



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

October 2014

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A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report covers the four-week period from 27 September to 24 October 2014. Now that we are fully into summer, the general increase in availability of natural food throughout the peninsula is fully evident in the HWS management figures.

Last month there were half the number of hotline calls received compared to the previous month, and this month the figures have again halved, with only 37 calls made in response to raids in managed areas. Of these calls, 13 (35%) were made from Zwaanswyk in response to three intrusions by single males who were seen, but did not raid any house.

Over this past month, HWS also managed to keep baboons out of the urban areas more, with troops averaging 99.2% of time out of town, and individuals averaging 98.1%. Early summer is traditionally the time when it is easiest to manage baboons, but HWS will strive to keep this trend going well into the summer and the winter of 2015.

On this note, HWS is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the contract to manage the Cape Town baboons for another three years, until 30 June 2017.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

This month, raiding reduced significantly and reports of the troop being in town were mainly when they on Rockland's Farm or at Rockland's Centre.

Following concerns for his health, SWB1 was darted by veterinarian, Dr Dorothy Breedt for assessment. Owing to his very poor health, body condition and teeth, SWB1 was euthanased on October 2.

For weeks, rangers had been monitoring a badly injured juvenile female, who was one of three 1-year-old juveniles, electrocuted in a horrific accident whilst playing on electrical wires (September 2014 report, pg. 3).

As a survivor of this accident, the juvenile female baboon's injuries were painfully overwhelming her ability to function. With the help of area manager, John de Jager, the injured animal was taken to veterinarian, Dr Dorothy Breedt on October 7. After a full assessment of her injuries, Dr Breedt performed a humane euthanasia.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
SE		1 In urban area												4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food													
BABOON TROOP: Smitswinkel		2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																					
MONTH: October 2014		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL	
SWB1	M					6																								1	
SWB6	M						1																							1	
Troop																			1	1					1		1			4	
UnID Fem	F						1																							1	
SWBF8	F																													0	
SWB9																														0	
UNID Male	M																													0	
SWB7	M					1																								1	
	%																									HRS					
Troop	0.07																									0.17					
Individuals	0.00																									0.00					
Males	0.13																									0.33					
Roost:	AM	5	4	4	6	5	5	3	3	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	6	3	2	4	5	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	4		
Roost:	PM	4	4	6	5	5	3	3	3	3	6	4	4	4	4	6	3	2	4	5	2	4	5	5	6	6	6	4	4		
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		SWB1: Collar + blue & white tag, SWB6 = Red/Blue tags + collar																													
General remarks		Town/Urban area = Millers Point boat launching area, caravan park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock Houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses																													

Fig.1. Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop has been difficult to manage this month. WF2 led the troop to the Waterfall Barracks, and when they were on the other side of the Klaasjagersberg Mountain, the males pushed to raid the informal settlement.

Baboon management has been severely hampered at SANAD as the baboons are easily able to enter the area and raid successfully due to lack of baboon-proofing, as well as the presence of fruit trees.

Due to the nature of housing at the rural Red Hill settlement, it is virtually impossible to baboon-proof the structures and the strategy therefore needs to be focused on minimising triggers to prevent baboons raiding in the area.

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: October 2014		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL
Troop																															0
RH2	M		6										6								6	6			6	6	6				7
WF2	M		6								6	6	7								6	6			6	6	6		6		10
WFF3	F																														0
WFF4	F																														0
UnID Females	F																														0
UnID Juveniles																															0
UnID Male	M																				6										1
WFF2	F																														0
UnID Individuals																															0
	%																									HRS					
Troop	0.2																									0.50					
Females/Individuals	0.0																									0.00					
Males	2.3																									5.75					
Roost:	AM	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	
Roost:	PM	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	9	10	10	9	9	9	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 Not found		8 Happy Valley Home		9 Red Hill		10 SANDF		11 Mountain CoGHN		12 Gate 3 - Plateau Road		13 Rocklands farm		14 North peak			
ID Features of Baboons		RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																													
		WFF1 - three legs																													
General remarks		Italics - raiding on farms																													
		Naval Ammunition depot area indicated in red																													

Fig.2. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet

3. Da Gama Troop

During this month, two factors have played out. Older males (that are used to raiding), have led juveniles back to town to raid, and there have been a few altercations between younger, dispersing males and the alpha male. The dispersing males have also taken juveniles and females into town to raid.

Currently, the troop spends 99% of its time out of town and can be pushed out quickly in the mornings. However, DG11 and DG12 keep pushing back to town and forming raiding parties. Managing the animals becomes further complicated as they split up and the team of Rangers then needs to divide so that some are able to assist the Field Manager in managing the raiding parties while the rest of the team manages the troop.

Maylands still seems to be the most appropriate sleep site as the troop can be well managed from there. Grootkop sleep site is no longer viable as DG11 has discovered that he can run to Scarborough from there, bark from just outside town, and call the troop into town.

It also seems that, when DG12, a sub-adult, heads towards Scarborough, SK3 is quick to follow. Furthermore, the troop will venture as far as Misty Cliffs when they use the Grootkop sleep site. As a result, the Rangers now avoid letting the troop sleep there.

Poor waste management in the Da Gama Park area continues to be the main reason that the baboons raid the area. This is exacerbated by the number of fruit trees in the area, the presence of compost heaps, and both doors and windows being left open when the houses are unoccupied.

It is also suspected that there has been deliberate feeding of the baboons along a specific route in Welcome Glen.



Fig.3. Ongoing poor waste management in Da Gama Park.

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	26	TOTAL				
BABOON TROOP: Da Gama		1 In urban area	2 Raid bins	3 Non malicious damage	4 Attacking pets	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle	7 Threatening behaviour / attack /stealing food	8 Breaking & Entering / Damaging property																							
MONTH: October 2014																																
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	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	26	TOTAL
Troop				2																	9			2								3
SK3	M									1																					1	
DG1	M																														0	
DG10	M																														0	
DG11	M	2	2	1		2	2,6		6,6,6	1			5								1										9	
DGF1	F																									2					0	
DGF2	F																														0	
UnID Females	F							1			1																			2	3	
UnID Female	F			1	1																				2	2			2		5	
DG12	M																								2						1	
UnID Juvs						1	1		6,6,6	1																					3	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														
		%																														
Troop	0.6			30																											1.92	
Individuals	2.6			30		10	70	40			90															60	90		14	15	8.40	
Males	3.8	25	90	30		100	110		40	90											40				45	60	90		10		12.17	
Roost:	AM	17	1	1	1,2,3	1,3	1,2	2	2	2	1,2	17	19	17	19	19	20	17	17	17	17	1	2	1,2	1	1	17	17	17	1,2		
Roost:	PM	2	2	1,2,3	1,3	1,2	2	1	2	1,2	17	19	17	19	1,19	20	17	17	17	17	1	2	1	1,2	1	1	17	17	17	1,2		
Roost Sites	1	Flats				2	Pines - Flats				3	Pines - Da Gama				4	Pines - Welcome Glen				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 Pines				20	Grootkop										
	21	16th Avenue, DG				22	Lewis Gay Dam				23	Pinehaven				24	Kleinplaas dam				26	Scarborough										
	ID Features of Baboons																															
SK3: Collar + green & yellow tags, DGF1: collar + blue & white tags																																
General remarks																																
26 - means that the Da Gama Troop slept just out of Scarborough																																

Fig.4. Da Gama Troop Raid Sheet

Births and Deaths

On 2 October, an adult male from the Smitswinkel Troop was euthanased.
 On 7 October, a juvenile from the Smitswinkel Troop was euthanased. Both for humane reasons.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Baboon-proofing of poles that carry power lines is needed to prevent further deaths due to electrocution.

Cooperation and implementation of baboon-proofing and removal of young fruit trees is urgently need to be implemented at SANAD and at the Naval Barracks in Simons Town.

Waste management and baboon-proofing needs to be addressed at the Red Hill Informal Settlement. The possibility of assistance through funding needs to be considered in order to help relieve some of the problems in this area.

Urgent action in terms of waste management is needed in Da Gama Park. Issues will not be able to be resolved unless waste management is rectified.

Waste management at homes in Da Gama Park must be addressed. This has deteriorated and reverted to the same state it was in 2012.

South Western Region – Area Manager: Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

The GOB Troop has remained within the CoGH Reserve for the whole of this reporting period. The troop has been tracked using telemetry throughout their home range, although they have spent the majority of the month in the Olifantsbos area.

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

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

During September, the troop moved in and out of the CoGH Reserve. Half the month was spent at the Misty Cliffs roost site and the other half at the Bonteberg roost site. This is a similar pattern seen in August and September. Each time the troop left the Reserve this month, it coincided with the movement of the GOB troop from Olifantsbos to the Bonteberg area.

October Raids:

No house raids were recorded this month. Most of the raiding activity in the urban area took place around the shop and Mountain Rise area.

Comments and Observations

The troop has moved in and out of the Reserve this month. The raid sheet below illustrates very clearly that, when the troop is in the Reserve at the Bonteberg roost site, the raiding of the urban areas is dramatically reduced.

The biggest challenge in holding the troop in the Reserve has been the arrival of the GOB troop in the Bonteberg area. Each time this has happened, the troop has run back, through Scarborough, to the Misty Cliffs roost site. In addition, every time the troop has made it back to this roost site, they have been able to raid in Scarborough. The main attractants in Scarborough and target for raiding has been in the area of the shop at the Camel Rock Restaurant, and the area of Mountain Rise where certain residents have been known to feed baboons in the past.

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																			
		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																			
MONTH: October	YEAR: 2014																												
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
MCF2	F	2	2				2	2		2	1		2					1						2					9
MCF3	F	2	2				2	2		2	1		2											2					8
KOB1	M																												
Troop		2	2				2	2		2	1		2											2					8
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																											
		%																								HRS			
Troop		7.3	120	240			180	180		540	60		60												90				24h30
Males & Females		8.8	120	240			180	180		540	60		60												90				29h30
Roost:		AM	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	
Roost:		PM	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	
		1 Misty Cliffs				2 CoGH Reserve				3				4				5											
		6				7				8				9				10											
ID Features of Baboons																													
General remarks		An adult male from the Klein Olifantsbos Troop joined the MC troop on 18/10																											

Fig.5. Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop – October 2014

On 17 October, the troop moved from the Bonteberg area to the Olifantsbos area and did not return to Bonteberg that evening. It is assumed that the troop slept in the Olifantsbos area. The following day, the troop was found in Scarborough. It was noted that there was a new adult male with the troop although he did not enter Scarborough but instead ran along the firebreak above, barking for the troop. That evening the troop slept on the cliffs behind Misty Cliffs, together with the new male.

The following day the troop was returned to the Reserve. On further investigation, it was determined that the new male had come from the Klein Olifantsbos Troop. This is a very positive

development because, for the first time in many years, the MC troop potentially has a non-raiding alpha male. As was the case with the GOB troop in July 2012, the arrival of a non-raiding male into the troop could be the catalyst to the eventual rehabilitation of this troop, provided individuals in the troop or residents in town do not corrupt the new alpha.

3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop has spent time at both the Compass Bakery and Ocean View roost sites this month.

October Raids:

No house raids were reported this month for this troop.

All of the raids reported this month were of bins in Ocean View.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1 In urban area				4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																				
MONTH: September		2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
YEAR: 2014		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL
DG6	M	2	2				2		2		2					2		2	2	2				2	2	2				12
SKF1	F		2						2							2			2						2	2				6
SKF2	F		2						2							2			2						2					5
Troop																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												
Troop	0.0																													
Males + Females	0.5	5	10				10		5		5					15		5	5	10					10	10	5			01h35
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2		
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	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																														

Fig.6. Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – October 2014

Comments and Observations

The Slangkop Troop has been more easily managed this month due to the increased availability of forage in the mountains. Raiding by individuals has also reduced significantly in comparison to previous months, this because of the troop being held in the mountains most days.

The only raids were undertaken by a couple of individuals heading into the first row of houses in Ocean View to raid bins. The close proximity of the roost site to the urban edge does allow for the occasional opportunistic break into the urban area to raid bins close by, but the team are able to limit the raiding to 10 minutes or less.

At no time this month has the whole troop managed to enter any urban area to raid.

Births and Deaths

There was one birth recorded in the Slangkop Troop this month. No deaths were recorded in any troop this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GOB Troop: The movements of the troop must continue to be monitored through telemetry in the absence of a working GPS collar. At this time of year, the troop is left alone and is only managed if they approach the Scarborough fence.

Misty Cliffs Troop: This troop has a new alpha male from the Klein Olifantsbos Troop. This male is a non-raiding male and it is imperative that this male is not exposed to raiding of the urban areas. Every effort must be made to hold this troop in the Reserve for as long as possible to ensure that the new alpha has time to assert his dominance over the troop, thereby allowing him to teach the troop how to forage naturally in the Reserve in the dry summer months and lean winter months. There must be a concerted effort made to identify residents that feed this troop in the urban area as this will be the quickest way that the non-raiding male will learn to associate the urban space with readily available food.

Slangkop Troop: The troop has proved much easier to manage this past month and the team must continue to hold the line in the mountain above Ocean View to prevent troop raids and individuals from breaking away from the troop to raid.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury

1. Tokai Troop

The Tokai Troop has remained easy to manage during this reporting period. They have been foraging in the fynbos and pines in the levels of Tokai Plantation. As the pines are gradually being felled, the baboons are switching to a largely fynbos-based diet, and as a result, they have stayed in the upper levels of the plantation, generally above level 3.

During this reporting period they have moved north to above the Buitenverwachting property, and south to above Steenberg, but not venturing as far as Ou Kaapse Weg. The troop has also been high enough into the mountains to venture into Silvermine Reserve, but did not spend more than a few hours at this height. Each evening the troop moved back down the mountain to sleep on level 1, near either the Guest House or Zwaanswyk Clearing.

The main challenge this month has been preventing raiding by adult males. During the first week of this reporting period (28 September – 4 October), Chrysalis Academy was running a camp which involved students spending several nights in the plantation, near the boot camp. This resulted in several food stashes being left in the open, which were easily accessible and well within the troop's home range. TK28, TK40, TK42 and TK43 took advantage of the situation and, on several occasions, stole food from these stashes. This has been recorded as a category 2 (bin raid) as the food was not stored in any dwelling, nor was it actively guarded. Although HWS Rangers tried their utmost to prevent as many of these raids as possible, some were inevitable.

TK40 and TK43 demanded intensive management during October. TK40 has become more settled into the troop than he was several months ago, however he still pushes to raid on a regular basis. He has discovered the Forest Glade Centre, and pushes down on almost a daily basis to try to raid Tribakery, the Brasserie and the Pharmacy. HWS Rangers are preventing raids taking place, and TK40 has only made it to the Forest Glade Centre on five occasions during the reporting period.

In addition to Forest Glade Centre, TK40 takes any opportunity to raid at Chrysalis or the Tokai Picnic Site, but Rangers are aware of this and try to keep him in the upper levels of Tokai Plantation with the troop whenever possible. On a positive note, TK40 only ever raids alone and no longer takes females or juveniles with him.

TK43 has also escalated his raiding this month, particularly at Chrysalis and the Tokai Picnic Site. He has been spending increasing amounts of time away from the troop, and even slept by himself on the roofs of Chrysalis on 29 September. HWS Rangers, who are trying to get him to reintegrate into the troop, are intensively monitoring him.

Two new-borns were reported this month, one on 8 October and another on 19 October.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1 In urban area											4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food													
BABOON TROOP: Tokai Trp		2 Raid bins											5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property													
MONTH: August - Septemb		3 Non malicious damage											6 Raid occupied house or vehicle				9 Nocturnal Raiding													
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Total
TK 28 (B-G) Collar	M				2	2	2																						6	
TK 40 (P-Y) Collar VHF	M				2	1	2					2		2					5		6	6	2				6		13	
TK 41 (Single Pink)	M																												1	
TK 42 (Blue Yellow)	M																												2	
TK 43 (Single White)	M			5	2	2				6																	6		12	
UnID male	M				2																								2	
UnID Sub ad male	M																												0	
Un ID Female 1	F																												0	
UnID Female 2	F																												0	
UnID Juvenile																													0	
TKF 1 (B-B)	F																												0	
TKF 2 (Untagged)	F																												0	
TKF 8 (W -W)	F																												0	
Tokai troop																													0	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Tokai Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	0.0																													0.00
Males	2.4			120	60							45										120	90				25			7.67
Roost:	AM	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	11	11	3	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	1	1	1	4	4	7	4	3	7	1	
Roost:	PM	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	11	11	3	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	1	1	1	4	4	7	4	3	7	1	7	
Roost Sites		1 Tea Garden					2 Upper Tea Garden					3 Level 1 Tokai Clearing					4 Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums					5 Level 2 Stream								
		6 Lower Guest House					7 Upper Guest House					8 Level 3 Pines					9 Level 4 Pines					10 Level 2 Pines								
		11 Level 1a Quarry Gums					12 Other					13					14					15								
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Fig.7. Raid sheet for the Tokai Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place outside of the urban area.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop has spent most of the month foraging on fynbos in the southern section of the Tokai Plantation. They spent most of their time above level 3, and spent a large amount of time above Steenberg Estate. Additionally, they joined the Tokai Troop and foraged in Silvermine Reserve for a couple of days. Following the patterns of the Tokai Troop, the Zwaanswyk Troop always moved down and slept at the level 1 gums or at the tea garden.

The only problematic individual in the Zwaanswyk Troop is the alpha male (untagged, immigrant from the Mountain Troop) who went into Zwaanswyk and spent some time eating fruit from the trees in the gardens. It is suspected he gained access through the horse gate, which had been left open. However, despite his raiding, he is having a positive influence on the troop. The sub-adult male, who often followed the previous alpha's example and raided regularly at the Tea Garden, has not been raiding for several months and is happy to forage on fynbos with the rest of the troop.



Fig.9. Lower section of Groot Constantia Fence.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Total				
BABOON TROOP:	Constantia Troop	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	Nocturnal Raiding																				
MONTH:	August - September	YEAR:	2014																											
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Total
TK 33 (R-O)	M																												0	
TK 15 (Y-O)	M						6																						1	
TK 19 (R-W)	M																												0	
TK 16 (W-W)	M																												0	
TK 11 (O-W)	M																												0	
CON 1 (Untagged)	M																												0	
CON 2 (B-O) Collar VHF	M																												0	
CON 3 (G) S.Ad	M																												0	
CON 4 (B) S.Ad	M																												0	
CON 5 (G-G)	M																												0	
CON 6 (O) Collar VHF	M																												0	
CON 7 (P-G)	M										6		6		6								2	5	6		4	6	7	9
MT 1 (G-W)	M																												0	
Untagged male	M																												0	
Un-ID fem / Juv	F																												0	
Un-ID/Unknown																													0	
The Troop																													0	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Con Troop	0.0																												0.00	
Individuals	0.2						45																						0.75	
Males	0.1																												0.17	
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	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	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	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 Buiten BG								
ID Features of Baboons		6 Uitsig BG					7 Mckenziez/Groot					8 Other					9					10								
General remarks																														

Fig.10. Raid sheet for the Constantia Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place outside of the urban area.

4. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop continues to be elusive this month, only being sighted above Buitenverwachting on a few occasions. When rangers try to observe the troop, they often move away demonstrating that the troop shows a consistent fear of humans.

The males however are the exception to this. It was reported to HWS that a male baboon raided a house on Klein Constantia, and by the description, HWS concluded that it was TK3, the beta male from the Mountain Troop.

It has also been reported that the Buitenverwachting Rangers have been actively blocking Mountain Troop males from raiding houses and buildings on the farm.

Births and Deaths

Two new-borns were reported in the Tokai Troop, one on the 8 and one on the 19 October 2014.

No deaths this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Horse gate: Users of the horse gate along the Zwaanswyk Fence need to ensure the gate closes completely behind them before proceeding. It is suspected that this is how the Zwaanswyk Troop alpha gained access into Zwaanswyk.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

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

TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	Total End Dec 2013	Oct Births	Oct Deaths	Total Births 2014	Total Deaths 2014	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	44			5	6	43
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21		2	5	7	19
Waterfall	28	30			0	1	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17			0	2	15
Slangkop	33	40	1		6	2	44
SUB TOTAL	175	171	1	2	16	18	169
Zwaanswyk	25	30			2	4	28
Tokai	61	70	2		11	7	74
Mountain	33	44			3	0	47
Constantia	60	72			4	6	70
SUB TOTAL	179	216	2	0	20	17	219
TOTAL	354	387	3	2	36	35	388

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

This month the total population of managed baboons again remained stable, with three births and two deaths. The first death was really an extension of the most unfortunate electrocution that took place in September, immediately killing two juveniles and very seriously injuring a third. A juvenile female baboon, the third survivor had lost use of a hand, a foot and a limb. Clearly in severe pain, this juvenile baboon was retrieved from the veld and following a medical assessment, was put out of its misery. All efforts are being made to secure the electrocution site to prevent a re-occurrence.

The other death this month, saw the end of probably the oldest and a very well known favourite baboon from the Smitswinkel troop. SWB1, known to many as 'Merlin' or the 'old male', who had been reprieved from being euthanased in 2012, managed to live out another two and a half years as an integral member and caring father in his troop.

Under the new HWS management techniques, he very seldom raided until near the very end of his days. In the end he could not keep up with the troop as the climbed the mountain to their sleep sites and was visibly losing weight. He was darted to renew his radio collar and also to be given a veterinary examination. This showed that he no longer had any teeth and was virtually just skin and bone. It was therefore decided the the most humane action for him would be to euthanase him. He will be missed by many.

Hotline Data

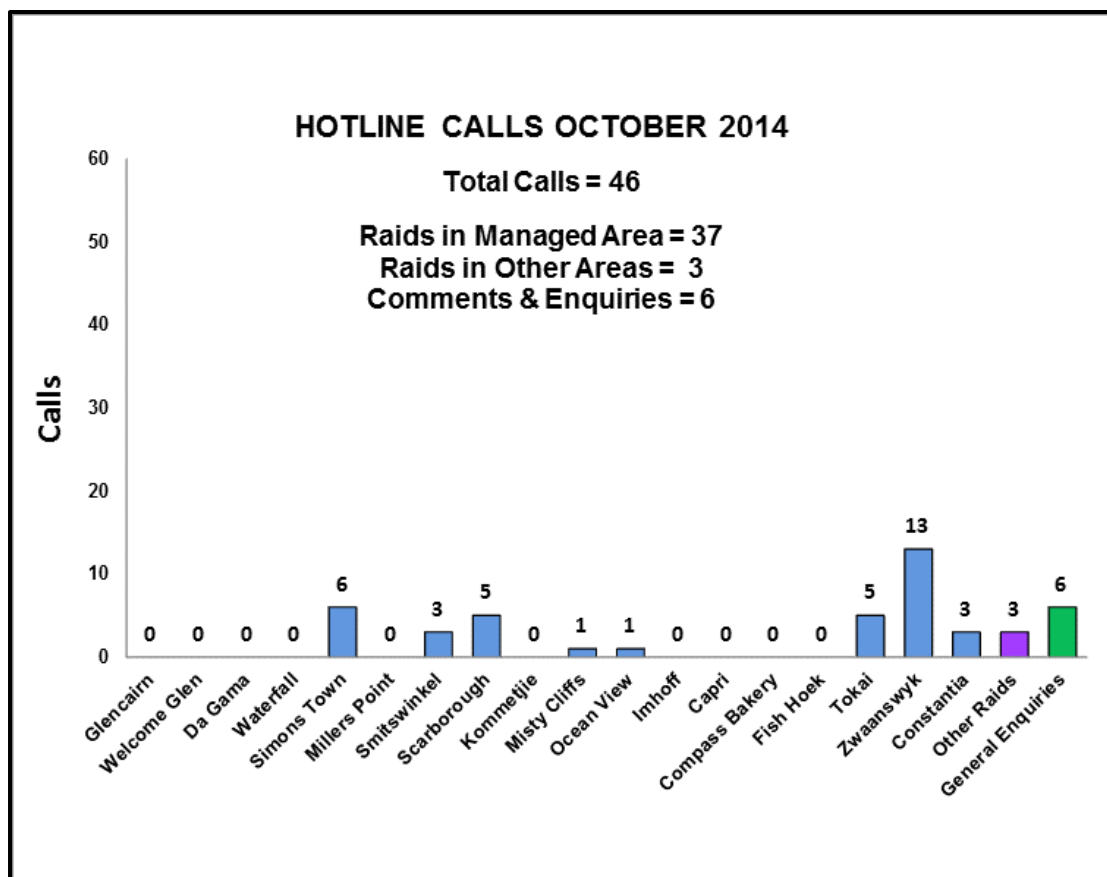


Fig.11. Hotline calls summary per urban area.

Hotline calls have steadily decreased with the arrival and progression of early summer. The only area that received a notable number of calls was Zwaanswyk, and this can be attributed largely to electric fence problems and the fact that, whenever a baboon is sighted in Zwaanswyk, there are invariably many calls for each baboon sighting (see September 2014 report). For example, on 3 December, six calls were received in less than 1.5 hours in response to one baboon who did not raid a house but was simply in the area.

Zwaanswyk continues to experience a few electric fence problems, but it has not been possible to determine exactly where these few intrusions are made. It is possible that this occurs where the Zwaanswyk and Steenberg fences meet.

As usual most (73%) of hotline calls were simply in response to baboons being in town.

This month, the number of calls in response to house raids is unusually high (almost 22%), and this is no doubt due to most raids being undertaken by single males.

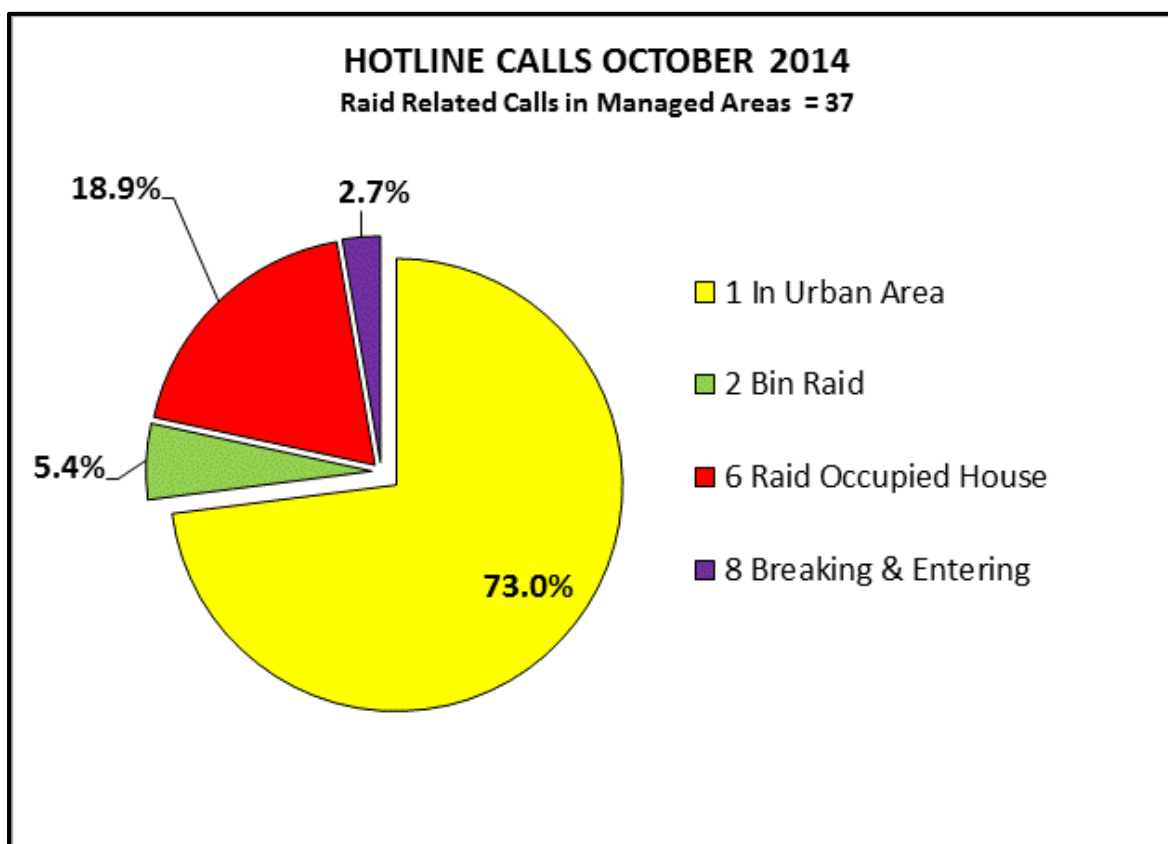


Fig.12. Composition of Raid-related hotline calls.

Percentage Time out of Town

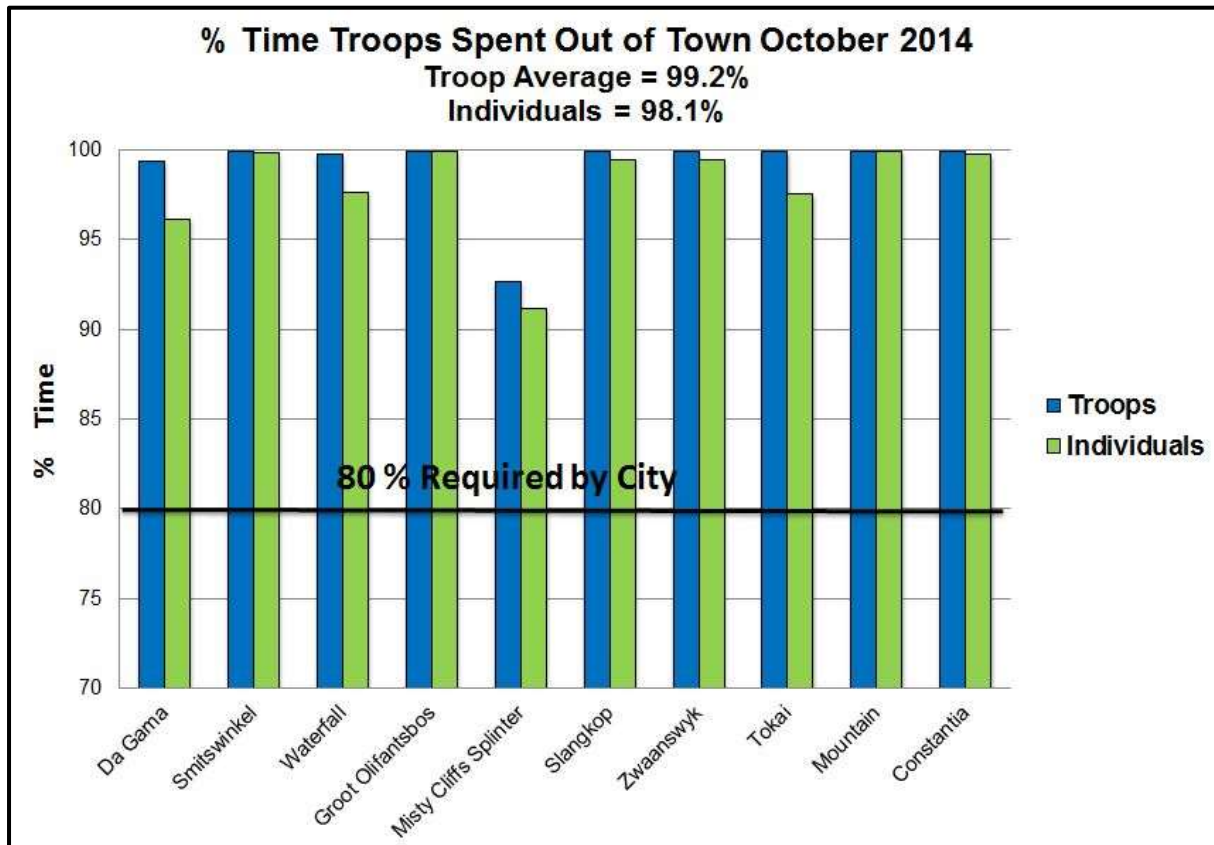


Fig.13. Percentage time troops spent out of town.

This month, most troops were very well behaved and all stayed out of town for over 99% of the time, with the exception of Misty Cliffs, which spent over 92% of their time out of town. The fact that the Misty Cliffs Troop spent relatively so much time in town can largely be attributed to them giving way when the GOB Troop moved across from their Olifantsbos sleepsites into the Bonteberg sleepsites, close to where the Misty Cliffs troop usually sleep.

As a result of this, the Misty Cliffs Troop spent about half the month sleeping in the CoGH Reserve and the other half at Misty Cliffs. Despite this, it is pleasing to note that the troop still spent noticeably less time in town than in the past few months. Some of this can be attributed to the season and the increased availability of food, but much also to the arrival of the new 'wild' alpha male from the Klein Olifantsbos Troop.

Conclusion

This month has been a relatively quiet month with the troops, on average, spending less than 0.8% of their time in town. The only troop that spent a significant amount of time in town was the Misty Cliffs Troop, and even this troop was much better than usual.

One very important event this month was the arrival of the new alpha male, KOB1, into the Misty Cliffs Troop. This is possibly the best thing that could have happened to this troop because the male came from the Klein Olifantsbos Troop, which is one of the least habituated troops on the peninsula. KOB1 is therefore extremely shy of humans and tries to discourage his troop from raiding town.

Presumably the troop will, with time, get KOB1 to join them in raids. However, it is likely to be a very long time, if ever, before he becomes a house raider anything like his predecessors. This process could be delayed hugely if the Scarborough fence between it and the CoGH reserve was electrified. HWS will continue to motivate for this with all authorities concerned.

The arrival of KOB1 into the Misty Cliffs Troop also emphasises the importance of trying to import wild males from outside the peninsula to improve the genetic stock, and also help in breaking the long history of raiding on the peninsula.

Dr. Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions