tokai Manor House, the stables, the SANParks picnic area and the Chrysalis Academy but they also moved up to the levels on some days. There were also instances where the Tokai main troop males chased the Zwaanswyk splinter troop. This resulted in a young male from the Zwaanswyk splinter troop sustaining injuries to his right arm and left leg.



Both troops entered the SANParks picnic area during this same period. This caused pandemonium when picnickers, who thought they were safe behind the electrical fence, were suddenly raided. HWS rangers assisted when possible during these raids.



Both troops still spend a large amount of time foraging and roosting in close proximity to each other and have been roosting in the plantation behind the SANParks Woody Owl Guest House and Tea Garden for the majority of the month. As the month has progressed both troops seem to be spending more and more time foraging around the stables and the Chrysalis soccer field. This could be as a result of their natural water sources drying up and food becoming more difficult to find in the higher levels.

Raids by TK9 seem to be escalating as a result of him losing social status. First he was kicked out of the Tokai main troop, and now he seems to be dominated by TK35 in the Zwaanswyk troop. During the last 10 days of the month he went on a raiding spree, raiding on four consecutive days. The worst raid was when when he went into a kitchen at 46 Dalmore Road, Tokai where he ransacked the kitchen cupboards and a refuse bin. We have also received reports of TK9 jumping on a female hiker's back. It seems as though he is distancing himself from the troop on occasions and almost appears to go raiding because he has nothing better to do.

WAC approval for the euthanasia of TK9 was approved in July 2012 prior to HWS taking over baboon management. Initially, with the introduction of paintball markers and having better social status, TK9 became quite well behaved. However, for the reasons mentioned above, his raiding has escalated again. At present a ranger has been assigned to follow TK9 exclusively, to prevent him from raiding and to prevent TK35 from following him into the urban area. Apart from TK9 and TK35, TK 23 and TK24 have also been on independent raids. HWS field rangers prevented TK23 from stealing a female worker's lunch after he had spotted her eating from across the soccer field and sprinted towards her. TK24 also went on a bin-raiding excursion into Forest Glade during this period.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																						
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																				
BABOON TROOP: Zwaanswyk		1 In urban area	4 Attacking pets	7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																																		
MONTH: January YEAR: 2013		2 Raid bins	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																		
		3 Non malicious damage	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																																			
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	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	24	25	TOTAL
TK9	M					2		2				1	2	1	1			1			1						2	2	2	1	4,6					2,6	15	
TK24	M					2		2										1			1		1				1				2						7	
TK35	M												1	1							1									2	2					5		
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS										
Males	4.7					60		60				30	30	30	60	30		60			90		60				60	30	30	60	90					30	13.50	
Troop	0																																				0.00	
Roost:	AM	1	5	5	2	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	1	1	5	1	5	1	1	5	1	5	1	1	5	5	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	1	5	5	2	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	5	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost Sites		1 SANParks Tea Garden					2 Level one					3 Level two					4 Level three					5 Woody Owl Guesthouse																
ID Features of Baboons		TK9 - Tagged Green/White and collared.																																				
		TK24 - Tagged White/White and collared.																																				
		TK35 - Large subadult male.																																				
General remarks		X - Mortality																																				

Figure 15: Raid information sheet for the Tokai Main Troop and Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop

2. Constantia Troop

The Constantia troop spent the period from 21st December to 26th December 2012 ranging predominantly on SANParks land behind Klein Constantia. On rare occasions they moved to the back of Buitenverwachten and into the vineyards.

