



Photo: Byron Pearce

# Monthly Report

## For April 2013



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## A. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

This month's report covers the four week period from 23 March to 19 April 2013.

## B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

### South Eastern Region – Manager Ziggy Rode

#### 1. Smitswinkel Troop

This last month proved to be quite difficult for the team at Smitswinkel bay. The splitting behaviour of SWB4 increased dramatically and he became extremely difficult to manage.

Over the last few months there has been a lot of fighting between SWB4 and SWB3 and this often resulted in the troop splitting up. The majority of the animals always went with SWB3 and a few low ranking animals would go with SWB4, or he would split off and raid on his own. SWB4 has also displayed aggressive and threatening behavior towards rangers as well as members of the public.

On 29 March, SWB4 split off from the troop and went to Murdoch Valley grabbing a bag from a person en route.

On 30 March SWB4 again split off and slept at Murdoch Valley on his own.

On 31 March SWB4 slept at the Rockland's centre, again on his own.

On 1 April SWB4 split off and raided an occupied guest house.

On 2 April SWB4 split from the troop and raided three occupied houses while displaying threatening behaviour towards the owner of one of the houses, and he also charged at the HWS Supervisor. SWB4 again slept alone at Murdoch Valley and did so for at least another five nights.

SWB4 is very difficult to manage and the team of rangers needs to be split up in order to get him out of the urban area. It takes the effort of at least two rangers to push him out of Murdoch Valley and back to the troop. Consequently, the management of the entire troop becomes very difficult. SWB4's threatening behavior towards HWS rangers is a major concern as the baboons generally respect them.

On 13 April, SWB1 attempted to pull a sliding door off its rails but was successfully moved away from the house by rangers.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SE		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TOTAL									
BABOON TROOP:	Smits	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:	April																													
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	TOTAL
SWB3	M									6,7				1		1		1		6			2	1						8
SWB1	M																			1			1	1						3
SWB4	M									5	6	6,7,7	2	2		7			1	2			1				2	2		13
SWB5	M																			1										1
Troop																				1										1
UnID Juv	M			1					7	2																				3
	%																													
Troop	0.20																			30										0.50
Males	10.33								210	180	65	10	165	75	310		220		5	30	35			27	35			30	165	26.03
Roost:	AM	2	1	1	2	6	3	3	3	3	6	2	1	6	6	6	1	3	6	5	6	2	6	6	3	2	1	1	4	
Roost:	PM	1	2	2	6	6	3	3	3	6	2	1	3	6	6	4	3	6	5	6	2	3	6	6	2	1	2	4	5	
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	SWB3: collar, SWB4: Collar + double white tag, SWB1: Collar + blue & white tag, SWB5 = Red/Blue tags																													
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 also been difficult to manage throughout the month. Towards the end of March conditions were quite dry and a section of this troop's territory had recently been burnt. The troop was therefore stressed in terms of reduced food resources.

The on-going waste management problem at the Naval Barracks and Happy Valley Home thus provided a constant attraction to the baboons and encouraged them back into the urban area to forage.

Of concern is the fact that, on 25 March, RH2 raided a shop on the Main Road in Simons Town and once again, on 3 April, RH2 went down to the Main Road in Simons Town and raided bins. RH2 was pushed back within 10 minutes.

RH2 has not gone down to the shop for quite some time however it was disturbing that he went there twice this month and, on one occasion, took some sub-adults with him.

With the start of the rains, the burnt area should sprout new growth soon and hopefully this will reduce the incidence of raiding. The main problem for this troop remains the poor waste management which urgently needs to be addressed with the Navy.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																							
SECTOR			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																				
SE			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TOTAL	
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TOTAL	
MONTH: March 2013			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TOTAL	
WF2	M	2	2	1				2	2,5	2,5		1		2	2	2	2	5,2	2	2	2	2	22
WF1	M	5	2			2,5			2	2,5		1		2,5	2	2	1	5,2	2	2			19
UnID Females	F	2	2	1				2	2	2	1			2	2	2		2	2	2			14
TROOP		2	2					2	2					2		2			2	2			8
RH2	M	2	1	6			2		2	2	2	1	6		2	2	2	2		2	2	2	18
Juveniles		2	2						2	2				2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	13
		%																				HRS	
Troop	2.2	15	45						45	85	50			10	50		20		5	30	25		5.58
Females	2.2	15	45						45	85	50	10		20		25	20			10	10		5.67
Males	5.2	15	45	40			20	10	45	105	75	10	60	20	60	25	20	25	30	30	30	30	13.08
Roost:	AM	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	
Roost Sites		1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	
ID Features of Baboons	WF2 - red&blue tags + collar, WF1 - yellow&blue tag. RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																						
General remarks																							

Fig 2. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet

### 3. Da Gama Big Troop

Raiding by baboons belonging to the Big Troop (BT) into Ocean View continued throughout the month. A raiding party has formed comprising DG5, DG7 and 2 sub-adult males. They are also frequently joined by three old, low-ranking females. DG5 was the leader in the splitting of the troop.

Whenever the BT came down from Witsand to drink water in close proximity to Ocean View, DG5 led the raiding party and evaded rangers by running through the dense alien vegetation. When the rangers attempted to block DG5 through the use of paintballs, DG5 closed his eyes and continued to run at them until he broke through the line.

The HWS team of rangers split up to manage the situation however this resulted in too few rangers being available to manage the Big Troop (BT) with resources being seriously stretched. DG5 had been fitted with a VHF collar to be able to track his movements and pre-empt raiding. However, this proved futile over the last month as DG5 kept pushing at the line despite the aversion techniques being used.

Another major concern was that DG5 would teach this type of behaviour to the other animals that raided with him, which had the potential of this behaviour eventually spreading throughout the entire troop. This would have a disastrous impact on baboon behaviour and management.

In addition, DG5 actively raided the Soetwater Environmental Centre's bins and caravans. DG5 also went on a solitary excursion to Misty Cliff's but was subsequently chased away by the Misty Cliffs Troop. DG5 later ran to Kommetjie drawing four other animals from the BT with him. The HWS rangers were successful in driving him out of the area quickly and the others followed him back to Witsand.



Because DG5's raiding behaviour and resistance to aversion techniques was jeopardising the welfare and management of the entire troop, he was euthanised with WAC approval.

On 11 April, the BT attempted to raid the Soetwater Environmental Centre but was pushed out. However, at 18:30, an employee of Soetwater saw an adult female baboon entering the area from the beach. The baboon jumped across between two buildings and slipped, fell and landed onto her back. The manager on duty at Soetwater called the hotline and reported the incident. The HWS Manager, Ziggy Rode, was informed immediately and the HWS supervisor, John de Jager, went back to Soetwater.

It was reported to HWS that after the fall the baboon had dragged herself by her front legs through the gate and ended up under a bush next to the road outside the Centre. John de Jager assessed the situation in consultation with Ziggy Rode and, as the baboon lay still and did not move when the supervisor approached to examine from a safe distance, it was decided that the animal needed to be darted. Consequently the veterinarian, Dr Currie, darted the baboon and took her to the veterinary clinic to be assessed.

From examination it appeared that the paralysis was only temporary but the animal was kept at the clinic for observation and was assessed by Dr Currie and Brett Glasby, the Cape of Good Hope SPCA Wildlife Unit Manager.

The baboon was tagged DGF7 and on 15 April the baboon was released back into the troop.

On 17 April, due to extremely severe weather conditions, the HWS rangers were withdrawn from the mountain. However, within 15 minutes DG5, 2 sub-adults and DGF7 moved into Ocean View. DGF7 entered a garden with fruit trees where she was attacked by two dogs and climbed onto the roof. DGF7's injuries proved not to be serious and after an hour the baboon was driven out of Ocean View.

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 BT	2 Raid bins	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																											
MONTH:	April	3 Non malicious damage	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle	9 Nocturnal Raiding																											
YEAR:	2013																														
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	TOTAL	
Big Troop																														2	
DG1	M					2															2	2								4	
DG5	M			2	5	2					2			2		5	2				2	6	5		2,6	2				13	
2x Sub-ad males	M			2	2	2					2			2							2	2	2		2	2		2		12	
DGF3	F			2														2	2	2	2	2								7	
DGF7	F										2				2		2				2	2		2	2		2	1	2	9	
UnID Female	F					5															2	2								3	
DG7	M			2							2							2			2	2				2	2			9	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS			
Big Troop	0.3																														1.00
Individuals	2.0			45	60							40			15			15	15		40				45	60		60		6.58	
Males	2.6			45	60			30				40			30		10	30			30	40		45	60	30	60		8.50		
Roost:	AM	12	11	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	12	12	11	11	11	12	12	12	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	11	12	11			
Roost:	PM	11	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	12	12	11	11	11	12	12	12	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	12	11		
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 Misty Cliff	12 Slangkop		13 Platkop																										
ID Features of Baboons		DG5: red yellow tags + Collar. DG1: Collar, DGF3: Three legs, DGF7: Crooked tale + old.																													
General remarks																															

Fig.3. Da Gama Big Troop (BT) Raid Sheet

#### **4. Da Gama Small Troop (ST)**

The Da Gama ST has become increasingly difficult to manage as they split up into small raiding parties. Even the young juveniles are confident enough to enter the urban area alone and raid. Which makes it even more difficult is that the juveniles are generally very quiet when they enter the residential area and this makes it even more difficult locating them and pushing them out.

They also tend to use the alien vegetation patch behind Glencairn, from where they attempt to get to Fish Hoek. They can spend full days in that patch foraging and hiding. Mostly they are blocked and pushed up to the sports field. But on 23 March, the troop all ran at through the gap and slept the night at Elsie's Peak. They were pushed back the next day fairly quickly but they did raid in Glencairn Heights and one house in Glencairn on their way back.

SK3's raiding behaviour deteriorated since he joined the ST. On 4 April, SK3 was collared and tagged. SK3 soon started going on his own to raid both unoccupied as well as occupied houses.

Residents in Welcome Glen commented that the presence of the baboons had increased over the past few weeks and this was attributed to the ST splitting into smaller raiding parties as well as the incidents of SK3 raiding alone.

Once the ST has split, the troop is difficult to control, as the senior supervisor currently spends most his time in Ocean View, which leaves only two rangers to manage the ST. This becomes an extremely difficult task if they split into 3 or 4 raiding parties.

Both the ST and BT are difficult to manage as each troop has a set of unique circumstances which impacts on management.

Both of these troops are strongly habituated to humans and are effective raiders, often adapting to various management strategies.

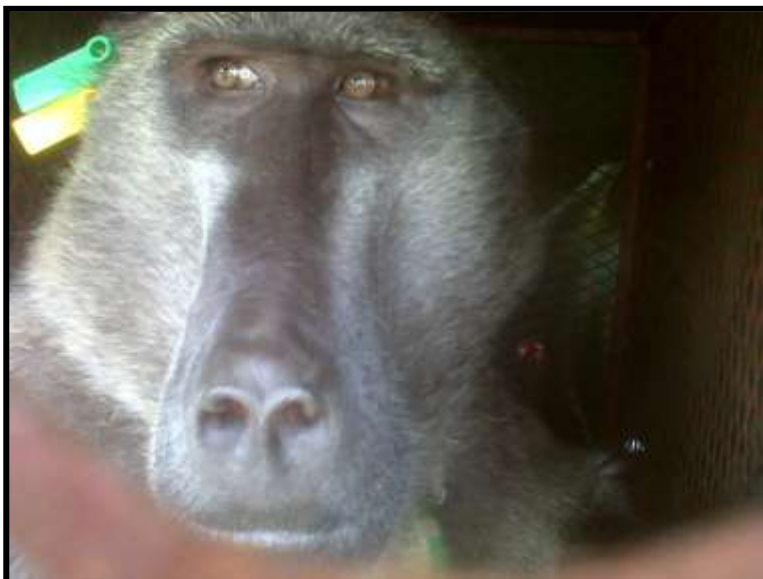


Fig.4. SK3 after being tagged and collared.



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 ST	2 Raid bins		5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle		8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																									
MONTH: April	YEAR: 2013	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	TOTAL	
Small Troop		2	5,2,6					1	1												2						2	2	2	10	
DGF1	F	2	5,2,6						2											2	2							2	2	2	10
DGF2	F	2	5,2,6	2																	2							2	2	2	9
UnID sub-adult	M												2								2							2	2	2	5
UnID Juvs		2	5,2,6	2	5		1													2,6	2					6	2	2	2	15	
SK3	M	2	5,2,6		5		1			1			2							2,6	2	2					2	2	2	15	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS					
	%	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		
Small Troop	2.2	15	60					20	80																			45	30	180	7.17
Juveniles	3.3			20	40			20	80										120		45					30	20	45	30	180	10.50
Males	3.3	15	60	45	40			20	80	20			45						20	15	20							45	30	180	10.58
Roost: (Small)	AM	1	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	5	5	5		
Roost: (Small)	PM	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	5	5	5	5		
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 Misty Cliff																														
ID Features of Baboons	DGF1 - Female with collar + blue/white tags DGF2 - Female with crooked hand																														
General remarks																															

Fig.5. Da Gama Small Troop (ST) Raid Sheet

**Water Point Data**

During April data was collected on waterhole activity for the all four troops.

The Smitswinkel troop mainly drinks water up in the mountain and mostly not in visible range of the rangers. The two known water points are in the valley above the Bluegums House and above Castle Rock.

The troop was considered to be in within the urban area for only 0.2% of the time so there was no apparent association between drinking and raiding.

The Waterfall troop mainly drinks water at the Waterfall, so there is no stress at all in this regard.

Of the two Da Gama troops, access to water only significantly affected the BT as their drinking patterns were closely related to raiding incidents.

ST drinks at various points along Elsie’s River and at Lewis Gay Dam, whereas BT drinking patterns are closely related to raiding.

When the BT drinks at water points close to the urban edge (Ocean View & Slangkop) they usually raid either before or after drinking. Ocean View is within vision from the OV spring and dam, and similarly Soetwater is within easy reach of the Slangkop waterpoint (See Fig. 8).

However, after the baboons drank at rock pools on top of the mountain or at the wetland which is out of site and at least 1,3km from either Ocean View or Soetwater only one raid was recorded after 16 drinking visits.



MONTH	WATER SOURCE and NUMBER OF DAYS ACCESSED BY TROOP								TOTAL NUMBER OF RAIDS
	MOUNTAIN ROCK POOLS		OCEAN VIEW SPRING/PIPE		WETLAND		SLANGKOP TANK		
	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	
APRIL	7	1	4	4	9	0	5	4	9

Comments:

- After drinking at the Ocean View Spring or Pipe the baboons invariably raided Ocean View (100%).
- After drinking at the Slangkop water tank the baboons usually raided either the Soetwater Environmental Education Centre or Ocean View thereafter (80%).
- After drinking at pools on the mountain or in the wetland, the troop raided on only one occasion thereafter (6%).

Fig.6. Water point data for the Da Gama Big Troop (April)

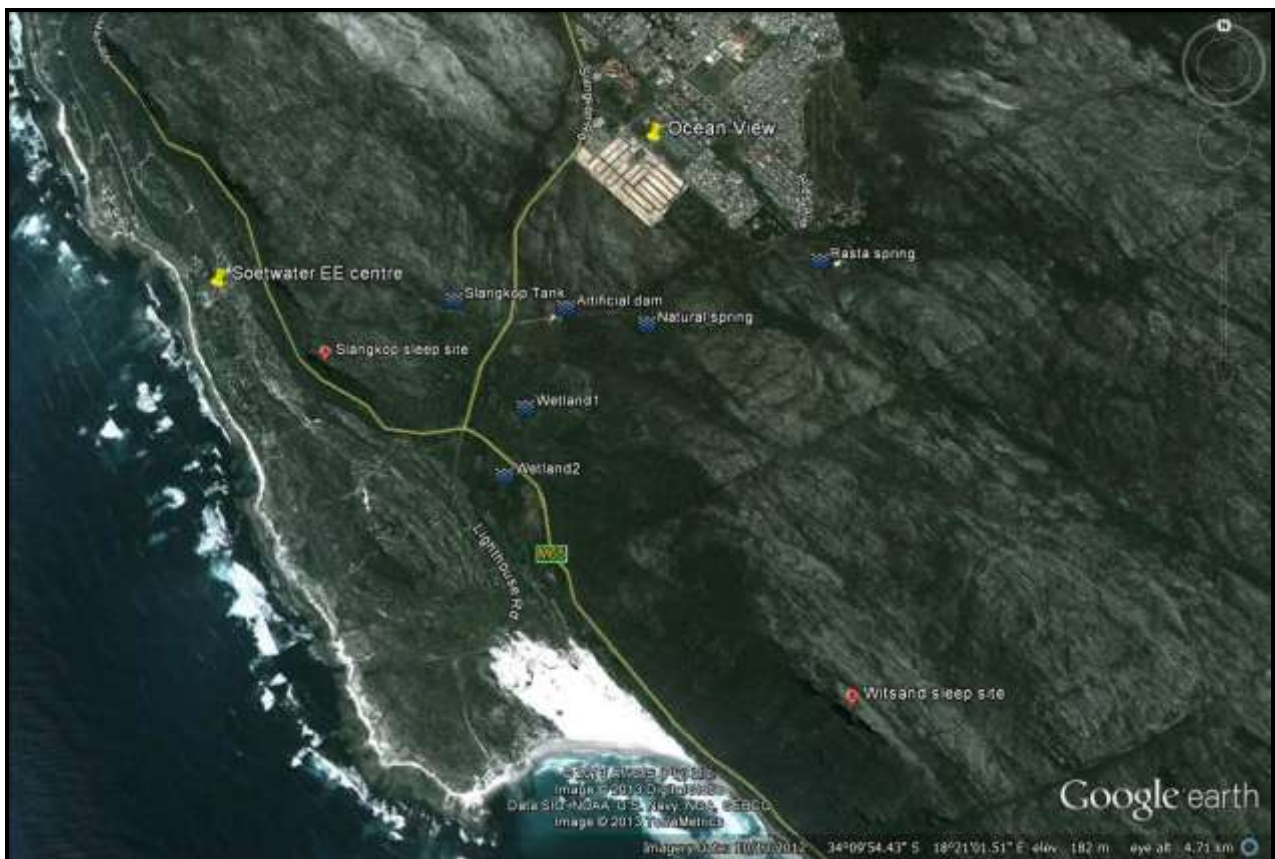


Figure 7. Da Gama Big Troop water points.

**Births and Deaths**

There have been several incidents of fighting between SK3 and the juveniles in ST. At the beginning of March, SK3 chased a juvenile on the roof of the Kroonseil flats, the juvenile subsequently jumped and fell several storeys. He was limping slightly afterwards but it did not seem too serious at the time. A juvenile



from ST disappeared on 25th March, so it is suspected that this was the same juvenile that had died as a result of injuries inflicted by SK3 earlier in March.

DG5 was euthanised because of his unrelenting raiding behaviour and resistance to any aversion techniques.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

As previously reported and recommended, alien vegetation clearing around the south eastern corner of Ocean View needs to be implemented urgently. The same applies to the mountain area above Glencairn as the baboons continue to use the alien vegetation infestation to evade management efforts. The baboons spend entire days foraging and hiding in the alien vegetation. Rangers cannot move through the vegetation because it is too dense. The baboons also use this patch of vegetation to get to Fish Hoek from Glencairn.

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## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> April. The troop has moved between the areas of Olifantsbos and the cliff site on the Bonteberg ridge (C2), across to the picnic site at Perdekloof and as far up as Klaasjagersberg.

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April the troop was at the Bonteberg (C2) roost site. From the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> April the troop has mostly been in the Olifantsbos area.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March the GOB troop crossed Red Hill Rd in the Perdekloof area and made their way up onto the ridge above Scarborough. The rangers managed to push the troop back into the Reserve, except for one young male, GOB2, and two females who remained hidden in Scarborough. These individuals overnighted in Scarborough and were pushed out early the next morning. This was the only time any of the GOB troop entered Scarborough during this reported period.

Due to his repeated attempts to raid Scarborough and bringing other individuals into Scarborough with him, GOB2 was euthanized in April. GOB2 was often the individual leading the troop towards Scarborough and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March he and a number of females and juveniles slept in Scarborough while the majority of the troop was with the alpha male in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

### **2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop**

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 8<sup>th</sup> April the MC troop was at the Misty Cliffs (C1) roost site. On the 8<sup>th</sup> April the rangers were successful in returning the troop to the Cape of Good Hope Reserve where they

remained at the C2 roost site until the 17<sup>th</sup> April when inclement weather allowed the troop to break out of the Reserve and back to the Misty Cliffs (C1) roost site.



Figure 8. Misty Cliffs Troop Roost Sites for March 2013

#### **April Raids:**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> March GOB5 broke into a house in Old Camp Rd, Misty Cliffs

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March GOB5 attacked a dog in Misty Cliffs. The dog was bitten by GOB5 and needed emergency treatment to stitch the wound. It was later reported by the owner of the dog that the same dog was bitten the following day and required further treatment.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> March GOB5 and MC1 both entered an unoccupied house in Old Camp Rd, Misty Cliffs.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> April GOB5 harassed and chased a number of children on the beach below Misty Cliffs.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April GOB5 broke into a house in Misty Cliffs by ripping the locks off a door. Pictures of the damage done to the door are shown below. The owner reported that GOB5 was very threatening and refused to leave the house.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April MC1 raided occupied houses in Scarborough.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> April GOB5 raided an occupied house in Beach Rd, Scarborough.

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: April		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	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	TOTAL	
GOB5	M	2	2	8	2	4	1	5	2	1	2	2	2	7	2	7,8											6	1			17
MC1	M	2	2		2	1	1	5	2	1	2	1	2		2	1	1	6	6	1	1						1	1	1		21
Female with baby	F	1	1		2		1		1	1	2	1			1	1											1	1			12
Unidentified female	F	1		1	2	1	1	5	1	1	2	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	1	1		20
Unidentified juvenile	M																	1	1	1	1						1	1			6
Troop		2	2		2		1	1	2		2	2			2	2											1	1			12
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																					HRS								
Troop	10.0	210	120		100		50	95	330		90	75			420	25											120	390			33h45
Males & Females	30.2	300	120	60	480	480	50	95	330	150	90	75	20	25	420	600	300	540	540	540	120						120	390	240		101h25
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1				
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1				
Roost Sites		1	Misty Cliffs					2	CoGH Reserve					3						4						5					
		6						7						8						9						10					
ID Features of Baboons	GOB5 had a double red tag and a VHF collar MC1 is young adult male.																														
General remarks	The high percentage of time spent in town for the males & females is mostly due to MC1 breaking away from the troop to spend entire days in Scarborough on his own. He was often accompanied by a single female and juvenile																														

Figure 9: Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop April 2013

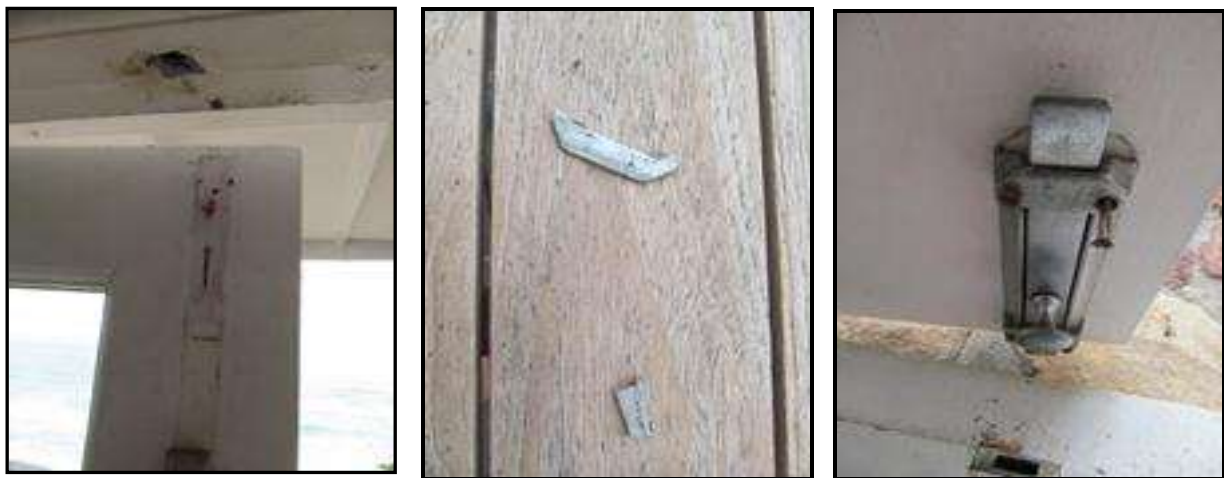


Figure 10: Damage done to door by GOB5 in Misty Cliffs

**Comments and Observations**

With Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) approval MCF1 was euthanized at the end of March. The decision to remove MCF1 was made based on her history of solitary raiding behaviour and drawing the troop into Scarborough which impacted negatively on the management of the troop.

GOB5 continues to break into houses in Misty Cliffs and residents have commented on his aggressive nature when in their houses. His aggression towards pets this month has also been reported after he attacked the same dog twice in a short period of time.



From the Misty Cliffs (C1) roost site it is almost impossible to prevent GOB5 from entering Misty Cliffs. He ignores the threat of paintballs fired at him and on occasions when bear bangers have been used on the firebreak between Misty Cliffs and the roost site he has continued running straight into Misty Cliffs.

The other management challenge is MC1 who continues to break away from the troop at the C1 roost site early in the morning to head into Scarborough. Residents in Klip and Iris roads have reported that he tries to enter houses in this area on an almost daily basis. He is often accompanied by one or two females and a single juvenile. It does not help to send a single ranger after him as he moves through properties and manages to elude a single ranger easily. If two rangers are sent to get him out of Scarborough it reduces the team's ability to manage the rest of the troop. When MC1 and the females with him are in Scarborough GOB5 is very insistent in his attempts to join them which makes it harder to manage the troop. During this report period MC1, together with the females and juveniles that follow him in have been in Scarborough 30% of the time which is three times longer than the rest of the troop.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April the rangers managed to return the troop to the Reserve. MC1, together with a single female and juvenile broke away from the troop and returned to the C1 roost site at Misty Cliffs. These three baboons remained in Scarborough for the next three days, returning to the C1 roost site on their own each evening. Finally, on the 11<sup>th</sup> April these three joined the troop in the Reserve. During this time MC1 raided two occupied houses and attempted to gain entry to many more.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> April the severe weather made it very difficult for the rangers to visually track the movements of the troop in the Reserve. This resulted in the troop managing to break out of the Reserve to enter Scarborough and return to the C1 roost site at Misty Cliffs.

### **3. Slangkop Troop**

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> April the troop has moved between the C2 and C3 roost sites. The troop as a whole has been relatively easy to manage and have only raided urban areas as a troop twice. The majority of the raiding this month was done by three male baboons and a few females and juveniles that follow them when they break away to raid in the urban areas.

#### **April Raids:**

SK2 raided an occupied house on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and raided unoccupied houses on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

SK4 broke into a house in Capri on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and raided unoccupied houses on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

SK5 raided an unoccupied house on the 27<sup>th</sup> March.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the 13<sup>th</sup> April the whole troop entered into Capri where they raided bins.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> April SK4 and SK5 broke away from the troop to raid in Imhoff's Gift after which they made their way along Kommetjie Rd and entered Kommetjie where they raided an occupied house.

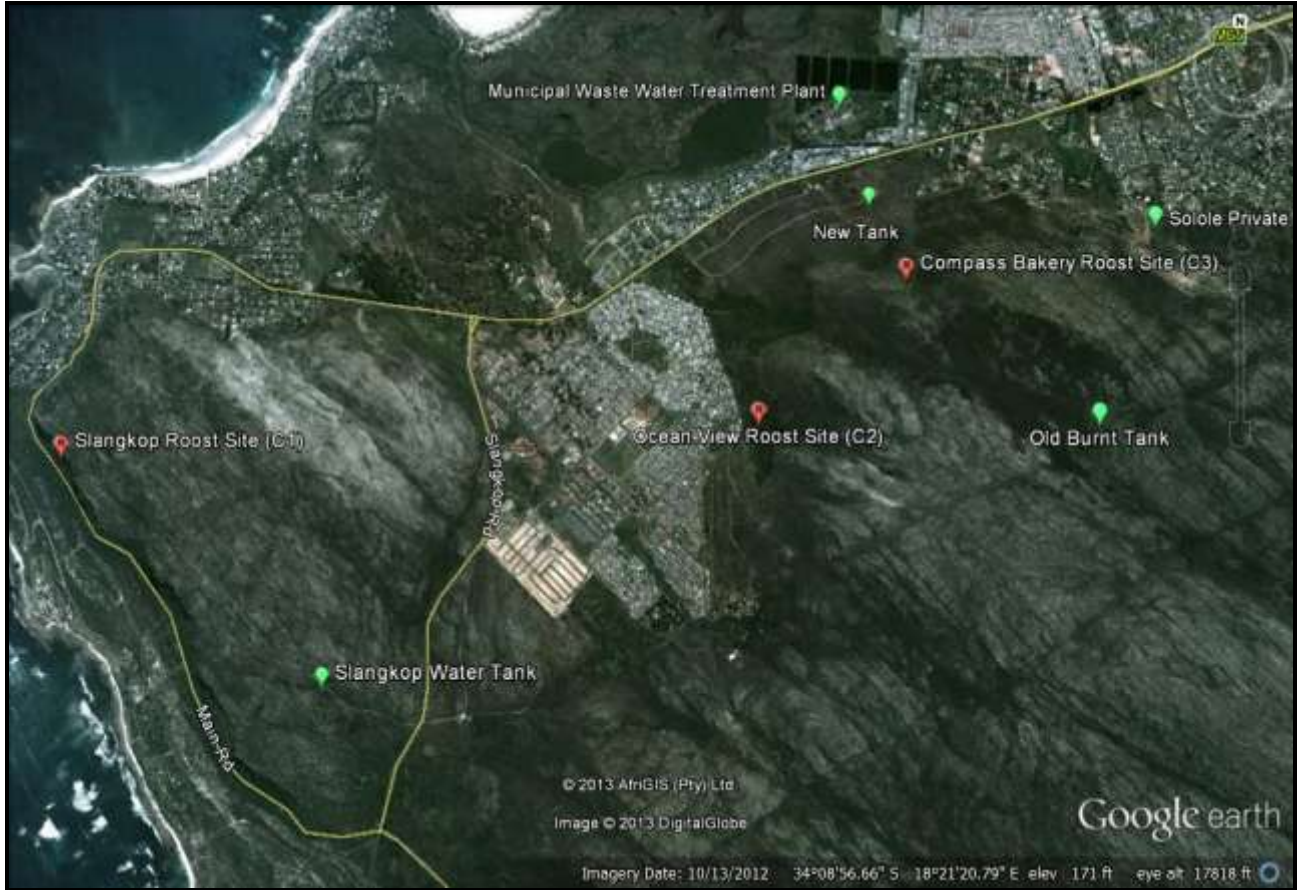


Figure 11: Slangkop Troop Roost Sites and Water Points April 2013

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																													
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																											
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22						
MONTH: April	YEAR: 2013	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														TOTAL						
DG6	M					6	2															2		3					
SK2	M	6			5	5		5																4					
SK4	M	8			2	5	2		2	2			1			1	6			2		2	2	12					
SK5	M				2	5							1			1	6			2		2	2	8					
Unidentified Female	F				2	5	2	1												2		2	2	7					
Unidentified Female	F				2	5	2													2		2	2	6					
Troop		2																		2			2						
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																				HRS							
Troop	2.0	120																				300		7h00					
Males & Females	5.0				60	45	30	90	45	30			45			60	180				300		20	120	17h05				
Roost:	AM	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	
Roost:	PM	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
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	The two young males SK4 and SK5 are breaking away to raid Imhoff's Gift, Capri and Compass Bakery regularly																												

Figure 12: Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – April 2013



## Comments and Observations

Following the granting of WAC approval, SK2 was euthanized. SK2's removal reduced individual raids in Imhoff's Gift. Unfortunately over the last few months SK2 was often accompanied by two younger males, SK4 and SK5 when he broke away from the troop. Since SK2's removal these individuals have continued to break away from the troop and have done so increasingly over the month of April.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> April at 14h00 SK4 and SK5 broke away from the troop which was above Ocean View. They ran all the way to Imhoff's Gift after which they made their way into Kommetjie where they raided an occupied house. They returned to the troop at 18h00 that evening.

The supervisor reported that on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April SK4 and SK5, together with a few females and juveniles, were not sleeping with the rest of the troop in the pines at the C2 roost site but were on their own quite a distance up the mountain on a rocky ledge.

The alien vegetation above Capri has been removed. This has helped in preventing the troop raiding Capri as it increases the buffer zone between the C3 sleep site and the urban edge and reduces the dense cover that the troop used to break the line past the rangers into Capri.

There is currently alien clearing being done on the Kompanjiesuin development site by a private contractor which, when it is completed, will help to reduce raiding of Imhoff's Gift by individual males who use the cover of the alien vegetation to break away from the troop.

## Water Point Data

The GOB troop has a large wetland in the middle of their range, so they do not seem to have any problem accessing water.

When the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop is in the CoGH Reserve they also have good access to water. However when they are sleeping outside the reserve they could be stressed for water.

In April, the rainfall was quite regular and the troop was often seen drinking from water collected on rocks on the mountain around the C1 roost site.

Access to water remains a vital factor for the Slangkop troop. The installation of the artificial water point below the Compass Bakery (C3) cliffs has made managing the troop easier. Although individuals are still breaking away from the troop to raid Compass Bakery and Imhoff's Gift, the troop as a whole has not needed to cross Kommetjie Rd or enter the Solole Reserve to access water. This has reduced the resulting raids in the urban areas.

On every occasion the troop has drunk water at the Solole Reserve water point they have raided Capri. The rangers do not have access to the Solole Reserve and therefore find it hard to prevent the troop accessing Capri along the fence line.

Below is a table of water point activity against raiding of the urban areas for the months February and March and April.



MONTH	WATER SOURCE and NUMBER OF DAYS ACCESSED BY TROOP								TOTAL NUMBER OF RAIDS
	WATER TANK		SOLELE RESERVE		MUNICIPAL TREATMENT PLANT		RAINFALL		
	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	
FEBRUARY	No Water tank		4	4	5	1	5	0	5
MARCH	11	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	1
APRIL	5	0	3	3	0	0	14	0	3

Comments: Water tank installed on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb  
February data set: 01 Feb – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb  
March data set: 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
April data set: 23 March – 19 April  
Raiding data indicates raids by troop and not individual males

Figure 13: Table of water point usage vs. raiding for February, March and April

### Births and Deaths

There were three deaths recorded in this month, one from the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop, one from the Olifantsbos troop and one from the Slangkop troop.

There were no births recorded in any of these troops this month.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop over the next month will be to return them to the Reserve and prevent them from entering Scarborough and returning to the Misty Cliffs roost site. It is not possible to effectively manage this troop at the C1 roost site. The long term goal is to condition the troop to thinking of the C2 cliff site in the Reserve as their preferred roost site. As it is difficult to keep the troop in the Reserve for very extended periods of time, especially at the end of summer when natural food reserves are low, further measures must be looked into that will help to keep the troop in the Reserve permanently.

The aggressive nature of GOB5's raiding must be closely monitored while the troop is at the C1 roost site above Misty Cliffs. In the last three months he has broken into a number of properties by damaging doors and windows. He has also shown aggression towards residents when in their houses which has been reported by concerned residents. It seems that the current use of deterrents are not having the desired effect on this individual and further measures need to be investigated in order to curb his raiding behaviour.



The recommendation for the Slangkop troop in the next month is to closely monitor the behaviour and movements of SK4 and SK5, especially where they are sleeping. With the arrival of autumn, cooler days and more regular rainfall the troop is not as water stressed as the previous three months. The troop is regularly seen drinking from water collected in rocks on the mountain. It is therefore probable that the artificial water point on the Kompanjiesstuin property will be closed in May.

### North Region – Manager Stefan Theron

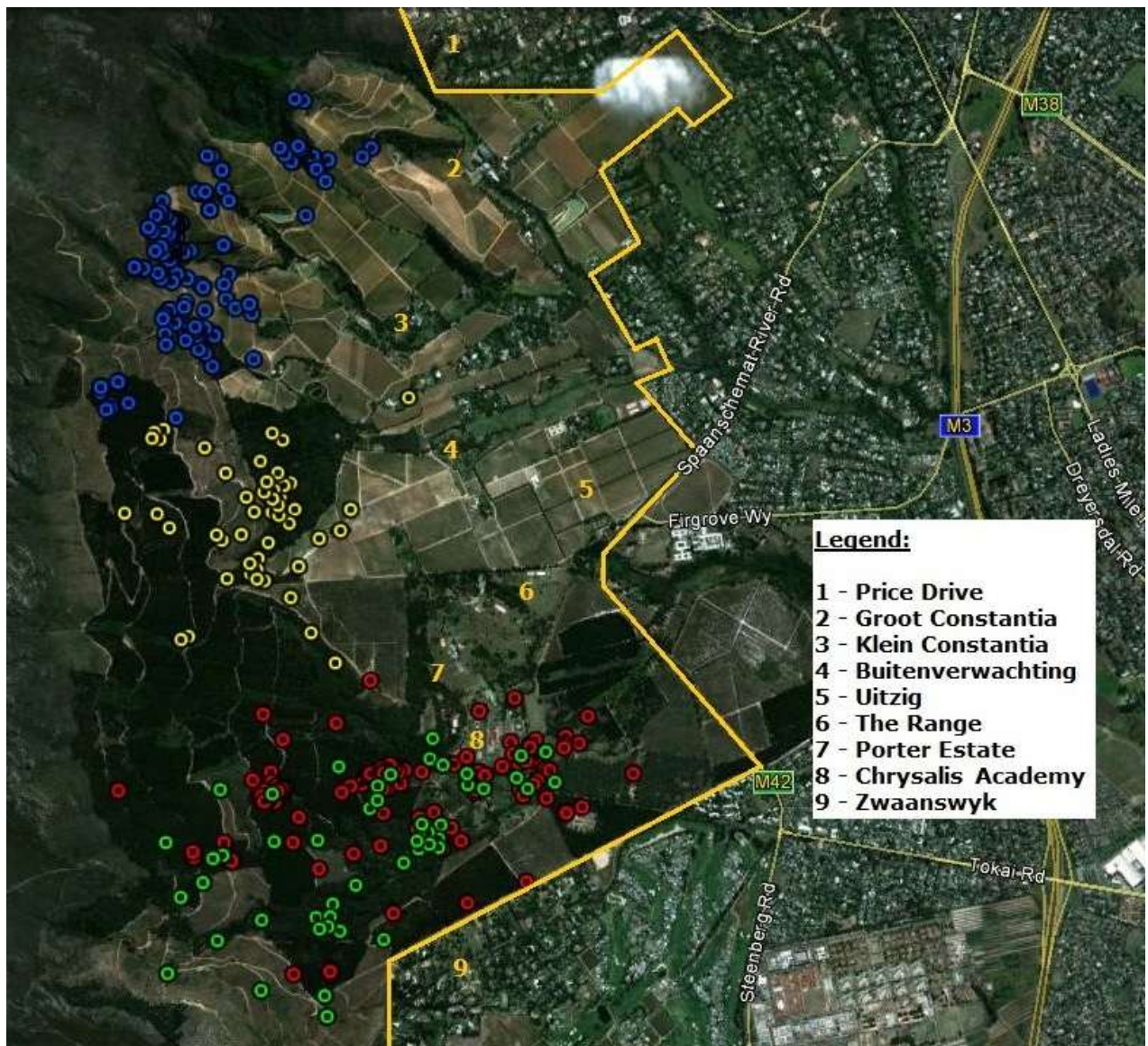


Figure 14: Overview of Northern troops' ranging patterns from 23 March to 19 April 2013. Tokai Main Troop (red) and Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop (Green), Mountain / Ghost Troop (yellow) and Constantia Troop (blue).

#### **1. Tokai Main Troop (TMT)**

April 2013 has been quite an uneventful and stable month for most of the Northern troops with few incidences of raiding being recorded.



Opportunistic foraging by the troop at the SANParks waste management skip across from the Cape Research Centre has declined dramatically since the installation last month of a lockable skip. This should continue to be the case as long as residents and waste removal workers ensure that the skip lids are securely latched after using them. The troop still continues to pass by the skip to check if it is open or if there are any titbits available outside. Overall however, this is in stark contrast to previous months when the skip operated as a regular feeding station.

TK 28 is maintaining his role as the troop alpha male and seems to be a much better leader of the troop compared to previous males which had tended to draw the troop towards the urban boundary. In contrast, TK28 tends to avoid the urban edge and only occasionally forages opportunistically within the confines of Porter Estate, Chrysalis Academy and SANParks. The chances that TK28 will retain his alpha status for a while are good because he is in his prime, has a full set of canines and is the biggest male in the area. The TMT continues to shadow the ZST as it has done over the past couple of months and TK28 occasionally chases their females when they come into view.

TK 24 has recently become much more passive with regards to raiding behaviour. He still likes visit the Porter Market on Saturdays, and always, despite the rich variety of pickings, targets the home baked bread stalls. This is no doubt driven by the fact that he is old and has almost no teeth left. He seems to be in good standing with both the TMT and the ZST as he regularly travels between the two. The ZST alpha male, TK 35, does not mind TK24 visiting his troop, whereas he would immediately chase TK9 if he came too close.

The TMT still spends the majority of the month in the areas in and around the horse stabling and paddock ranges, concentrating their foraging efforts on the kikuyu paddocks. The troop clearly perceives the stables as a prime feeding area because they have occasional access to maize, pellets and oat bails from the horse feeding troughs.

Since HWS began managing this troop, it has on only two occasions crossed over Orpen Road to gain access to the fruiting trees on the other side. This raiding behaviour has subsequently been thwarted by increasing the buffer zone west of Orpen road by approximately a hundred metres. This gives the field rangers more leeway in controlling the movement of the troop on the urban boundary.

This month there have been very few raiding incidences. On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, TK 24 took a packet of biltong off a table in the SANParks picnic area. On Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, TK 28 seized a bag of pine cones from a young girl at the arboretum parking lot. She dropped the bag as he approached her. On Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, TK 24 was observed on Parade Crescent knocking over bins. Both TK 24 and TK 28 have also on occasions tried to raid the Porter Market on Saturdays, but with limited success. In mitigation, the troop is allowed to forage in the area for six days a week and is only excluded on Saturdays. This is possibly sending mixed messages to the animals as it is an inconsistent management approach regarding the establishment of the human territory.

## **2. Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop (ZST)**

Probably the most significant aspect defining the daily foraging pattern of the ZST is their need to avoid conflict with the TMT which appears to shadow them around. Males from the TMT frequently chase baboons from the ZST.



Individuals from both troops still occasionally enter the SANParks picnic area. They only try to do this when there is a lot of human activity in the picnic area. Their main entry routes are either under the fence via holes dug by porcupines for the smaller animals, or via the dry stream bed.

The larger males tend to enter via the corner strut poles by gripping on the plastic isolators or by jumping from a tree branch onto the top strand of the fence and then onto the ground. In most cases, they do not earth the electrical flow and therefore are not shocked, but it has been visually confirmed that they do sometimes get a shock when other parts of their bodies touch adjacent strands of wire. However, the risk of a brisk electrical shock is still worth the potential rich rewards that may be found inside.

The only raiding incident of a building recorded this month took place on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March when TK 35 was observed fleeing away from the firemens' staff housing with a bag of rice. He most likely got hold of the bag through the burglar proofing.

Both troops still spend a large part of their time foraging and roosting in close proximity to each other. They have been roosting in the plantation either behind the SANParks Woody Owl Guest House or the Arboretum tea garden for the most of the month.

### 3. **Constantia Troop**

In general this troop still spends the majority of its time foraging on the mountainside above the Klein Constantia vineyard predominantly in the Donkerboskloof, Grootboskloof and Langboskloof. Even though harvesting has finished they still try to venture onto vineyard land because there is still a worthwhile quantity of unharvested raisinette grape bunches on the vines.

TK 13, the troop alpha male, ventures almost daily onto the vineyard and tends to pull the troop with him. Intense daily altercations are still common occurrences between the adult males. These altercations are clearly disruptive to the troop and potentially making its social structure unstable.

With regard to urban raiding, this troop does still seem stable but now with the harvesting season over and the last remaining grapes drying up, it is likely that the raiding males will once again turn their attention to the Price Drive urban area as winter approaches.

### 4. **Ghost / Mountain Troop**

This month the troop spent only a small part of its time attempting to enter the Buitenverwachting and Uitsig vineyards. The troop gains access primarily through the old Eucalyptus plantation on the steep kloof which is adjacent to the two farms boundary at the south western corner of the fence. Once they enter the farms is it impossible for the rangers to follow them on foot and they usually need to wait for the troop to return.

The troop's excursions are typically for two hours or so until they are chased back by the vineyard's monitors. They have occasionally, moved high up in the levels to within a hundred meters of Elephant's



Eye or in line with Vlakkenberg. This could be to avoid conflict with the Constantia troop which has, on occasion, ranged up to the Buitenverwachting boundary and into their home range.

Compared to the other Northern troops, this troop doesn't range far from its primary roosting site which is at the old Eucalyptus plantation on the steep kloof and adjacent to the two farms boundaries.

### **Water Point Data**

All the troops in the northern region had good access to water. They all drank from a variety of water sources within their ranges. At this time of the year all these troops are spending most of their time just above the urban edge, as opposed to being quite high up the mountain, and there are many natural water sources that have been fed by the rains particularly on the lower slopes of the mountains. No shortage of water was recorded for any of the troops in April.

### **Births and Deaths**

This month there were two births recorded in the Constantia Troop and one in the Mountain Troop. No deaths were recorded.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Significant signage needs to be erected at the Arboretum Tea Garden parking area and Tokai picnic area warning visitors not to have open food and drinks exposed. People also need to be warned to keep their vehicles locked and that baboons can cause damage to parked vehicles. On average, one vehicle a week gets damaged. This ranges from broken off side-mirrors, windscreen wipers, antennae, cracked windshields and having door and window rubbers removed.

In the Price Drive area refuse bins need to be baboon proofed. With the grape harvesting finished and the food source depleting on the farms, certain raiding baboons will soon start to focus their attention on the urban areas and the vineyards' restaurants again.

## **C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS**

### **Population Data**

The spate of births that seemed to occur over the summer months now seems to be tailing off, as only three births were recorded this past month. This is in contrast to a total of 29 births (average 9.6) for the previous three months. However it is noteworthy that the trend for more births in the northern troops continues.

Over the past four months there have 20 births (11.17%) from an original population 179 baboons in the north, compared to 9 births (5.14%) from an original population of 175 baboons in the southern managed troops. Thus the average birth rate for baboons in the northern troops, which have had almost daily access to grapes and / or pine nuts for the past four months, is over double that for baboons in the south which have, to a large extent, been prevented from feeding on human derived food over the past six months.



Population Data for the Eleven Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula							
TROOP	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	April 2013		
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Births	Deaths	TOTAL
Da Gama Main	42	42	43	46		1	<b>45</b>
Da Gama Small	12	12	12	12		1	<b>11</b>
Smitswinkel Bay	23	23	22	22			<b>22</b>
Waterfall	28	28	28	28			<b>28</b>
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19	19	19		1	<b>20</b>
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	18	18	18		1	<b>17</b>
Slangkop	33	34	35	37		1	<b>36</b>
Zwaanswyk Splinter	25	28	28	27			<b>27</b>
Tokai	61	62	62	62			<b>62</b>
Mountain	33	35	36	39	1		<b>40</b>
Constantia	60	61	62	64	2		<b>66</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>372</b>

Figure 15: Population data for the eleven troops of the managed population of the Cape Peninsula

It is also noteworthy that the troops in the north have been almost perfectly behaved over this period – apart from raiding the farms. The average percentage time the northern troops spent outside the urban area was 99.7 %, compared to 95% for the southern troops.

This difference looks small and may not be significant. However, it is apparent from Figure 16 below that the southern troops were involved in many more urban raids than their northern counterparts, averaging about 50x higher raiding rates for troops and 8x the rate for individuals raiding alone or in small groups. The hotline calls also confirm this trend.

We therefore have a very strong inverse correlation between raiding rates and breeding success. The most likely explanation is that food stressed baboons in the south raid to relieve that stress, but still cannot gain enough food to match the breeding success of baboons in the north.

The northern troops have more than double the birth rate compared to the southern troops. The fact that the grape growing and harvesting period coincides with this spate of births, which is also more prominent in the two troops that most regularly raid the farms (Ghost troop and Constantia troop), is very likely significant.

Another notable feature of raiding behaviour, is that recently it has only been in the southern troops that we have recorded some of the baboons being absolutely determined to raid, either by persistently trying to run past the rangers or quietly sneaking into town and lying low as they forage for human derived food. This behaviour seems to apply almost exclusively to males (the hardened old campaigners and young males accompanying them, or trained young males now on their own) or physically handicapped animals (missing a limb or old lactating females). Lactation is generally regarded as the most nutritionally stressful part of breeding for mammalian females, and old baboon females on the peninsula do not seem to cope very well without supplementing their diet with human derived food (most notably some Da Gama ST, Misty Cliffs and Slangkop females at present).

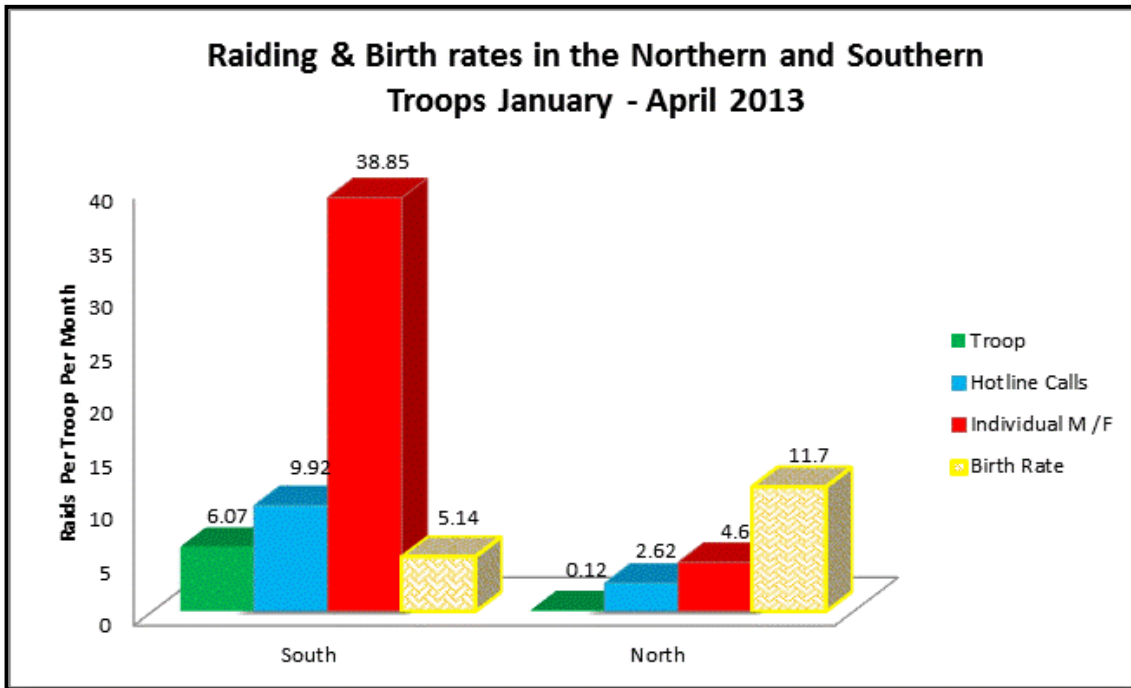


Figure 16: Raids in Northern and Southern Regions - January to April 2013

In our last monthly report it was emphasized how most of the raiding behaviour for March can be attributed to two splinter troops – Da Gama Small and Misty Cliffs Splinter Troops. Splinter troops can almost be defined as low quality troops, having been derived from deposed males or low ranking males taking low ranking females away from a bigger troop. These troops will inevitably be less efficient at feeding and therefore be predisposed to raiding. In the wild these animals would be the first to be removed by predation, but on the Peninsula they manage to survive and breed, although at a lower rate, if they can gain access (raid) to human derived foods.

**Hotline Data**

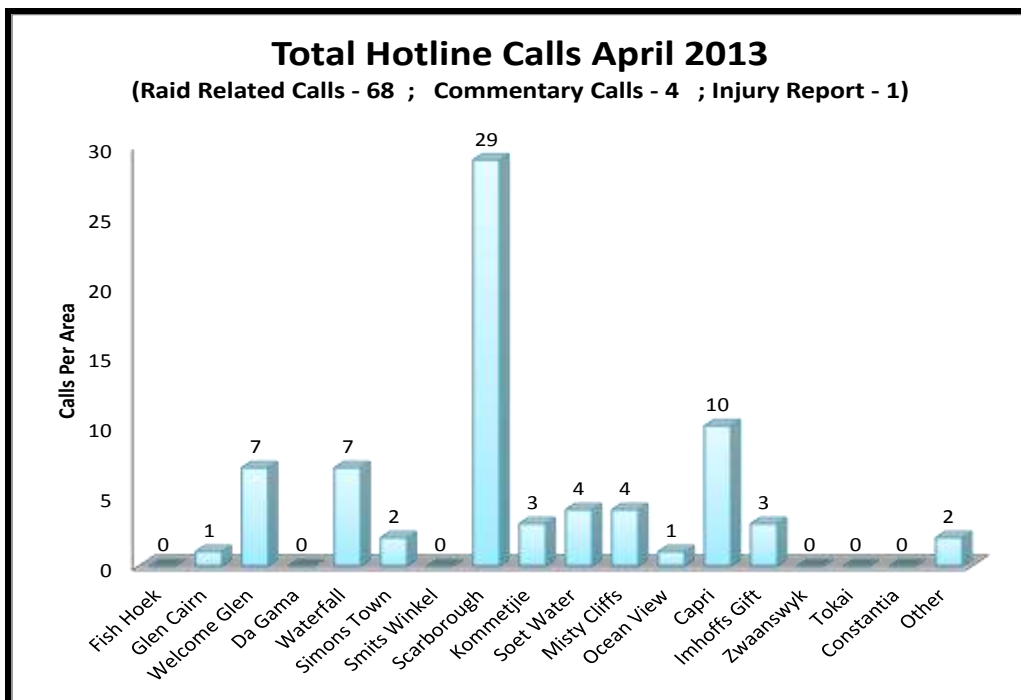


Figure 17 : Hotline call report per area.

The total hotline calls this month are up slightly from last month, and very similar to those for February (Figures 17 and 18). Scarborough continues to have the most calls by a long margin and this presumably primarily relates to the Misty Cliffs troop being resident at the Misty Cliffs roost site for over half the month as well as to the few females and MC1 who have been sneaking into town and spending almost the whole day skulking around in people's gardens. Three other areas have noticeably higher hotline calls than the rest, namely Welcome Glen, Waterfall and Capri.

The Welcome Glen and Waterfall calls are both in response to splinter troops. The issue in Waterfall is compounded by poor waste management at the naval barracks. Although the Slangkop troop has generally been quite well behaved when not sleeping on Slangkop, it is apparent from the water point data (Fig. 13) that they always raid (last 3 months) Capri after drinking at the Solole reserve. It should therefore be a priority to motivate for the closure of this waterhole which is right next to Capri.

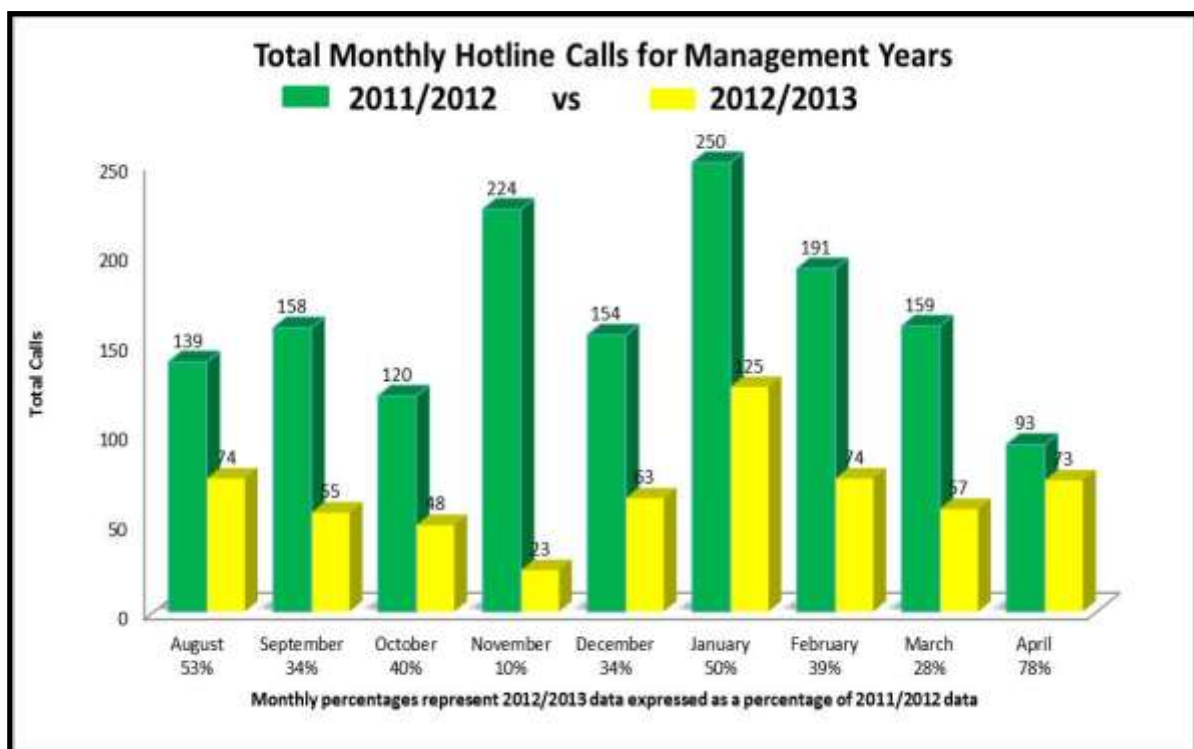


Figure 18: Total monthly hotline calls for management years.

The hotline call summary (Fig. 19) shows a slight increase in house and bin raids over last month. Most of these raids, particularly those of occupied houses, were perpetrated by old males who have been doing this for years. This increase over last month's raids can most likely be attributed to the shortage of natural food available at the end of summer. However it is disturbing to note that quite a few young males have recently taken to raiding for the first time, after trailing behind and being taught by the old males for the past few months. Serious consideration needs to be given to whether one should allow old males to perpetuate this behaviour. Against this one also needs to consider the value of alpha males to the social cohesion of the troop. Not all old males are alpha males, but most alpha males are old. Interestingly in the four northern troops all the alpha males are relatively young, whereas in the south most of the alpha males are old with poor dentition. How this all relates to the crop of young males being produced and emigrating from their natal troops needs to be investigated.

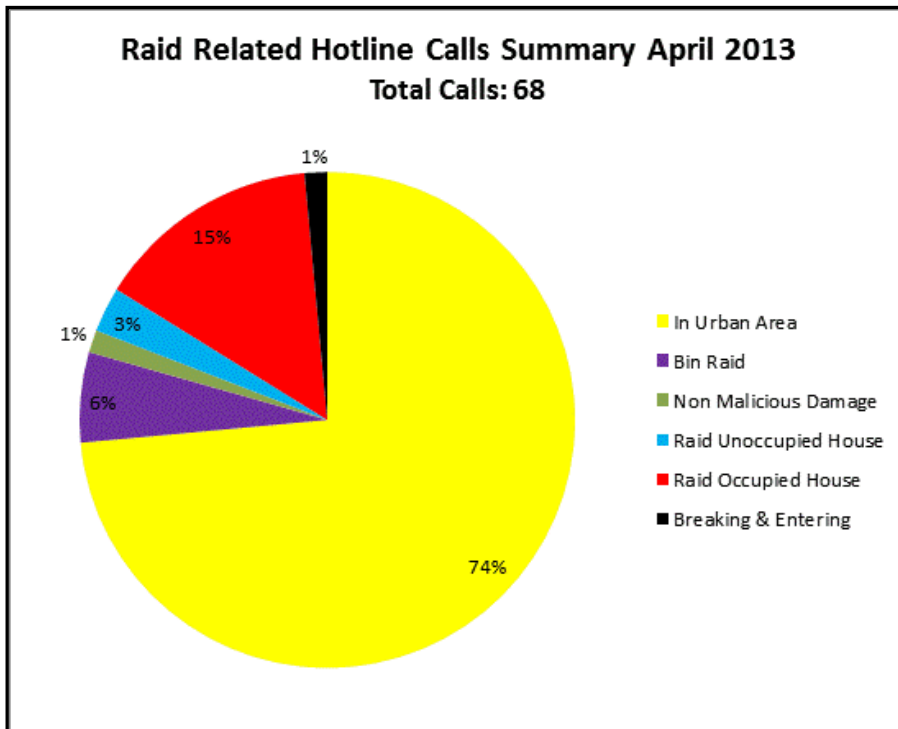


Figure 19: Hotline calls summary.

The small increase in hotline calls is to a lesser extent reflected in the amount of time the baboons spent out of town. Last month the troops averaged 99% of their time out of town, while in April this decreased marginally to 98.4% (Figure 20 below). For males and / or females raiding on their own, the percentage time out of town was 85%. The notable feature here, is that there has been a marked increase in females from the southern population raiding on their own. These have all been old and / or lactating females and this is presumably a result again of the lack of food available at the end of the dry season.

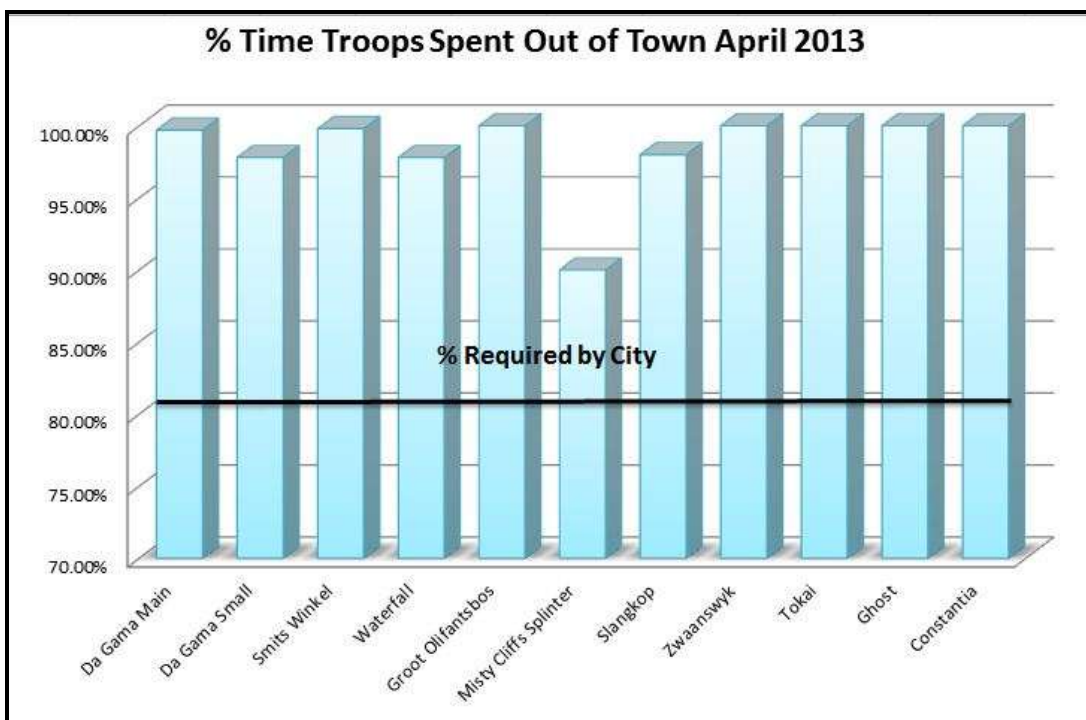


Figure 20: Percentage time troops spent out of town.





## General Summary

The data for April are by and large very similar to those for February and March, but there are three points worth highlighting.

- a) Access to water: Most troops have good access to water, particularly now that the first rains have started. However, in two troops, namely Slangkop and Da Gama BT, access to water still seems to be having a significant affect on their raiding behaviour. For Slangkop, access to the recently installed water point below their Compass Bakery Sleepsite, seems to have had a highly significant affect on reducing their attempts to raid. They do however still raid if they drink at the Solole waterhole which is about 50m from Capri.

Similarly, the Da Gama BT do not raid if they drink from water sources far from town, but invariably raid if they drink from sites that are near to or overlooking urban areas (e.g. Slangkop waterhole, Water pipe above Ocean View).

- b) Food Stress and Breeding: The breeding data for the past four months, seems to suggest that there is a strong inverse correlation between access to food and breeding success. The troops that have produced the most offspring in 2013, are the troops in the north, and particularly the Ghost troop and the Constantia troop which have the greatest access to grapes in the harvesting season as well as pine nuts all year round. This point has been suggested by BRU at UCT often in the past.
- c) Food Stress and Raiding: A feature which has become more evident with the progression of the dry season, is how certain individuals have almost become obligate raiders and cannot spend too long a period feeding on natural vegetation without becoming quite desperate to get an energy boost from feeding in town. Last month 82% of all hotline calls were in response to splinter troop raids. In April this figure was 74%. The individuals that appear to be the most stressed are handicapped animals (minus a limb or part thereof), old lactating females or just very old animals.
- d) Training of new raiders: Another behavioural feature that has become quite evident over the past 6 months, is that it may not take a young, potentially emigrating sub-adult male, very long to learn raiding behaviour from his older counterparts. Old males (alpha and otherwise) very often go raiding on their own, or with other males of similar age. However, with the passage of time young males grow up and eventually start following the older males on raids. A sub-adult male need only go on few raids with an older "teacher" and will then continue this behaviour when the old male dies - of old age, or after being euthanised because of unacceptably high levels of raiding behaviour. It will be a vital break through in baboon management in Cape Town if we can break this cycle of learning, and not allow sub-adult males to learn raiding behaviour from their elders.

Dr. Philip Richardson  
**Human Wildlife Solutions**