

# Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

September 2014

Photograph: Phil Richardson

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>A. REPORTING PERIOD</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOUTH EAST REGION</b>	
1. Smitswinkel Troop	3
2. Waterfall Troop	5
3. Da Gama Troops (DG)	7
Births and Deaths	8
Recommendations	8
<b>SOUTH WEST REGION</b>	
1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)	8
2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop	8
3. Slangkop Troop	10
Births and Deaths	11
Recommendations	11
<b>NORTH REGION</b>	
1. Tokai Main Troop (TMT)	11
2. Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop (ZST)	13
3. Constantia Troop	14
4. Mountain Troop	15
Births and Deaths	16
Recommendations	16
<b>C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS</b>	
Population Data	17
Hotline Data	18
Percentage Time Out of Town	20
Conclusion	20

## A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report covers the five-week period from 25 August to 26 September 2014. September is considered to announce spring in the Western Cape, and for good reason. This month, we have seen the baboons finally being released from the cold and wet winter conditions, and having a much greater abundance of natural foods available to feed on. As a result, the baboons have been much easier to manage this month and the number of hotline calls has reduced by almost half that of last month, and to much fewer calls than during any of the other winter months.

The Zwaanswyk electric fence problems seem to have largely, but not entirely, been sorted out this month, with only a few baboon incursions being made into the suburb. These problems highlight the importance of consistent, good maintenance being required for electric fences. They also highlight the importance of consistency with baboons. If they constantly get a negative message, baboons learn not to bother to test the system. However, as soon as they discover that they may be rewarded by testing the system, it will take another long period of learning without any reward before they eventually give up again.

This month, HWS has introduced a new table reporting the causes of all deaths recorded since their management began, on a monthly basis. One positive feature that is evident from this table is that, while there has been over a 50% decrease in management-required deaths between the first and second year of HWS management, there has still been over a 25% decrease in food raids (bin and assertive raids).

Therefore, while the need to remove unrelenting raiders has decreased by over 50%, the effects of management have still reduced raids by over 25%.

## B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

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

#### 1. Smitswinkel Troop

Although there were only eight raiding incidents during this reporting period, it has been a very difficult month to manage the troop, as they still prefer the area between the Rockland's Centre and Miller's Point mountain range. The difficulty in this is that it the area is densely infested with alien vegetation and it is therefore difficult for the rangers to pre-empt any movements.

Of the eight incidents, five are ascribed to SWB1 who is suffering from malnutrition and has a very poor body condition. As in the previous month, he has difficulty following the troop up the steep cliffs and breaks away from the troop to raid.

Unfortunately, there was also a horrific incident involving electrocution. Three juvenile baboons, all approximately one year old, were playing on the electric cables when they were electrocuted and fell to the ground. This was witnessed by both the Field Manager and a ranger, who immediately contacted the Area Manager, Ziggy Rode. Ziggy, together with the Area Manager (Response), John de Jager, and the appointed veterinarian, Dr. Dorothy Breedt, arrived at the scene shortly after.

The terrain was very steep and it was difficult to get to the baboons, however, Ziggy Rode, John de Jager and Field Manager, Louis van Wyk, climbed up to the area where one dead juvenile was found, and SWB1 was found carrying another injured juvenile. The dead juvenile was retrieved and the area was searched for the third one. The male, SWB1, was guarding the injured juvenile and as a result, it was not possible to recover it.

Numerous attempts were made by the vet and HWS staff to capture or dart the injured juvenile, however it very seldom came down from the mountain as it was probably in too much pain.



Fig.1. Area where three juveniles were electrocuted

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																					
SE																																							
BABOON TROOP:	Smitswinkel	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																																
	2014	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																																		
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	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	25	26	TOTAL			
SWB1	M									5																									5				
SWB6	M																																		0				
Troop																																			0				
UnID Fem	F									5								5																	2				
SWBF8	F																																		0				
SWB9																																			0				
UNID Male	M																	5																	1				
SWB7	M																																		0				
	%																										HRS												
Troop	0.00																										0.00												
Individuals	0.13																										20												
Males	0.46																										15												
																											20												
																											15												
																											20												
																											1.17												
Roost:	AM	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	5	4	5	4	4	2	2	3	5	1	1	1	1	1	7	7	3	4	4	4	4					
Roost:	PM	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	2	3	3	2	1	2	4	1	7	7	4	4	4	4	4						
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					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.2. Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

## 2. Waterfall Troop

Unfortunately, this reporting period was a particularly bad period in terms of raiding by the troop. Since November 2013, the rangers managed to keep the troop out of the residential area and away from the Naval Barracks 100% of the time.

For a period of seven months, the troop did not raid at all and were feeding purely on natural vegetation. At one stage, the rangers hardly ever saw the troop and managed them by using VHF telemetry to set up the lines in the correct places to prevent the troop from raiding.

However, the alpha male, RH2 (who is unfortunately the only baboon in the troop with the VHF collar), gradually started raiding again at the South African Ammunition Depot (SANAD). At first, it was mainly raiding of bins, but then he commenced entering the offices and mess room through open doors and windows. He often left the troop to raid at SANAD, which made monitoring the rest of the troop very difficult as he was the only one with a collar and it was therefore difficult to pin point where they were.

On 9 March, WF2 entered SANAD for the first time but was chased out before he raided. However, once he had discovered how to get in by climbing the fence or walking past the boom gates at the entrance, his raiding progressively got worse and the two males were joined by more members of the troop.

During May, the troop started sleeping at the Red Hill cliff although they still preferred sleeping up at the SANAD sleep site.

In July, RH2, as well as WF2, started raiding the Cape Farmhouse, and in August they started raiding the Red Hill Informal Settlement (RHIS) as well as ventured as far as Wildeschutsbrand picnic site. However, although most of the troop stays with RH2, WF2 has a few females and juveniles that follow him and he always tries to push back to Simon's Town.



The troop then broke the line and went back to Simon's Town, and once they were at the naval barracks, the troop started raiding as they used to. RH2 had the majority of the troop with him, and they were pushed up easily. WF2 and his raiding party were extremely difficult to control and they raided the barracks and then entered the urban area. With the terrain being very steep, it is difficult for rangers to either get ahead of the baboons to block them, or to get around them.

Poor waste management, and many windows and doors being left open, has not helped the situation and, throughout the month, WF2 initiated a push back to the naval barracks. On multiple occasions he was stopped, however, of concern was that the troop was spending more and more time there, which has triggered the raiding behaviour throughout the troop, and the raiding cycle has resumed.

Fig.3. WF2 collared and tagged.

On 24 September, WF2 was darted and fitted with a VHF collar as well as a more visible tag. This will assist rangers in managing him more proactively. He was also kept at the Westlake holding facility in order to give the rangers a good opportunity to push the troop out of the naval barracks area.

This was successful, however, they have settled at the Red Hill sleep site.

Since June, the troop started to push hard to get back to the barracks and it became increasingly difficult to get them away from there and back up to the Klaasjagersberg Mountain where there is enough natural food and water for the troop.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																										TOTAL									
SE		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	HRS									
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall		In urban area				Attacking pets				Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food				Raid bins				Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				Breaking & Entering/Damaging property															
MONTH: September 2014		Non malicious damage				Raid occupied house or vehicle																															
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	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	25	26	TOTAL	
Troop											2	2	2					1	1	6			2			6	6									9	
RH2	M	2																		6				2			6	6								5	
WF2	M									5								6	5	6						6		6								6	
WFF3	F																																			0	
WFF4	F																																			0	
UnID Females	F																	7									6								2		
UnID Juveniles																																				0	
UnID Male	M																																			0	
WFF2	F																																			0	
UnID Individuals																																				0	
	%																																				
Troop	6.4																											65	90	135	16.17						
Females/Individuals	2.8																											40			7.17						
Males	5.3																											105	90	90	165	225	36	15	30	40	13.27
Roost:	AM	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	1	1	2	1,2	1	1	1	1	1	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	1	1	9	9	9	9			
Roost:	PM	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	1	1	1	9	9	9	9			
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.4. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet

### **3. Da Gama Troop**

Throughout the reporting period, raiding in Da Gama continued although it seemed to be less often in Welcome Glen. During the previous month, raiding in Welcome Glen was much higher and this can mainly be ascribed to the fact that DG10 was a young, dispersing male. DG10 often slept apart from the troop and entered Welcome Glen in the mornings and afternoons to raid or feed off fruit trees.

Both ranger teams in Da Gama have worked exceptionally hard to get the troop to sleep in the mountain, and with daylight hours getting longer again, the troop still moves around until quite late in the afternoon.

Poor waste management and lack of baboon proofing in Da Gama remains a major problem that hampers every effort to wean the troop off human derived foods. The bin system that was put in place by HWS in 2012, has unfortunately been destroyed and is no longer functional. The locks that were on the bins have been removed or stolen, and therefore, as mentioned in the previous month's report, the Field Managers made interim plans to curb some of the poor waste management.

DG1 is an older male who pushes daily to go back to Da Gama, despite the troop either sleeping in the mountain at Grootkop or at Maylands. DG1 is usually followed by both DG11 and DG12. These two are young males that are becoming sub-adults and could, within the next few months, also become dispersing males. All three males are followed by at least two adult females and some juveniles.

Although DG1 had a VHF collar, it remained difficult to pre-empt his movements as he always moved through very dense vegetation and then entered Da Gama Park. Over the last few months, he was responsible for numerous house raids, in both occupied and unoccupied houses. It was also difficult for him to stay with the troop as SK3 attacked him whenever he returned to the troop. DG1 had two females, DG11 and DG12, as well as several juveniles that would follow him to the urban area.

During August, HWS allocated three rangers to manage DG1 and his raiding party, which left only a few rangers to manage the troop and the other two males, DG11 and DG12, which would split off from DG1's raiding party when they were in town.

The situation was of grave concern as it meant that the raiding cycle continued and young baboons were learning to raid. Even more concerning was the fact that SK3 followed DG11 into town and raided - something he had not done for months.

Eventually the decision was taken to do what would be best for the troop and remove DG1. It is envisaged that, with HWS ranger attention now being able to be focused more on the troop, it will be possible to prevent DG11 and DG12 from raiding.



On 24 September, a young juvenile was electrocuted while playing on the power lines, and evidently died instantly. The mother, DGF1, immediately picked it up and carried it for about two days before she lost it in the dense vegetation.

Fig.5. DGF1 shortly after the death of her baby.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																							
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																					
SOUTH EAST		1 In urban area									4 Attacking pets									7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																																			
BABOON TROOP: Da Gama		2 Raid bins									5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle									8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																			
MONTH: September 2014		3 Non malicious damage									6 Raid occupied house or vehicle									9 Nocturnal Raiding																																			
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	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	25	26	TOTAL																			
Troop	M	2		2		1		9	9											1															7																				
SK3	M	6		1		2	1													2	1														8																				
DG10	M																																		0																				
DG11	M	6,8				1								6		2				1			1	2							2		2	2	12																				
DGF1	F					1														1														2																					
DGF2	F		1			2															2	1													4																				
UnID Females	F	1,2		2							1																1		2		2			9																					
UnID Female	F															2						1	1				2							5																					
DG12	M		1	2		6														2	1							2	2,6					8																					
UnID Juvs		2								1	1																			2		2		13																					
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS																											
Troop	%	0.7																									40			2.33																									
Individuals		3:9	55	20	85	95		70	110												35	60	30	10	50	40	60	40	40	12.67																									
Males		5:0	95	110	95	50											20	120	75	35	60	30	10	120	40	60	40	16.00																											
Roost:	AM	2	2	2,3	2	2	1,2	18	1,2	1,2	2	17	20	17	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	1	2	20	18	2	1,2	2	2	17	18	17	20	20	2																				
Roost:	PM	2	2,3	2	2	2	18	1,2	1,2	2	17	20	17	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	1	2	20	18	2	2	2	2	17	22	17	20	20	20	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	Kleinplas 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.6. Da Gama Troop Raid Sheet

**Births and Deaths**

Two juveniles were recorded dead in the Smitswinkel Troop.  
 One juvenile was recorded dead in the Da Gama Troop.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Power lines:** Baboon-proofing of poles that carry power lines is needed as there have been three deaths in one month because of electrocution.

**SANAD:** Cooperation and the implementation of baboon-proofing recommendations, as well as the removal of, at the very least, the young fruit trees is urgently needed at SANAD and at the Naval Barracks in Simon's Town.

**Red Hill Informal Settlement:** Waste management and baboon-proofing needs to be addressed at the settlement, and assistance through funding and events should be considered in order to relieve some of the issues.



**Da Gama:** Urgent action, in terms of waste management, is needed in Da Gama Park. Waste management has deteriorated back to the same state it was in during 2012.

**South Western Region – Area Manager: Nick Shaw**

**1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop**

The GOB Troop has remained within the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) Reserve for the whole of this reporting period. Using telemetry, the troop was tracked throughout their home range. However, they have spent the majority of the month in the Olifantsbos area. At no time during this month did the troop attempt to enter the urban area, and no raids were recorded.

**2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop**

During September, the Misty Cliffs (MC) 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 similar to the pattern seen in August. This month, each time the troop left the Reserve it coincided with the movement of the GOB troop from Olifantsbos to the Bonteberg area.

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:	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	9	Nocturnal raiding																															
BABOON ID	Sex	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	26		
GOB9	M	2,5		2		2	2	2		1					2,6	2		2		2			2	2	2,6	2	2,6		2	2							21	
MCF2	F	2,5		2		2	2	2		1		1				2		2		2			2	2		2	2,6		2	2			2	1	1			21
MCF3	F	2,5		2		2					1							2		2									2	2			2	1	1			14
Troop			2		2		2		2												2																5	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS										
Troop	4.5	240	300	300	180															60																18h00		
Males & Females	12.0	240	300	300	60	180	210	420	10	90	60	60								120	120	40	120	60		180	150	40	45	60					47h45			
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2		
		1	Misty Cliffs	2	CoGH Reserve	3					4															5												
		6		7		8					9																10											
ID Features of Baboons	GOB9 has a VHF collar and Pink/White tags																																					
General remarks																																						

Fig.7: Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop – September 2014

September Raids:

On 24 August, GOB9 and three females raided an unoccupied house in Mountain Rise, Scarborough.

On 5 September, GOB9 raided an occupied house in Duiker Rd, Scarborough.

On 15 September, GOB9 raided an occupied house in Duiker Rd, Scarborough.

On 17 September, GOB9 and MCF2 raided an occupied house in Gemsbok Rd, Scarborough.

Comments and Observations

Raiding by the MC Troop has been less than in previous months due to the length of time the troop has been in the COGH Reserve. When the troop is in the Reserve, raiding opportunities are reduced as the troop is more easily prevented from entering Scarborough.

However, this does not apply to individuals that break away from the troop to enter Scarborough on their own. This is the case with GOB9, MCF2 and MCF3, all of which spent significantly more time in the urban area despite there being plenty of naturally available forage in the Reserve at this time of year. The time spent in town by these individuals when they are on their own, is much less than the time they spend in town when the whole troop is raiding.

Twice during this last month, the GOB Troop has moved into the Bonteberg area while the MC Troop has been there, and on both occasions it was not possible to prevent the MC Troop from running back to the Misty Cliffs roost site. GOB9 was subordinate to GOB7 when he was part of the GOB Troop, and this is most likely the reason for him not wanting to be in close proximity to the GOB Troop. GOB9 did not show much interest in assuming the alpha male role in the MC Troop and used his position within the troop to raid Scarborough, which he would do almost daily, either with the troop or on his own.

With WAAC approval, GOB9 was euthanased on 22 September.

### 3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop has spent time at both the Compass Bakery and Ocean View roost sites this month. The late rains in September forced the troop to find shelter in the pines at the Ocean View roost site.

On 5 September, the troop moved across to the Slangkop roost site above Kommetjie where they remained for two days before heading back to the mountain above Ocean View.

#### September Raids:

No house raids were reported this month involving this troop.

All of the raids reported this month were of bins in Ocean View, Capri and Kommetjie.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																			
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		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															
MONTH: September	YEAR: 2014	3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																															
BABOON ID	Sex	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	26	TOTAL
DG6	M		2	2		2								2							2			2													6
SKF1	F	2	2		2								2	2							2			2												7	
SKF2	F		2	2		2							2	2							2			2												7	
Troop				2											2						2			2												4	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																			
		%																																			
Troop		0.7		60											20						90			10												03h00	
Males + Females		1.0	22	60		10						15	20								90			10												03h47	
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	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	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	3	3	3	2	2	2		
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.8. Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – September 2014

### Comments and Observations

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

On three occasions this month, the troop entered Capri and raided bins and on one occasion, the troop briefly raided bins in Mountain Rd, Kommetjie.

### **Births and Deaths**

This month, there was one death recorded in the Misty Cliffs Troop and three births recorded in the Slangkop Troop.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**Misty Cliffs Troop:** The troop must not be allowed to settle down at the Misty Cliffs roost site from where they continue to raid Scarborough. Even with plenty of naturally available forage, the troop is insistent on entering Scarborough to raid. This is due to the difficulty of managing the troop so close to the urban edge and the habitual tendency of the troop to raid Scarborough from this point. To reduce raiding, the troop must be managed inside the Reserve. As far as possible, the ranger team must try to manage individual animals to prevent them from breaking the line, but the main priority is to prevent the troop from crossing the fence into Scarborough.

**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 been easier to manage this month, especially on the warmer days. On many occasions, the troop moved up to level 3 and above on Tokai Mountain where they foraged on new, spring growth.

For the first time in several years, the Tokai Troop ventured well above level 5 and into the Silvermine Reserve, moving as far as the tented camp and picnic site although, on each occasion, they did not spend longer than a couple hours in the Reserve. However, visiting the Silvermine Reserve has provided the troop with a new range of forage, which could relieve their pressure on the urban areas below.

During the first week of this reporting period, TK39 continued to be aggressive within the Tokai Troop resulting in TK40, TK43, and a small party of females with infants, leaving the troop and raiding. Due to the continued aggressive raiding within Tokai Plantation and Chrysalis, WAAC approval was granted for the euthanasia of TK39, which took place on 29 August.

It was also hoped that, in the absence of TK39, TK40 and his raiding party would stop raiding and return to the troop. In the week following TK39's removal, HWS rangers worked hard to keep TK40 within the troop. In the last weeks of September, it became apparent that the desired result has been achieved.

TK40 has settled significantly and integrated himself well within the troop. His urban raiding went from an almost-daily occurrence, to one urban raid during a period of 26 days, and on this occasion, TK40 raided alone and did not take his raiding party with him. This is a substantial improvement in raiding behaviour in comparison to the previous two months.

However, while TK40 has been integrating himself within the troop, he has been asserting his dominance over TK43, another young adult male from the Tokai Troop. They had several altercations during the reporting period, with TK43 sustaining some lacerations to his shoulders and neck, and an injury that caused him to limp for several days.

As a precaution, the CapeNature appointed veterinarian came to assess TK43, but it was concluded that he would recover as he was able to move and forage freely. TK43 has left the troop on several occasions this month, and has been roaming and raiding at Chrysalis Academy on his own, which may be in an effort to elude TK40.

Although HWS rangers are encouraging his integration in the troop, it is possible that he is starting to disperse in an effort to find another troop. He is being closely monitored for further developments and to prevent him from raiding at Chrysalis.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																						
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																				
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food from person	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:	Tokai Trp																																					
MONTH:	Aug - Sept	YEAR:	2014																																			
BABOON ID	Sex	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	26	Total	
Tokai Troop																																					0	
TK 28 (B-G) Collar	M	<b>5</b>							<b>7, 5</b>			<b>5</b>																								<b>6</b>		5
TK 39 (G-R)	M																																					0
TK 40 (P-Y) Collar VHF	M	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,2,2</b>		<b>2,2,6</b>	<b>1</b>																									19
TK 41 (Single Pink)	M																		<b>5</b>																		1	
TK 43 (Single White)	M																																				6	
Un ID Female 1	F	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>																		<b>6</b>						<b>2,6</b>		<b>2,6,7</b>	<b>6,6</b>	8	
UnID Female 2	F			<b>2</b>																																1		
UnID Juvenile				<b>2</b>																																1		
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS										
Tokai Troop	0.0																											0.00										
Individuals	5.9	300				90	300	90		240		80	40																							19.00		
Males	0.1																											0.25										
Roost:	AM	6	6	1	6	6	1	7	1	6	1	6	6	1	1	3	7	6	6	7	7	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	6	1	1	4	7	6	1	11		
Roost:	PM	6	1	6	6	1	7	1	6	1	6	6	1	1	3	7	6	6	7	7	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	6	1	1	4	7	6	1	11	6		
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												
ID Features of Baboons	11	Level 1a Quarry Gums					12	Other					13						14						15													
	General remarks																																					

Fig.9. Raid sheet for the Tokai Troop. Bold and italics represent raids that took place outside the urban area.



The Tokai Picnic site was upgraded this month with a new suite of baboon proof bins. This is an enormous improvement on the open drums, and will go far towards removing the attraction of the picnic site to the baboons, especially in the upcoming, busy summer months.

Fig.10. A new baboon-proof bin that has been installed at the Tokai Picnic site.

## 2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop has followed the same trend as the Tokai Troop this month with raids decreasing and the troop moving higher into the Tokai Mountains on warm days. In conjunction with the Tokai Troop, the Zwaanswyk Troop has also moved above level 5 roads towards Silvermine Reserve, and has spent several hours on the upper cliffs of Tokai Mountain and in Silvermine. The troop has been foraging on the plentiful fynbos, and then coming back down the mountain to its usual sleep site around the Tea Garden or in the Level 1 Gums.

This month, in addition to exploring Silvermine, the Zwaanswyk Troop also moved far south towards Ou Kaapse Weg where they spent several days exploring the cliffs above Steenberg Estate. Lines were held above Steenberg Estate and along Ou Kaapse Weg to prevent them from entering the urban area.

The current alpha of the Zwaanswyk Troop originates from the Mountain Troop, and is therefore accustomed to foraging on fynbos and living on the mountain. It is possibly under his influence that the troop is spending an increasing amount of time higher up and in the fynbos.

On colder days, the troop avoided the higher mountains, and HWS rangers had to work hard to keep the troop out of Zwaanswyk. The operation of the Zwaanswyk fence continued to be erratic this month, with different sections often being off from time to time. As a result, the alpha male and an untagged female were able to get into Zwaanswyk on four occasions, although swift response from the HWS rangers ensured that they were moved out of Zwaanswyk quickly.

On one occasion when the upper zones of the fence were off, the entire troop managed to cross into Zwaanswyk. The rangers responded immediately and the troop was returned to the natural area within half-an-hour.

Both dogs and baboons have the potential to inflict serious injuries, especially during altercations. As such, the SANParks rule, which insists the public must ensure that dogs are always leashed in baboon-frequented areas, remains a good policy.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																				
NORTH		1 In urban area	4 Attacking pets	7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food from person																																		
BABOON TROOP:	Zwaanswyk	2 Raid bins	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																		
MONTH: Aug - Sept	YEAR:2014	3 Non malicious damage	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle	9 Nocturnal Raiding																																		
BABOON ID	Sex	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	26	Total	
Zwaanswyk Troop (ZT)																																						1
Untagged Adult Male	M			1								2																							2.2	1	6	5
Un-ID fem	F			1							2																										1	3
Un-ID Juvenile																																				1	1	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS								
Zwaanswyk Troop	0.0																																		30	0.50		
Individuals	0.9			80							95																							30	95	5.00		
Males	0.0																																				0.00	
Roost:	AM	1	4	1	2	4	4	4	4	4	10	10	3	3	4	5	5	1	4	2	5	1	4	1	1	4	4	1	2	4	11	4	4	4	11,4	2		
Roost:	PM	4	1	2	4	4	4	4	4	10	10	3	3	4	5	5	1	4	2	5	1	4	1	1	4	4	1	2	4	11	4	4	4	11,4	2	1		
Roost Sites		<b>1</b>	Tea Garden										<b>2</b>	Upper Tea Garden					<b>3</b>	Level 1 Tokai Clearing				<b>4</b>	Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums				<b>5</b>	Level 2 Stream								
		<b>6</b>	Lower Guest House										<b>7</b>	Upper Guest House					<b>8</b>	Manor House				<b>9</b>	Tokai bridge Blue Gums				<b>10</b>	Level 2 Pines								
		<b>11</b>	Other										<b>12</b>						<b>13</b>					<b>14</b>					<b>15</b>									
ID Features of Baboons																																						
General remarks																																						

Fig.11. Raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Troop. Bold and italics represent raids that took place outside the urban area.

### 3. Constantia Troop

This month, the Constantia Troop has split its time between Groot Constantia and the bike trails. As a whole, the troop has foraged on the barley on Groot Constantia and the fynbos on the bike trails.

The construction of the Groot Constantia fence recommenced this month, and the existing fence has been extended along the Klein Constantia / Groot Constantia boundary, down to the river at Little Streams. At present, the fence has been erected but the electric cables still need to be installed.

The Lower Gums sleep site is on the Klein Constantia side of the fence and it was observed that, rather than climbing over the fence, the troop goes around the fence, towards the urban area, to enter Groot Constantia – this despite the absence of electrification of the fence. It will be interesting to see the effect of electrification of the fence, as there could potentially be issues as it funnels the troop towards the urban area, near Klein Constantia Road.

CON5, CON6, CON7 and TK15 continued to keep HWS rangers busy this month. CON 7 and TK15 are the usual house raiders on Price Drive and Ou Wingerd Road. On most occasions, however, they were already returning to the troop by the time rangers intercepted them in the urban area.

CON7 has also taken to raiding Little Streams whenever possible. CON6 has been following TK15 into the urban area but does not raid houses and is content to forage on fruit trees on the Constantia properties. CON5 is a habitual raider of the Groot Constantia restaurants, but he has been successfully blocked many times this month while trying to leave the troop. As a result, he only managed to raid the Groot Constantia restaurants on 1 September.

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	25	26	Total										
BABOON TROOP: Constantia		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 from person	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	Nocturnal Raiding																												
MONTH: Aug - Sept		YEAR: 2014																																				
BABOON ID	Sex	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	26	Total	
TK 15 (Y-O)	M															1																					1	5
CON 5 (G-G)	M											<b>2,6</b>																										2
CON 6 (O) Collar VHF	M																		1	1							1										3	
CON 7 (P-G)	M			5													6,7	6					6	1			5	5,6		6		1	6,7		6		14	
Un-ID fem / Juv	F											<b>2</b>						6																			2	
Un-ID/Unknown											1																										3	
The Troop																																						
TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																						
		%																										HRS										
Con Troop	0.0																											0.00										
Individuals	0.9																											3.17										
Males	1.1			10												45	10		30	30			30	10			40		20	15		10	30	20	60	5.33		
Roost:	AM	1	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3,4	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1		
Roost:	PM	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3,4	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	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 Ullsra BG				7 Mckenzie/Groot				8 Other				9				10																				
General remarks																																						

Fig.12. Raid sheet for the Constantia Troop. Bold and italics represent raids that took place outside the urban area.

There were several injuries this month. On the 28 August, while attempting to raid at Little Streams, CON7 was involved in an altercation with two dogs. CON7 sustained puncture wounds to the shoulders and as far as we can ascertain, the dogs were uninjured. CON7 was monitored intensively for the rest of the day, but after recovering from shock, returned to the troop and continued to forage. CON7 now appears to have recovered fully from the injuries.

On 20 September, CON6 and TK19 had an altercation and sustained injuries. TK19 had a small laceration on his ear, and CON6 had a deep laceration on his right, back leg. Both baboons were located and assessed immediately thereafter. They were moving and foraging comfortably, so it was decided that it would be best to let them heal naturally. CON6 will continue to limp for a short while, but two days after the incident he was attempting to mate, indicating the laceration is not impeding normal behaviour.

#### 4. Mountain Troop

This month, the Mountain Troop has been pushing to get onto Buitenverwaching. The Buitenverwaching rangers have been pushing them off successfully, but certain males have been very persistent, and have been raiding the wine farms.

TK36, the alpha male, and TK3, the beta male, have been entering houses at the staff village on Buitenverwaching and on Klein Constantia. This is not classified as urban raiding, however it will be monitored as it is imperative that the raiding does not escalate.

In the past, the Mountain Troop has been unable to move south or north due to neighbouring troops. However, with the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops up the mountain near Silvermine, the Mountain Troop has had the opportunity to explore around the Tokai Plantation. Although they have not ventured into Tokai Plantation yet, this could happen if the Tokai Troop remains absent from the area for too long. This will be monitored during the coming months, and if possible, prevented.

### **Births and deaths**

Two births were reported this month - one in the Zwaanswyk Troop on 26 August, and one in the Constantia Troop on 10 September.

TK39 was euthanased on 29 August.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Zwaanswyk Fence:** The Zwaanswyk fence needs to be repaired as quickly as possible when malfunctions occur and give the Zwaanswyk Troop easy access into the urban area. The more often the troop gains access, the more difficult it will become to return them to the natural area.

**Fruit trees:** Constantia Residents are urged to pick all their fruit, or remove fruit trees from their properties as they are an attractant to the baboons and encourage them to leave the troop and raid in the urban area.

**Dogs on leashes:** In baboon-frequented areas, it is highly recommended that dogs be kept on a leash when being walked, and that appropriate signage be erected to this effect. Both dogs and baboons can provoke aggressive behaviour and this could result in severe injury to both species.



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

The population of managed baboons remained stable this month, with five births and six deaths being recorded. Three of the deaths were human induced with three juveniles electrocuted on power lines, and another three were management euthanasias.

One was an old male DG1, which had largely been reduced to raiding because of his age. Another, GOB9, a young male who grew up as a raider almost living in Scarborough, was euthanased. For the past two years, GOB9 lived in the GoGH Reserve under the guidance of GOB7, but as soon as he joined the Misty Cliffs Troop as the new alpha, he immediately started raiding Scarborough again. His predilection for daily raiding, even without his troop, soon led to him to being recommended for euthanasia. The third management euthanasia was of TK39 from the Tokai Troop. TK39 was a very aggressive, young male who had taken to attacking people for food.

Population Data for the Ten Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula							
TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	Total End Dec 2013	Sept Births	Sept Deaths	Total Births 2014	Total Deaths 2014	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	44		2	5	6	43
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21		2	5	5	21
Waterfall	28	30			0	1	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17		1	0	2	15
Slangkop	33	40	3		5	2	43
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>170</b>
Zwaanswyk	25	30	1	1	2	4	28
Tokai	61	70			9	7	72
Mountain	33	44			3	0	47
Constantia	60	72	1		4	6	70
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>387</b>

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

Period:	Total Population	Deaths			Total Deaths	Total Births
		Management	Natural*	Human induced		
Aug to July.						
2012/13	371	21	28	6	55	64
2013/14	388	9	25	7	41	51
2014/15	387	1	0	1	2	5
September 2014		3	0	3	6	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		34	53	17	104	125

Table 2. Total Deaths and Births per annum. (Years run from August – July. HWS commenced baboon management in August 2012) \**Humane euthanasias, in response to sickness, old age, accidents (e.g. falling out of a tree and being seriously injured) etc. are considered natural deaths.*

In the past, media and other reports on the deaths of baboons managed on the Cape Peninsula have all been reported according to calendar year. However, in Table 2, the causes of all deaths recorded over the past two years are presented from August one year to July the next, therefore reflecting the years since baboon management by HWS began.

It is clear that, although there were quite a number (21) of management deaths (euthanasias approved by WAC (now WAAC)) in HWS's first year, this number was more than halved (9) in their second year of management.

By contrast, the number of natural and human induced deaths have remained much the same from year to year. The huge decrease in management required deaths (from year 1 to year 2), also corresponds to a 24% decrease in bin raids, and a 31% decrease in assertive raids (see August 2014 report).

Thus, while management required deaths have decreased, the effects of management have increased.

### Hotline Data

The hotline data returned to normal this month after a very hectic previous month, primarily because of the Zwaanswyk fence playing up. This month, in addition to having approximately half the number of calls compared to last month, virtually all of the calls were as a result of a few individuals, and not troops, raiding town. Interestingly, although the number of hotline calls for Zwaanswyk and Constantia were the same (16), the number of raids in each area was very different. Zwaanswyk actually experienced 11 raids, while Constantia, by contrast, experienced 29 raids – 2.5 times as many. Thus, Zwaanswyk public **over reported** raids by a factor of about 1.5, whereas the Constantia public **under reported** by a factor of about 1.7.

These data highlight the differing responses of the public to baboons, depending on their more recent experiences. For the past two years the Zwaanswyk residents have enjoyed an almost totally baboon free environment, compared to Constantia which has had no troop raids but periodically had the odd raid by one or two males. Now, with the sudden invasion of a few baboons into Zwaanswyk, the public has wasted no time in reporting them, often with four or five calls for the same baboon within a few minutes.

Probably over 90% of the hotline calls recorded this month came in response to a few individuals raiding town alone or with a small group of followers. In Simon's Town, most the raids were led by SWB1 into Murdoch Valley. Most of the calls from Scarborough were in response to GOB9 and one or two female followers.

In Zwaanswyk, there were not many raids, but any incursion into the suburb resulted in numerous hotline calls. In Tokai, most of the calls were in response to raids by TK40, although his frequency of raiding seems to have declined. In Constantia, it was CON7 and TK15 who were recorded raiding houses every second or third day, particularly during the second half of the month.

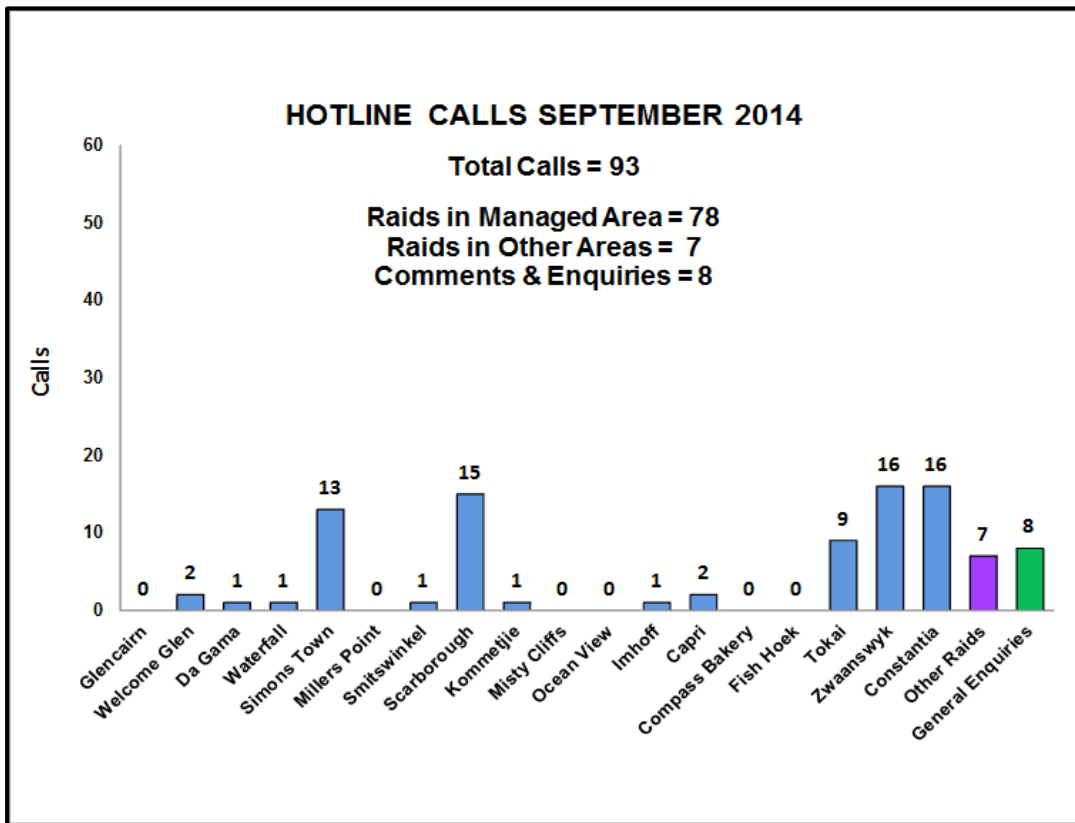


Fig.13. Hotline calls summary per urban area.

The types of hotline calls received this month were very much the same as usual, with records of baboons just being in the urban area being in the region of 80%. However, raiding of occupied houses doubled this month from 7% to 14%. This was presumably because of the four raiding males, mentioned above, leading virtually all the raids into town.

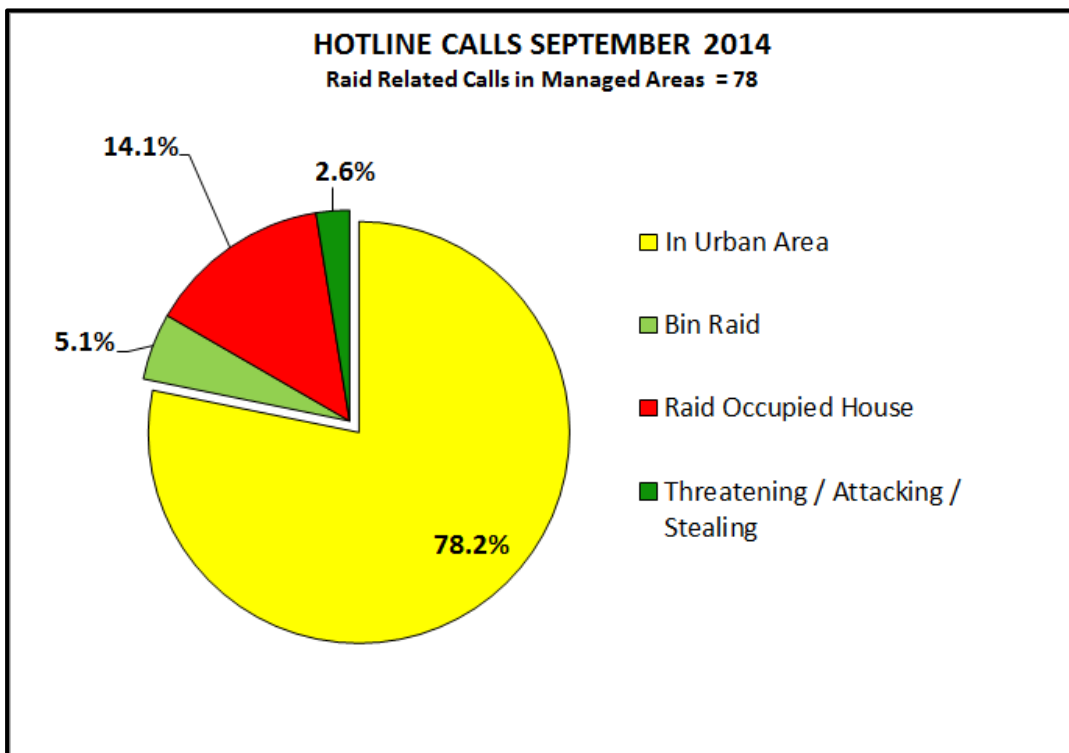


Fig.14. Composition of Raid-related hotline calls.

## Percentage Time out of Town

The percentage time all troops and individuals spent out of town this month was higher this month for every troop, including Misty Cliffs, apart from one exception – Waterfall Troop. Over the past year, this troop had become an almost a model troop, sleeping and foraging largely out of sight above the SANAD station, on top of Klaasjagersberg, and feeding on natural vegetation.

However, as a result of inadequate security and poor waste management at SANAD, one, then two, and then finally the whole troop of baboons realised the raiding opportunities provided by this depot, and the whole troop has now recommenced its raiding habit. Thus, over a period of about one year, this troop went from being a very bad raiding troop, to an almost perfectly model troop that was seldom seen for about seven months, and now back to being a raiding troop again.

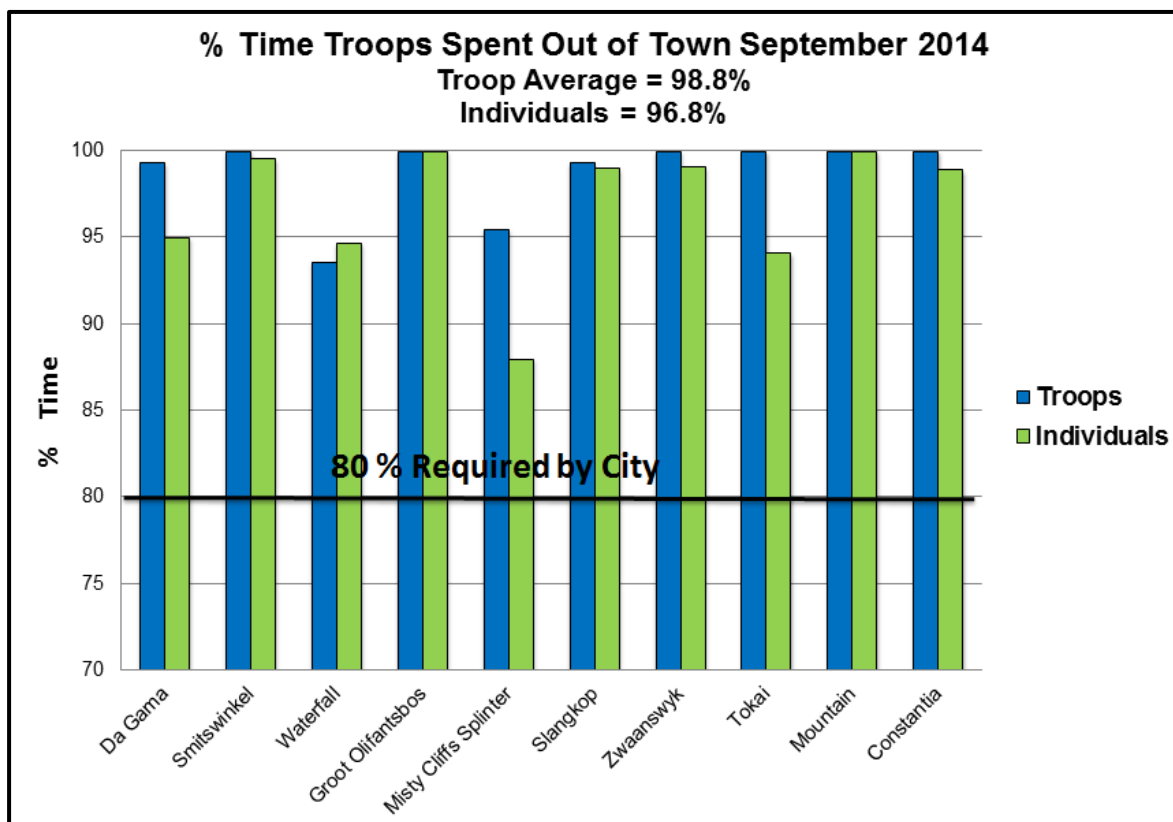


Fig.15. Percentage time troops spent out of town.

## Conclusion

The euthanasia of GOB9 highlights the importance of the need to break the cycle where young males (and females) grow up in a culture of raiding, led by their adults. GOB9 spent the last two years in the Groot Olifantsbos Troop, which had a relatively wild alpha male, GOB7, which had grown up within the CoGH Reserve in an area seldom visited by humans. Under GOB7's guidance, the troop was very well contained and only once in two years raided Scarborough as a troop. However, as soon as GOB9 was released from the leadership of GOB7 and moved into the Misty Cliffs Troop as the alpha male, he began to raid and sleep in town, as if he had never left.

Over the past two years, the frequency of baboons raiding occupied houses has consistently been much higher than one intuitively would have expected. However, after analysing the HWS data over the past two years, there seem to be three factors that contribute towards this phenomenon:

- i) The first is that raids of occupied houses have a much greater chance of being reported than any other type of raid. This is because raids on occupied houses must have been seen, and are more intimidating than other raids, apart from being attacked personally.
- ii) Over time, certain raiding males seem to gain confidence to the degree that they are no longer fearful of humans, and are quite prepared to enter their houses and challenge for food.
- iii) Raids into occupied houses are more likely to yield high-energy rewards because non-reject foodstuffs should be available in fridges, fruit bowls, cupboards, and may even be in the process of being eaten. Bins, on the other hand, contain scraps of reject food.

In conclusion, although it is now spring / summer and troop raids have reduced hugely in most troops, one is still left with certain males raiding the urban areas with impunity. Often these males raid alone, but frequently they may take a few individuals, or even the whole troop with them.

The examples of GOB9 and the Waterfall Troop show that individuals may seem to be rehabilitated after being perfectly behaved for one to two years. However, as soon as the opportunity presents itself, these individuals may resume their raiding at a level suggesting that it had never stopped. The message here is that one can never afford to drop one's guard.

The extension of this argument therefore, is that if one is ever going to break the cycle of juveniles growing up to be raiders, one will need to keep troops almost perfectly behaved for at least four to five years.

Possibly the best way of achieving this will be to introduce wild (unhabituated) males from outside the Cape Peninsula who are fearful of humans and not habitual raiders. This tactic will serve a dual purpose because it will also improve the genetic stock of this island population.

Dr. Phil Richardson  
**Human Wildlife Solutions**