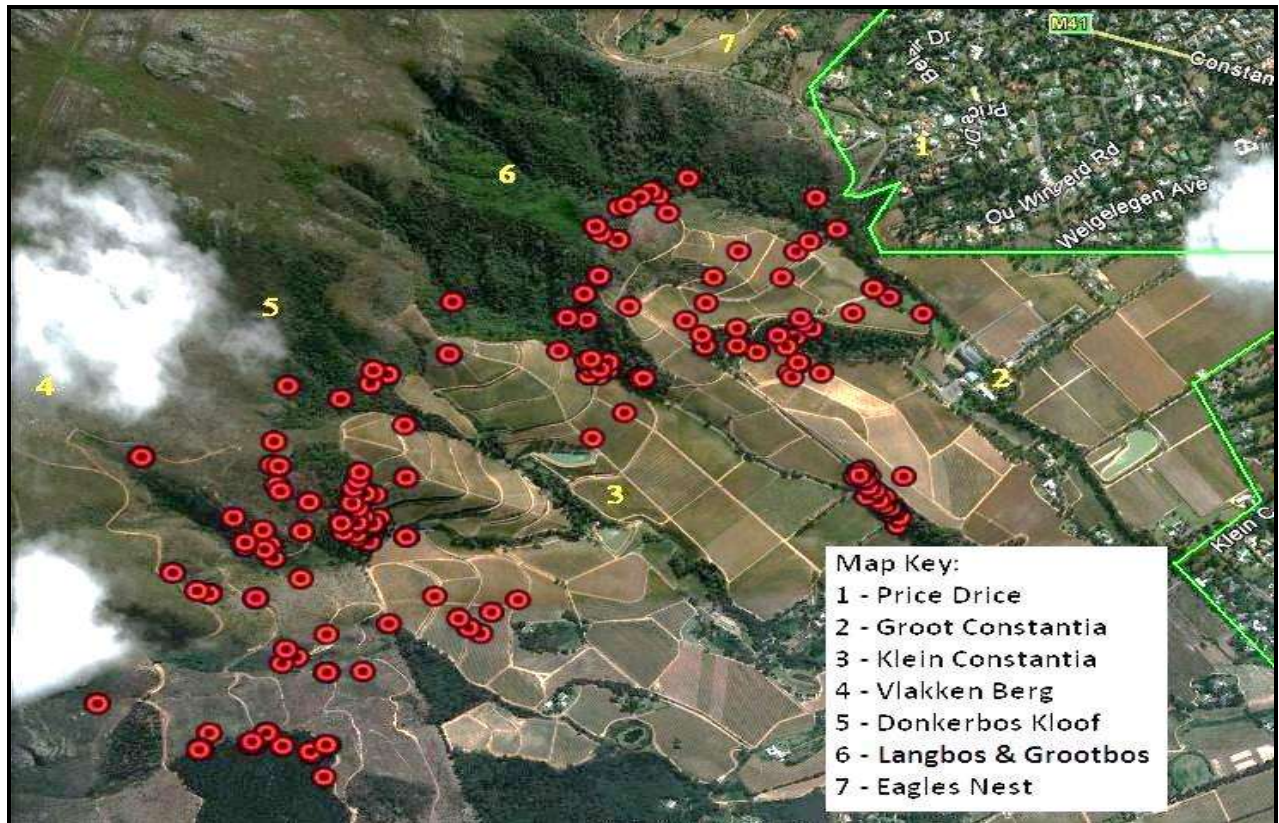


Figure 16: TK13 GPS collar data representing spatial ranging of the Constantia troop from 21 December 2012 to 25 January 2013.

On 19th December 2012, TK32 dispersed in a North-West direction into Constantia where he was seen on Price Drive. On the 20th he dispersed into Silverhurst Estate where an HWS supervisor was tasked to shadow him and keep him out of trouble. The animal then remained in the green belt for a couple of days and only moved out of the area to raid a refuse bin at 22 Wittebomen Road. He was reported at 15 Bordeaux on 24th December and near Southern Cross Road on 26 December 2012. On 26 December he was followed to Brady Street where he once again remained in the green belt for two days. Dr Hamish Currie attempted to dart him for capture at a residence in Brommersvlei Road without any success.

From 27th December 2012 to 4th of January 2013 the troop spent the majority of its time on Klein Constantia farm, coming onto Groot Constantia later on. The fence seems to be having some impact although it does not keep them out of the vineyards completely. However, in conjunction with the assistance of the Klein Constantia monitors it is proving to be very effective.

TK32 continued to be followed daily and on the 30th of December 2012 we attempted to cage trap him next to M3 at the Constantia Main Road without any success and he dispersed deeper into Wynberg. On the 31st December, the hotline received a call from the Victoria Hospital



reporting that TK32 was raiding the kitchen waste bins. An HWS supervisor was sent in initially to try and contain the conflict and the animal was then cage trapped at the hospital swimming pool/braai area and moved to the Westlake Biodiversity Centre holding facility. During this time he was examined by Dr Elzette Jordan and Dr Hamish Currie and was fitted with a VHF telemetry collar and tagged Blue/Blue. He was then released high up on the levels between the Mountain troop and Constantia troop home ranges.

During the period 4th to 15th January 2013, the Constantia troop spent most of its time around the Castle. The troop did not attempt to raid frequently but TK34 (tagged Orange/Orange) slipped through and raided refuse bins at 42 Price Drive. TK29 is raiding more and more into the urban area, but for the moment he is only raiding bins and fruit trees and has not raided any houses yet.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																							
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																					
BABOON TROOP: Constantia		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: 2013		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																																		
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	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	24	25	TOTAL	
TK32	M	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	6	1	1	2									6	1	1	1	2	1	1											17	
TK15	M																								1			2											2
TK29	M																				1							2	2	1	1	6						6	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS											
Males	23.40	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440									1440	60	1440	1440	1440	60	1440		60	30	30	30	30				666.86		
Troop	0																																					0.00	
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost Sites	1	Castle											2	Klein Constantia						3	Dead Trees Klein Constantia																		
	4	Behind Klein Constantia											5	Gumtrees on Constantia																									
ID Features of Baboons	TK15 - Tagged Orange/Yellow.																																						
	TK29 - Damaged left eye.																																						
	TK32 - Tagged Blue/Blue and collared.																																						
General remarks	X - Mortality																																						

Figure 17: Raid information sheet for the Constantia troop.

TK13 (tagged Orange/Green) still takes the opportunity to raid but has raided mainly in the vineyards and their associated restaurants. During the same period TK32 was constantly monitored and followed using his VHF collar to track him. He was on his own for most of the time and although he did go back to the troop at intervals, he mostly kept some distance. There were occasions where he was pursued by the other males and, possibly because of this harassment, he soon returned to his dispersing/raiding behaviour that began in December. He began to use Cecilia Forest as his sleeping site. During the day he would move into the residential areas North of the Cecilia Forest in search of food and in the late afternoon he would return to Cecilia plantation to his roosting site.

The dispersing male TK32 had been captured and returned to his troop as a reprieve and in the hope that he would settle down again. However, because TK32 had now started to raid



occupied houses and had also resumed the behavioural pattern of a dispersing male, CapeNature gave WAC approval for him to be euthanased.

Towards the end of January the Constantia troop began spending more and more time in the vineyards as harvest time for the grapes draws near. HWS received a hotline call on 15th January 2013 asking for assistance in chasing baboons out of the Jonkershuis Restaurant in the Groot Constantia Vineyard. Responding to calls like this is now much more difficult since the completion of the electric fence around this farm. The baboons can still jump over the fence in a few week spots (much like the Zwaanswyk fence for the first few months after completion), but it is impossible for humans to follow on foot.

During the period 16th to 25th January the troop foraged mainly in the small patch of forest on Groot Constantia next to Price Drive. They often used a tree to jump over the electric fence at the Price Drive end to gain access to the stream for drinking water. This placed the males in close proximity to the urban edge and subsequently resulted in them attempting to raid. Optimistically, once the fence is 100% complete and all its weak spots have been identified and fixed, it should be much more effective at keeping the baboons are kept out of the vineyards, and the line beyond the Price Drive urban edge should be much easier to hold.

3. Mountain Troop

The mountain troop consists of 33 baboons, of which only two are adult males. TK3 (tagged Blue/White) has recently been deposed of his alpha status by the other adult male TK36. TK3 has also suffered a severe cut in the neck area approximately 15cm long while his challenger has only suffered minor injuries. The Mountain troop has been roosting behind Buitenverwachting for more than a month now. During mid December their drinking water higher up the mountain dried up, and since then the troop has moved their roosting site lower down the mountain and started visiting Buitenverwachting. There is a cottage amongst the trees that they visit on a regular basis. They will steal food if it is readily available, but as yet they have not taken to serious raiding of the cottage. For the duration of our management period this troop has still not been recorded within the urban area.

Births and Deaths

Troop	Births	Deaths
Tokai Main Troop	1	-
Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop	3	-
Constantia Troop	3	2
Ghost Troop	2	-
Total	9	2

Figure 18: Births and deaths recorded in the four Tokai and Constantia troops.



C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

Esmé Beamish's population census of the baboons of the Cape Peninsula is now complete, and we gratefully acknowledge permission to use her data. The total count for the population is 501 baboons as of 31 December 2012. The total count for the eleven troops which we manage north of the Cape Point Nature Reserve was 354. In future we will be reporting only on how this sub-population number fluctuates. It will be called the "managed population".

This month we have had a surprisingly large number of births, so the managed population has already grown by 8. Since 1st January 2013 there have been 10 births and two deaths. Both deaths were human induced. The dispersing male TK32 was euthanised, and a second male TK4 from the Constantia troop was found lying down, foaming at the mouth and in a comatose condition. Dr Currie was immediately called to the scene, but he determined that the animal was far past saving, and therefore administered humane euthanasia. This is a case of suspected poisoning. The local state veterinarian performed a post mortem but found nothing obvious untoward. The stomach contents of this baboon have been sent to Onderstepoort for analysis.

Population Data for the Eleven Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula				
TROOP	DECEMBER 2012		JANUARY 2013	
	TOTAL	BIRTHS	DEATHS	TOTAL
Da Gama Main	42			42
Da Gama Small	12			12
Smitswinkel Bay	23			23
Waterfall	28			28
Groot Olifantsbos	19			19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18			18
Slangkop	33	1		34
Zwaanswyk Splinter	25	3		28
Tokai	61	1		62
Ghost	33	2		35
Constantia	60	3	2	61
TOTAL	354	10	2	362

Figure 19: Population data for the eleven troops of the managed population of the Cape Peninsula.

Hotline Data

This month's data includes the peak of the Christmas period and the summer holidays. We therefore had a peak in numbers of people in Cape Town, tourists in houses and on the roads, as well as hikers and cyclists. Midsummer is also well known as a time when the baboons need more food and water as the natural resources dry up. It is not really surprising therefore that this month's hotline data are by far the highest we have recorded since taking over baboon management in Cape Town.

We received a total of 125 calls and almost half of these were from Kommetjie and Scarborough. The high number of calls from Kommetjie (30 calls) correlates directly with the arrival of the Slangkop troop back on Slangkop – directly above Kommetjie with almost no buffer zone between the sleep site and the first row of houses. There are a number of other mitigating factors for the sudden increase in raids in Kommetjie. One possible factor could be that SK2 is an injured male that regularly leads a few females and juveniles into town. The splitting of the troop into two potential raiding parties obviously makes it much more difficult to control these baboons.

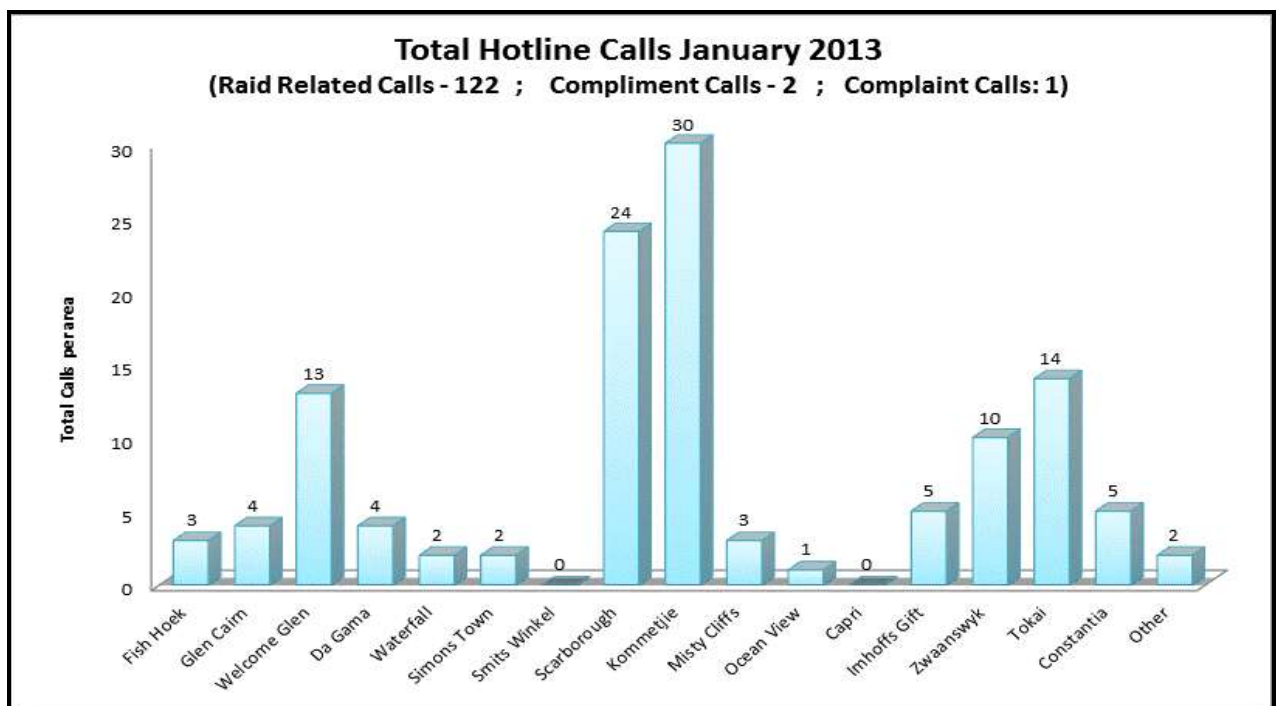


Figure 20 : Hotline Call Report Per Area – January 2013.

Over the past few months we have noticed that the baboons that form break aways and try to lead splinter groups back to town are almost invariably injured/handicapped animals. SK2 has a fistula wound on his side. There is a hole which leads directly from his stomach to the outside world – his stomach contents can actually fall out onto the ground while he is walking. This injury was determined when he was caught and collared about a month ago. SK2 was examined by Dr Currie at the time, and although he was of the opinion that SK2 was still in a healthy condition, such a wound must certainly lead to additional water loss and some decline in his ability to digest all the food he eats. Although these losses may not be obvious they could well

represent a tipping point that makes it necessary for SK2 to seek out more nutritious human food during times of low food availability. Exactly the same argument can be applied to the three legged females from the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop and the two Da Gama troops (DGF2 has a withered hand) that regularly lead raids back into town. During harsh times these seriously impaired animals basically become obligate raiders and will almost stop at nothing in their efforts to get to town for a quick fix of human food.

Raids by these obligate raiders can probably explain a large proportion of the hotline calls received this past month, and would help explain the high numbers of raids from Kommetjie, Scarborough and Welcome Glen. The other area with a relatively high number of raids is Tokai. And here again we find an explanation with the male TK9 having recently been deposed from the alpha position in the Zwaanswyk Splinter troop. As the alpha male first in the Tokai troop and more recently in the Zwaanswyk troop, he has been very well behaved over the past few months, spending most of his time with his troop. But now, as a deposed male with very little social status, TK9 has resumed all his bad old ways and returned to a life of active raiding.

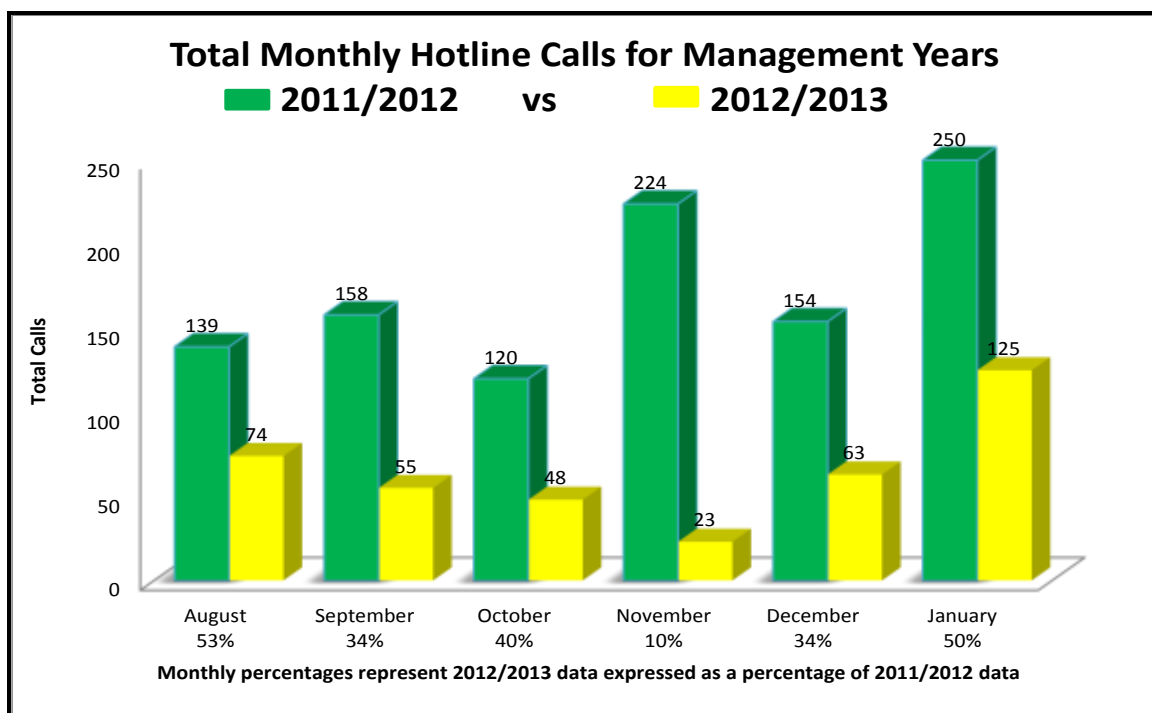


Figure 21: Total Monthly Hotline Calls for Management Years

Despite HWS having received our record number of hotline calls over the past month, one can see from Figure 21 above that this trend is not new and that last year (2011/2012) January also had the highest number of hotline calls for the preceding six month period. This figure also shows that over the past six months the number of hotline calls received was always well below that for the corresponding month the previous year, with total figures of 388 vs. 1045 (37%) calls for these two six month periods. Although there have been a variety of management changes in the way we operate, the biggest and most obvious change in management style is the use of paintball markers that all rangers now carry. From the above data there can be little doubt that paintball markers have become a highly successful tool in the management of baboons.

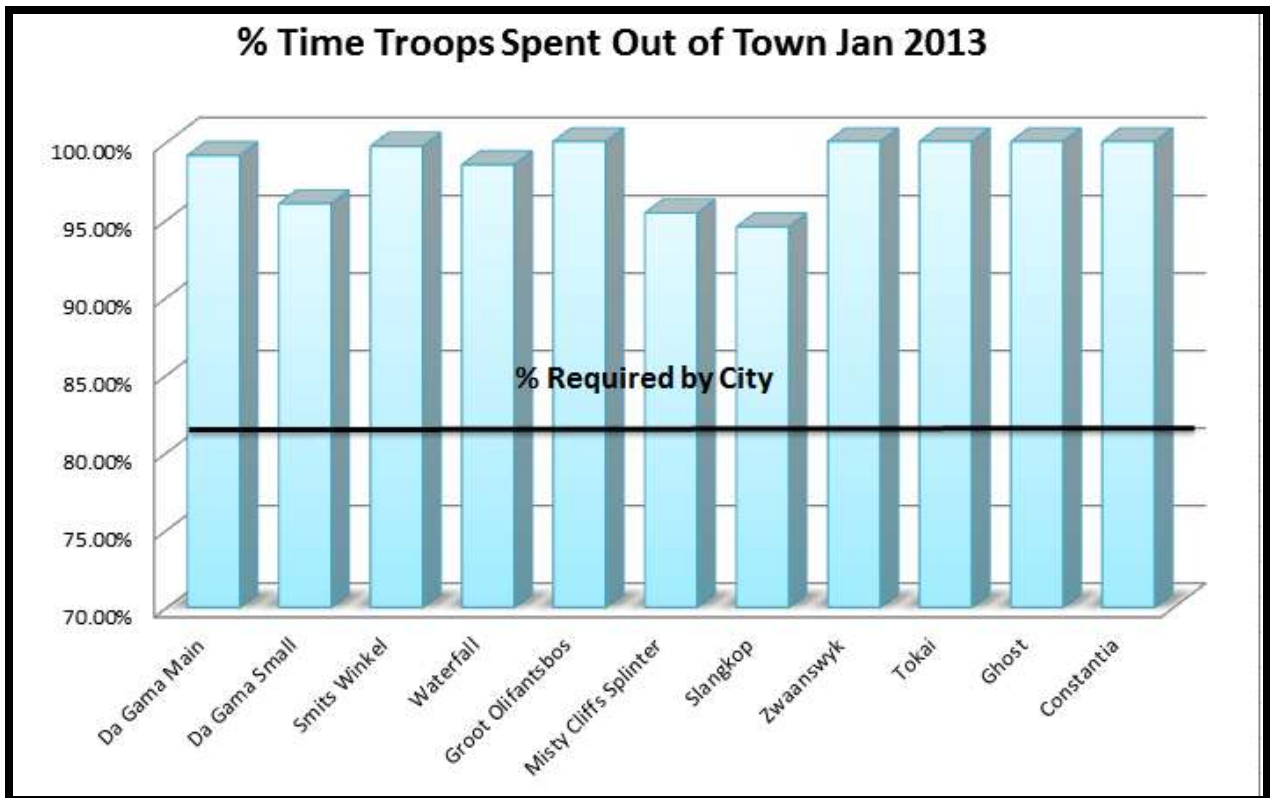


Figure 22. Percentage Time Troops Spent Out Of Town – January 2013

This point is also evident from Figure 22 (above) which shows that despite the hot dry season and the increase in raids by many troops, we still managed to keep all the troops out of town for well over 90% of the time, and almost half for 100% of the time. Often troops spend less than 20 minutes in town and have not had a chance to raid before they have been chased out again. The data for males (which fall outside of our tender requirements), are not quite as good, but as can be seen from our raid sheets, all males, with the exception of the Constantia males (77%), were also kept out of town for at least 90% of the time.

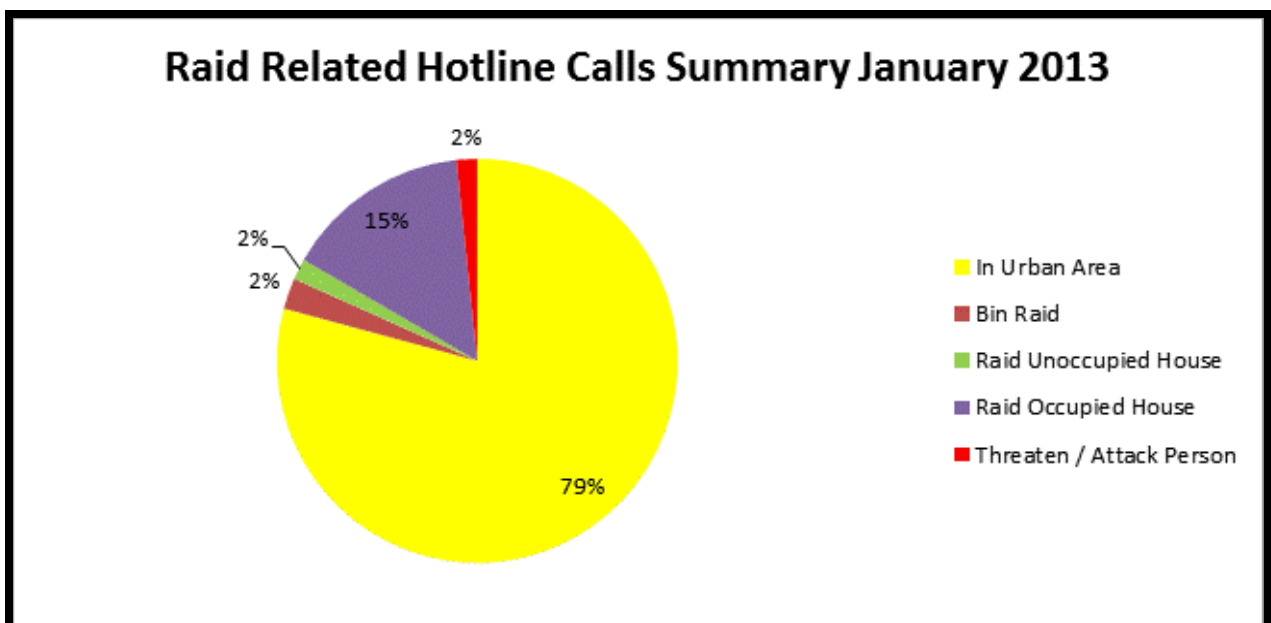


Figure 23: Hotline Calls Summary – January 2013



A trend that is very pleasing to notice from the hotline data, is that 79% of all raid related calls are only reports of baboons in town and not actually reports of raids. Raids of occupied houses (15%) is still unacceptably high. However, I do not think this is a general trend, but rather that a few known individuals have been able to get back to town and resume their old ways.

General

Although our hotline data show a large increase in the number of calls made compared to previous months, given the seasonal difficulties (hot summer and peak tourist season), we have still had a very good month. It is very pleasing to note that the measures we took to prevent car raids (see December report) along the Simonstown / Smitswinkel Bay route were 100% effective. Over the whole Christmas season we did not have a single car or caravan or tent raid. The only possible negative to take out of this, is that many tour operators, and no doubt tourists, were disappointed not to see baboons. Possibly we should consider how to provide ways of viewing baboons without having any impact on the baboons themselves. This will obviously be difficult to achieve.

Another pleasing statistic is that despite the increase in the movement of baboons into town, most of these urban excursions were of very short duration and did not even result in bin raids. The average amount of time all troops spent out of town was 98.5%, while the corresponding figure for adult males was 95.4%. As the hot dry season progresses we will continue to be challenged by the baboons seeking both food and water, but at least our most challenging troop at present, the Slangkop troop, will soon be provided with a new water tank near the Compass Bakery sleepsites.

Dr. Philip Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions