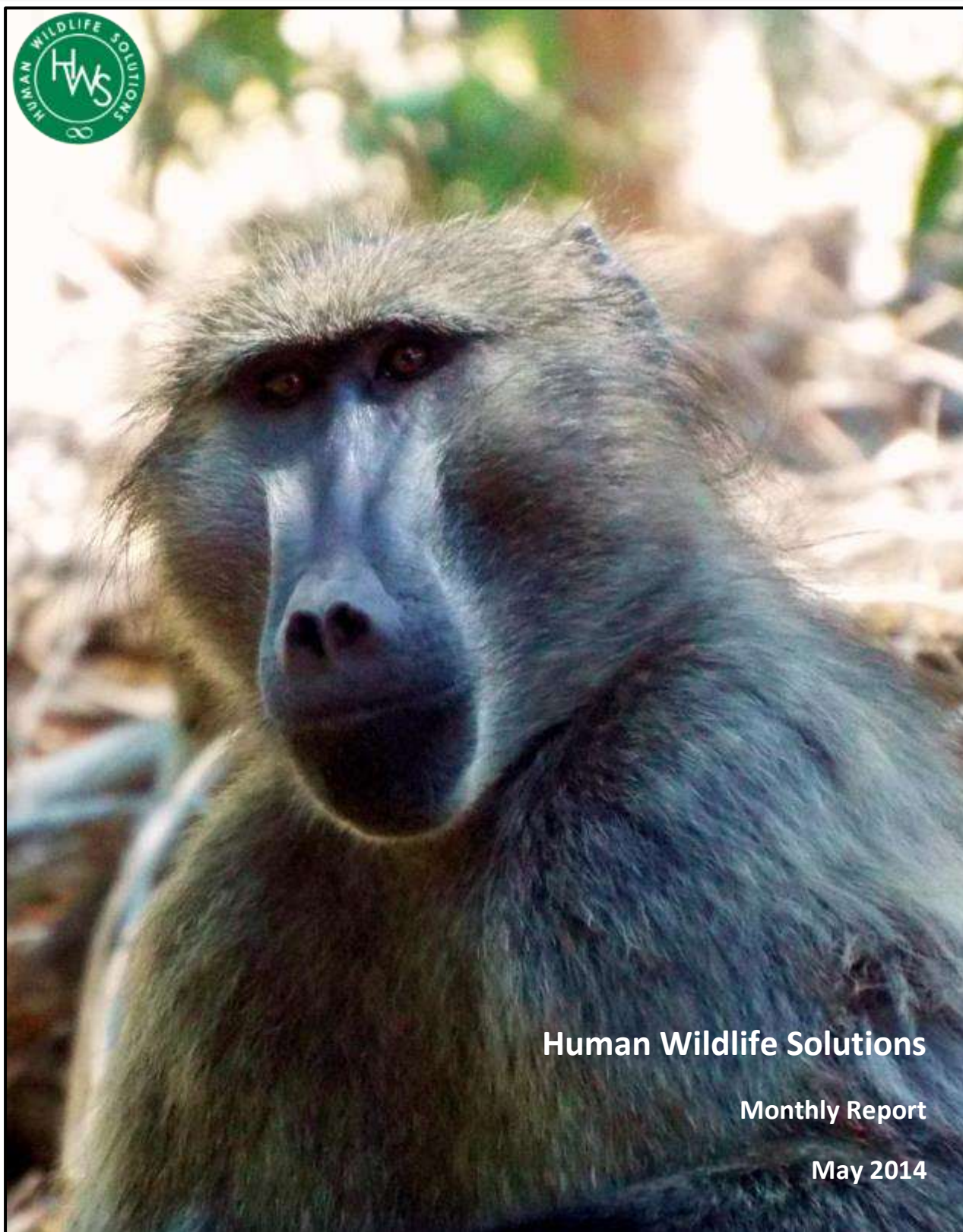




Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

May 2014

Photo: Robyn Khoury

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A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report covers the four week period from 26 April to 23 May 2014. Because of the cold weather now, the troops prefer to be at lower altitudes and out of the wind. However, the seasonal lack of food at this time of year continues to be the primary factor determining baboon raiding behaviour. With the cold winter weather following on the hot dry summer, there is little opportunity for much plant growth of nutritional value until August when temperatures start to rise again. Thus the baboons always push harder to get into town and raid at this time of year.

Another feature this month, is the warning given by GOB8 and GOB9, that one can never drop one's guard and take the baboons' behaviour for granted. Since August 2012, the GOB Troop has been considered to be the great success story on the peninsula. This troop, which used to be the scourge of Scarborough, raiding almost every day and sleeping in town, has not entered town as a troop for the past 22 months. Furthermore, they were quite often seen at the Bonteberg sleep site which overlooks Scarborough, without making any attempt to enter town.

Despite the apparent rehabilitation of this troop, as soon as GOB8 and then later GOB9 (which had grown into adulthood over the past two years), took over respectively as the alpha male of the Misty Cliffs Troop, it took them each just a few days to resume their old ways. They both started raiding town and, almost immediately, also took to sleeping in town away from the troop. The lesson to be learnt from this is that one can, with ongoing vigilance, progressively reduce a troop's inclination to raid town. However, this vigilance will need to continue unabated for many years before the cycle of training the younger generation to raid is broken and troops can truly be considered to have been rehabilitated. In this case, the two years without raiding Scarborough was clearly not enough to break the cycle for these two young males.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

Over the past two months, the Smitswinkel Troop seems to have followed a similar trend in habitat usage to that for the same time last year. The troop has mainly been using the area that extends from Rockland's Farm in the north, to the Castle Rock area in the south.

This has led to increasing conflict between the baboons and the local residents, tourists visiting the area, and fishermen that use the boat launch. Despite many attempts to move these baboons further south, the troop persistently moves back north as far as Rockland's farm.

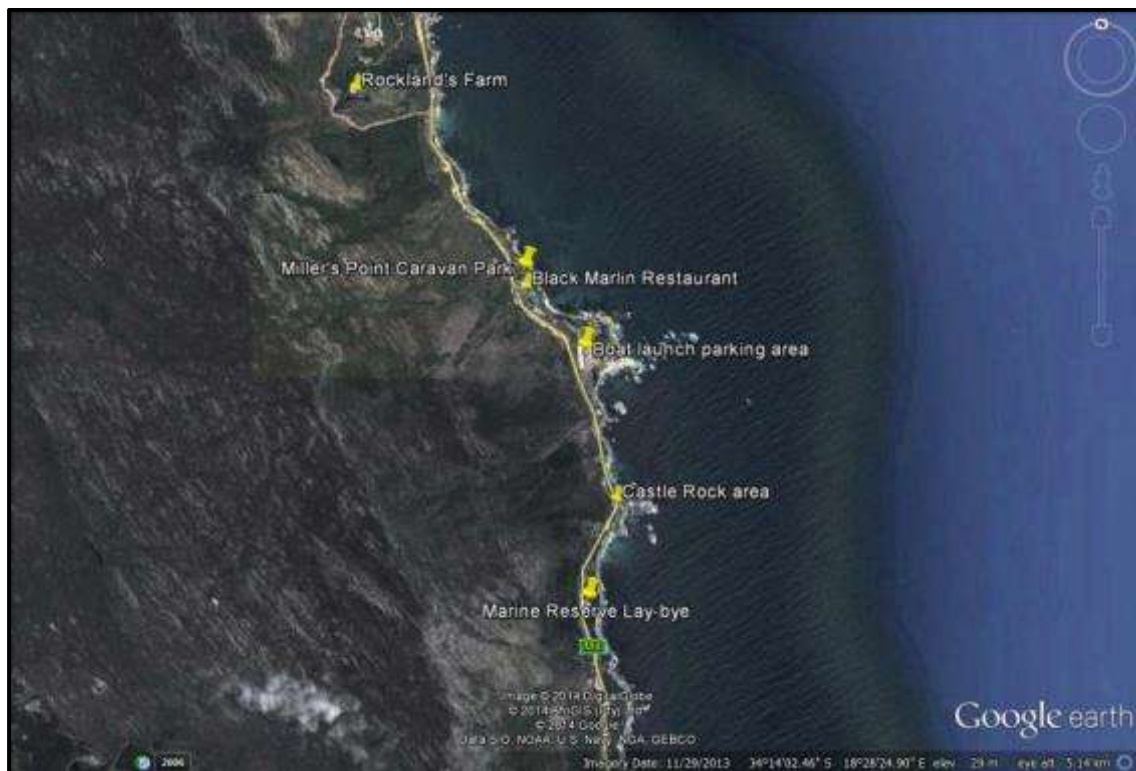


Fig.1. Habitat mainly used by the Smitswinkel Troop.

SWB1 remains a very difficult animal to manage and, during this reporting period, has raided several houses. Fortunately most of the raids have been committed through entering open doors and windows, and have been brief because SWB1 leaves as soon as he gets food.

There have been two serious incidents however. On 28 April, SWB1 raided the Black Marlin Restaurant twice. After the first raid, the rangers started herding him back to the troop, but he turned and jumped straight past the Field Manager to enter the restaurant again. And then on 13 May, SWB1 entered a house and into the kitchen through an open door. The home owner, a housekeeper and a dog ran into the kitchen after the baboon, effectively trapping him inside. SWB1 then bared his teeth and ran past them and out of the kitchen.

SWB1 will be re-collared in order to be able to monitor his movements and pre-empt his raids. The re-emergence of SWB1 as a raiding male is most probably due to the season as well as his advanced age.

All of the baboons are stressed for food at this time of year, but being an old animal with poor dentition on top of this, is most probably the reason that SWB1 raids whenever he gets the opportunity.

SECTOR						CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																										
SE						1	In urban area					4	Attacking pets					7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food													
BABOON TROOP:			Smitswinkel			2	Raid bins					5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property													
MONTH: May			2014			3	Non malicious damage					6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																			
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		TOTAL	
SWB1	M		6	7,7		1							6						6,7				5						7		9	
SWB6	M																														0	
Troop			1										1	1					1										1		5	
UnID Fem	F																														0	
SWBF8	F																														0	
SWB9													6																		1	
UNID Male	M																														0	
SWB7	M																														0	
	%																										HRS					
Troop	0.43		15										15	10					10										15		1.08	
Individuals	0.00																														0.00	
Males	0.61		30	30		5							15						5				6						1		1.53	
Roost:	AM	6	5	4	5	5	4	6	4	2	6	3	4	6	4	5	4	6	6	6	5	4	5	5	5	6	6	5	5			
Roost:	PM	4	4	5	5	5	6	4	2	6	3	4	6	4	5	4	6	5	6	5	4	4	4	5	6	4	5	5	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		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																														
		23/05 attempted to raid car, but when he got there two males where in the car and chased him off																														

Fig.2. Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop has remained behind the South African Navy Ammunition Depot (SANAD) on the Klaasjagersberg Mountain, sleeping either on the northern side behind SANAD or on the southern side above the Cape of Good Hope Nursery.

For the first time in at least four months, the troop spent 15 minutes in the urban/residential area in the Red Hill Settlement. This took place on 29 April when there was thick mist on the mountain. When the rangers arrived on site in the morning, the majority of the troop was sleeping in the pine trees within SANAD. The rangers moved them out quickly but then lost sight of them in the mist. They found the troop shortly thereafter at the Red Hill settlement, but managed to move them out quickly.

RH2 continues to enter the SANAD facility to forage at the available fruit trees. In addition he is able to enter the mess and raid the bins, as neither are baboon-proofed. RH2 is now not the only baboon entering the premises, but other members of the troop are also starting to access the area. Baboon-proofing the bins and the mess, and removing fruit trees at SANAD are the priorities in order to limit the attractiveness of the site to other baboons

The troop also seems to have had a slight habitat shift as they have been spending more time further down the south-western side of the mountain. This has also increased conflict between farmers at the vineyard, residents at the nursery, and the residents at the Red Hill Settlement.

The troop has split on several occasions with most individuals following the younger adult, WF2, and he has entered the Cape of Good Hope Reserve on two occasions.

RH2 is growing older and often attempts to break the line. He often raids at SANAD alone while the rest of the troop remains on the southern side of the mountain. He is most probably also feeling the stress of age and season as is SWB1.



Fig.3. Green line encloses the area that was mostly used during this reporting period. The red line encloses the area used in previous months.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																							
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																					
SE																																							
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall		1 In urban area														4 Attacking pets														7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food									
MONTH: May		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	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	TOTAL									
Troop					2	1																								2									
RH2	M				6	6	6						6						2	1		2	5	2			1			10									
WF2	M				6	6	6						1														6			5									
WFF3	F												6																	1									
UnID Juveniles																														0									
UnID Male	M																													0									
WFF1	F																													0									
UnID Individuals																														0									
	%																										HRS												
Troop	0.1				15																									0.25									
Females/Individuals	0.1												15																	0.25									
Males	0.3				15								30																	0.75									
Roost:	AM	10	11	9	10	14	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	11	10	9	10	10	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	9										
Roost:	PM	11	9	10	14	11	10	11	10	10	10	9	11	11	9	10	10	10	10	10	11	9	10	10	10	10	10	11	11										
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		WF2 - yellow&blue tag, RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male WFF1 - three legs																																					
General remarks		Raids indicated in bold and italic took place out of the urban area.																																					

Fig.4. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet. Raids indicated in bold and italic took place in the SANAD facility, outside the urban area.

3. Da Gama Troops

During May 2013, the Da Gama Troop still comprised two separate troops, namely the Big Troop (BT) and the Small Troop (ST). The BT was sleeping at the Witsand area and individuals from the troop were raiding Ocean View on a daily basis.

A male from the Slangkop Troop was attempting to take over the BT at that time and in the process killed 11 infants and juveniles. This led to considerable chaos within the troop and the BT returned to Da Gama Park towards the end of June 2013.

Currently, the BT and ST remain united as one troop with SK3 as the alpha male. However, over the last two months, the troop has frequently split up and groups have slept in as many as five different locations at the same time. This month, the troop has slept apart in three separate groups at three different locations. The split generally consists of some individuals sleeping with DG1 at one location, some at another location with DG10 and/or DG11, and the majority of the troop with SK3 at a third location.

Towards the end of the month, there has been a peculiar trend developing with three females sleeping by themselves in Da Gama Park, mainly in the pines in 2nd Avenue or in the pines in Welcome Glen. These females have been particularly difficult to push back to the troop. The reason for this behaviour is unknown.

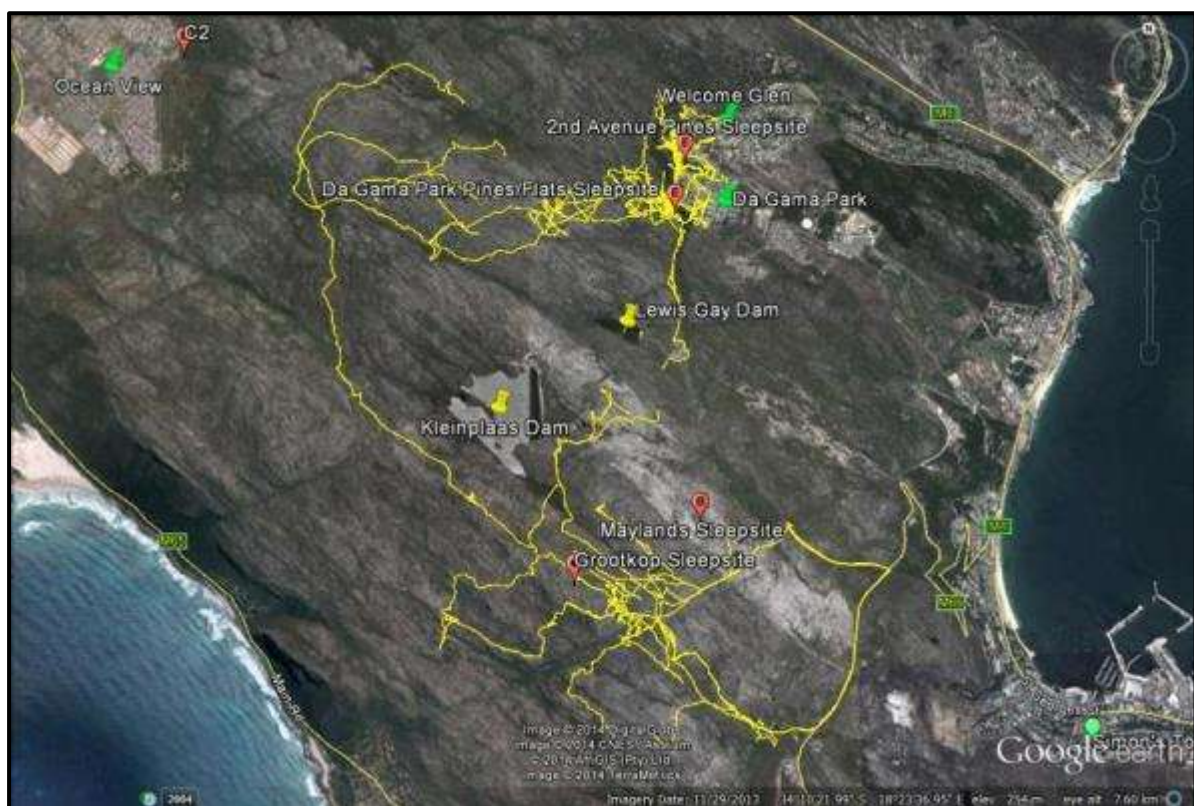


Fig. 5. Da Gama Troop tracking data for May reporting period

DG1 is the oldest male in the troop and, like SWB1 and RH2, seems to be feeling the effects of the season and his age. He is currently the most problematic animal in this troop. He attempts

to break the line on a daily basis and pushes back towards town. He is also the main culprit in terms of house raids, and is often followed by two sub-adults, some juveniles and occasionally some females. He needs to be prevented from leading these other baboons, particularly the younger ones, astray.

Poor waste management remains an attractant for the troop to come back to town. In addition, there are many houses where windows without burglar bars are left open. The most successful strategy for this troop is to keep them around the Grootkop area. From this location most of the residential areas are out of sight and, because it has been an area little used by baboons to date, there is still sufficient natural food available in an area where there is minimal contact between humans and baboons.

HWS will therefore work towards establishing Grootkop as the troops' primary sleep site.

It is promising to note that, despite the history of the Da Gama Troops being amongst the worst raiders on the Cape Peninsula, there have been progressive decreases in their raiding behaviour since October 2012 (Fig. 6 below).

Over the past 18 months, the incidences of entering the urban area, bin raids and aggressive raids have decreased by 50%, 50% and 90% respectively.

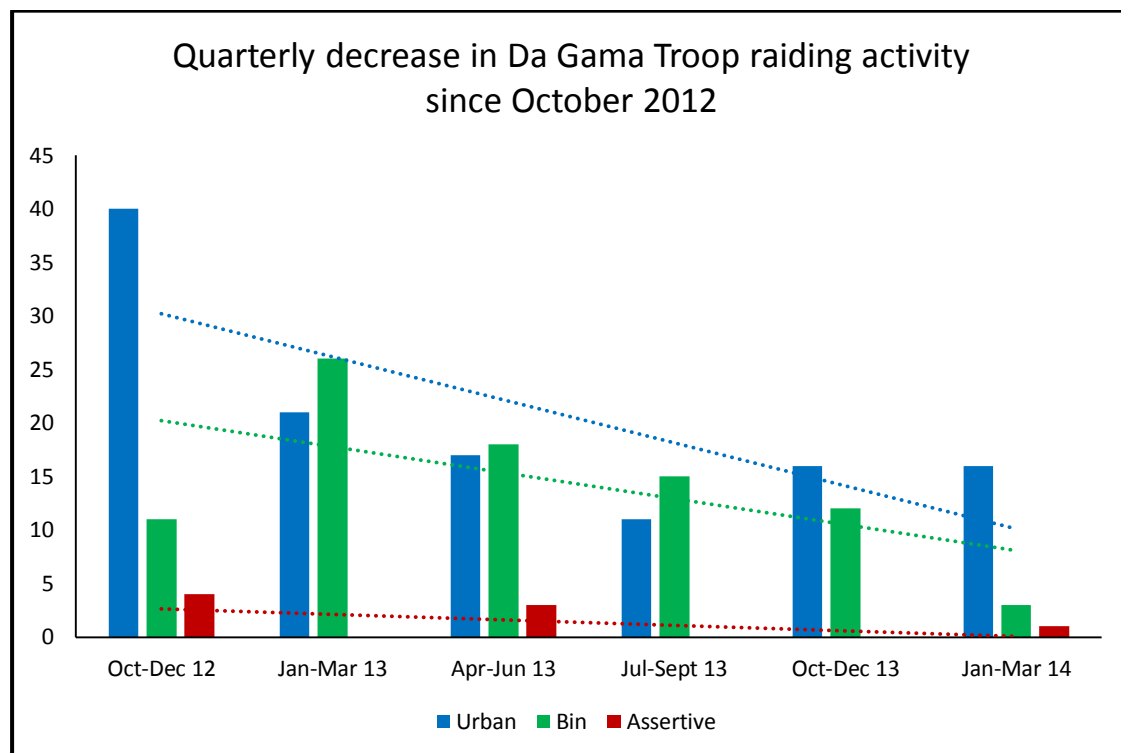


Fig.6. Quarterly decreases in raiding behaviours by the Da Gama Troops since October 2012.

Fig.7. Da Gama Park Troop Raid Sheet

No births or deaths were recorded during this reporting period. It should be noted however, that the Waterfall Troop has not been seen together as a whole troop for several months due to the thick vegetation and terrain where they are now living. Births and deaths may therefore go unnoticed quite easily.

South African Navy Ammunition Depot (SANAD): Baboon-proofing of bins, baboon-proofing of the mess room, and the removal of fruit trees at SANAD is needed to be undertaken to prevent the troop from raiding the facility.

Da Gama Park and tourist routes: On-going education and law enforcement is needed in Da Gama Park as well as along the tourist routes. Waste management still needs urgent attention especially at the flats where a new waste disposal system needs to be developed.

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South Western Region – Area Manager: Nick Shaw**1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop**

During the month of May, the GOB Troop has been at the Bonteberg roost site for the majority of the time. On two occasions this month the troop slept at the Olifantsbos roost site.

As in previous months, the troop has not ventured far from the Bonteberg area. This is as a result of the reduced available forage in their extended home range. The troop seems to be spending a significant amount of time marine-foraging at low tide on the coast.

On a number of days this month the troop was spotted foraging close to the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) fence at the Schusterskraal Picnic site. The troop moved up the mountain when the rangers approached the fence.

On 15 and 20 May, GOB7 crossed the CoGH fence into Scarborough but was immediately pushed back into the Reserve.



Fig.8. Roost sites and GPS points for the GOB troop – May 2014

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs Troop has spent the majority month at the Misty Cliffs Roost Site.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
		1	In urban area			4	Attacking pets					7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																	
BABOON TROOP:		Misty Cliffs		2	Raid bins			5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property															
MONTH: May		YEAR: 2014		3	Non malicious damage			6	Raid occupied house or vehicle					9	Nocturnal raiding															
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
GOB8	M	2	2		2,5,8	5,8																							5	
GOB9	M									2	2,5		6	1	2	2		9	2,9		2									13
MCF2	F	2	2		2	1	2,6	1	1	2	2,5		6	1	2	2			2		2		2,6		1	1		2	2	23
MCF3	F	2	2		2	1	2	1	1	2	2,5		2	1	2	2			2		2		2,6		1			2	2	21
MCF4 + baby	F	2	2		2	1	2			2	2,5		2	1		2			2		2							2		16
Troop		2	2		2	1				2	2		2	1		2			2		2		2					2		13
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Troop	11.9	150	240		180	120				120	180		240	220		120			40		265		220				300		39h55	
Males & Females	21.1	150	240		180	120	240	180	300	120	180		240	220	240	120			150		265		220		240	180	300	360	70h45	
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
				1	Misty Cliffs			2	CoGH Reserve			3						4						5						
				6				7				8						9						10						

Fig.9. Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop - May 2014

May Raids:

On 29 April, GOB8 broke into a house in Egret Rd by ripping open the French doors.

On 30 April, GOB8 smashed a window in Old Camp Rd to gain access to a house.

On 1 May, MCF2 raided and occupied a house in Egret Rd.

On 5 May, GOB9, together with three females and some juveniles, raided a house on Main Rd gaining entry through an open window.

On 7 May, MCF2, MCF3 and three juveniles raided an occupied house in Hilltop Rd.



Fig.10. Window pane broken by GOB8 in Old Camp Rd.

Comments and Observations

This month, the challenge has been to keep the troop together and prevent individuals from breaking away to enter Scarborough. GOB8, MCF2 and MCF3 have been particularly problematic and tried to leave the troop on a daily basis. These individuals have spent nearly twice as much time in the urban areas than the rest of the troop.

GOB8 continued to target windows and doors which he would break in order to gain access to houses in Misty Cliffs and Scarborough. In the last two days of April, he broke into houses by breaking a door and a window. With WAC approval, GOB8 was euthanased on 9 May, 2014.

On 1 May, the team pushed the troop into the CoGH Reserve where it was hoped they could be contained, to reduce the raiding of Scarborough and Misty Cliffs. However, MCF2, MCF3, MCF4 and two juveniles ran into Scarborough and hid while the troop was pushed into the Reserve. These individuals returned to the Misty Cliffs roost site for the next three days.

During this time, they raided Scarborough every day and the team was unable to force them into the Reserve to join up with the rest of the troop. On the morning of 4 May, the team arrived at work and found the whole troop had already entered Scarborough from the Reserve.

While in the Reserve, the Misty Cliffs (MC) Troop spent a lot of time in close proximity to the GOB Troop. It was hoped that the two troops might merge to form a single troop. However, the MC Troop was intent on returning to join the individuals that were hiding in Scarborough. When they left the Reserve, the sub-adult male from the GOB troop, GOB9, followed them back and remained with the troop for the next ten days.

As was seen in the case of GOB8, the young male GOB9 joined the MC Troop and began raiding in Scarborough almost immediately, even though GOB9 had not been there since July 2012. This emphasizes the point that even after nearly two years of not entering an urban area, these individuals have not forgotten about raiding and as soon as they re-join a raiding troop, they continue to raid as they had done before.

After GOB9 had spent two consecutive nights sleeping on properties in Scarborough, it was decided to collar him. He was captured and taken to the Westlake holding facility to overnight in anticipation of a veterinary surgeon drugging and collaring him the next morning. However, GOB9 somehow managed to escape from the enclosure during the night. The following day he was sighted on the mountain above Boyes Drive. Numerous attempts to cage trap and dart GOB9 in this area were unsuccessful.

On 28 May he was finally darted in Fish Hoek, collared and released back into the Scarborough area where he once again joined up with the MC Troop. During the time GOB9 was on the mountain above Boyes Drive, he regularly raided houses from Lakeside to Kalk Bay. As residents in these areas have not been affected by baboons for a long time, very few people take precautions to close windows and doors during the day. This allowed GOB9 very easy access to houses for the nearly two weeks that he was in these areas.

3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop utilised the C3 roost site above Compass Bakery for the entire month of May. The map over page shows the movements of the troop this month.



Fig.11. Data logger map for the Slangkop Troop – May 2014

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
		1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																				
BABOON TROOP:		Slangkop				2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																
MONTH: May		YEAR: 2014				3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																					
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	TOTAL			
DG6	M	5	2			2	2	2		2,4		2	2					1		2			2						2,5,8	14			
SKF1	F	5	2			2	2		2	2		2	2			2		1	2	2			2			2			2	15			
SKF2	F	5	2			2	2			2		2	2					1		2			2					2		11			
SKF3	F	2				2	2			2		2				2		1	2	2			2			2			2	12			
Troop		2					2			2		2										2							2	7			
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS						
Troop	1.2	30					45															40						120	3h55				
Males + Females	2.5	30	10			25	45	60	15	50		30	15			15		10	5	20		40			10			120	08h20				
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3					
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3					
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.12. Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – May 2014

May Raids:

On 26 April, a number of individuals raided an unoccupied house in Bermuda Drive, Capri by gaining access through an open window.

On 4 April, DG6 attacked and bit a dog in De Stadler Ave, Capri.

On 10, 13 and 20 May, a few females, accompanied by three or four juveniles, raided bins at Compass Bakery.

On 23 May, DG6 broke a window at a house in Bali Close, Capri.



Fig.13. Window broken by DG6 in Bali Close, Capri. (May 2014)

Comments and Observations

The Slangkop Troop managed to raid Capri Village on six occasions this month. This is an increase from previous months. The reduced natural forage at this time of year has meant that the troop is more persistent in their attempts to enter Capri.

This, together with poor visibility on the mountain due to heavy rains, has meant that the troop was able to elude the ranger team and enter the urban area more frequently than previous months.

DG6 has been problematic and has raided bins in Ocean View as well as broken the window of a house in Bali Close, Capri. This is the second window he has broken in two months.

The same three female baboons from the original TK5 split, and a few juveniles, continue to raid on their own in Ocean View and have raided Compass Bakery twice this month. This, together with the raids by the troop in Capri, has resulted in slightly increased raiding incidences this month. However the ranger team has limited the duration of each raid by pushing the raiding individuals out of the urban areas fairly quickly.

The troop is still being kept out of the urban areas 98% of the time.

Births and Deaths

There were no births recorded for any troop this month. One death was recorded in the MC troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GOB Troop: The movements of the GOB Troop must be monitored through regular checking of the GPS collar coordinates and the troop must be prevented from crossing Plateau Rd and the Reserve fence opposite Scarborough.

The two attempts to enter Scarborough this month by the non-raiding alpha, GOB7, are of great concern and it will be necessary to keep a very close eye on this individual and prevent him from crossing the urban boundary.

Misty Cliffs Troop: The on-going strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop will be to try and return them to the Reserve from where they, and the GOB troop, can be managed more effectively. It has been shown however that it is not possible to hold the troop there if individuals remain behind in Scarborough. There is therefore good reason to delay pushing this troop into the Reserve until such time as the availability of natural forage increases so that there is less pressure on the habitual raiders to seek food and refuge in Scarborough.

Slangkop Troop: The winter months will make effective management of the Slangkop Troop more challenging. The reduced visibility in wet weather on the mountain allows the troop more opportunities to slip past the ranger team above the Solole Reserve, from where they can easily access Capri Village.

It will be necessary to try and keep DG6 away from houses, especially as he has begun targeting windows in order to gain access to secured properties. In previous winters, the troop has spent more time at the Ocean View roost site. This has not happened yet this year but it will be important to reduce the raiding of Ocean View by the three females and DG6 should they begin to roost there.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury**1. Tokai Troop**

During this reporting period, the Tokai Troop has spent much of its time pushing onto the Buitenverwachting property as there are still have grapes in the lower vineyards. Allowing the troop to forage in this area gives it a good opportunity to push past the rangers and into the urban space. Hence, HWS rangers have assisted the Buitenverwachting rangers by herding the troop off the farm and into the higher sections of the Tokai Plantation.

A positive consequence of this behaviour is that the Tokai Troop has been focusing on the grapes on Buitenverwachting and not on raiding. On a few occasions, certain individuals have tried to push to Chrysalis or the Tea Garden area, but each time have been prevented by HWS rangers. As a result, no raiding of any kind has occurred this month involving the Tokai Troop.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food from person																							
BABOON TROOP: Tokai		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: April - May YEAR: 2014		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total
UnID male	M																									4*				1
The Troop																														
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS				
Tokai Troop		0.0																											0.00	
Individuals		0.0																											0.00	
Males		0.0																											0.00	
Roost:	AM	3	6	3	3	7	6	11	3	1	1	3	3	3	6	2	2	6	6	6	3	7	6	6	1	3	1	6	3	
Roost:	PM	6	11	11	4	6	11	3	1	2	5	3	3	6	3	2	6	8	6	3	3	6	6	1	3	1	6	3	6	
Roost Sites		1	Tea Garden				2	Upper Tea Garden				3	Level 1 Tokai Clearing				4	Level 1 Zwick Blue Gums				5	Level 2 Stream							
		6	Lower Guest House				7	Upper Guest House				8	Level 3 Pines				9	Level 4 Pines				10	Level 2 Pines							
		11	Level 1a Quarry Gums				12	Other				13					14					15								
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Fig.14. Raid sheet for the Tokai Troop. *Indicates behaviour that took place outside the urban area.

The only incident to report this month took place on the 20 May 2014 when a dog in the Tokai Plantation chased a juvenile baboon. As a result, an untagged male baboon attacked the dog in an effort to protect its young.

There has been some internal fighting within the troop between the large males TK24, TK39 and TK28 (alpha). TK28 appears to be reasserting himself as alpha as the other males are challenging him and attempting to steal his high ranking females. As a result of this fighting, TK24 and TK28 have sustained minor injuries. They are being monitored to ensure they heal adequately.

After sustaining a major baboon-inflicted injury to his hind leg on 21 February, (see February monthly report), TK40 has recovered well, without any human intervention. TK40's wound has almost completely healed in a period of three months, giving testament to the ability of wild animals to heal well under natural conditions (Fig.15. below).



Fig.15. Before and after pictures of TK40's healing progress following a baboon-inflicted injury sustained in February 2014.



Fig.16. Tokai Troop tracking data for May reporting period.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

During this reporting period, the Zwaanswyk fence has continued to malfunction. The section from the first gate near the start of Zwaanswyk Road, and up to the reservoir, is regularly off and occasionally this malfunction stretches up to the next access gate, at the top of the road. The Zwaanswyk Residents Association is aware of the problem but, as the cause of the problem is still unknown, repair is difficult.

As a result of the fence being off, an untagged female, followed by a few other smaller individuals, managed to get past rangers and jump over the fence. The group returned without raiding even before the rangers could push them back.

At present, these trips seem to be exploratory missions into the urban area as no individuals have raided houses in Zwaanswyk. However, as a result of the fence malfunctioning, it is possible that the troop may attempt to resume their old raiding habits on Zwaanswyk Road.

In an effort to prevent this, HWS rangers are keeping the troop away from the Zwaanswyk side as much as possible. A concern is that this limits the troop's access to valuable forage near the fence, so this is not a long term solution.

TK38, the alpha of the Zwaanswyk Troop, was euthanased on 21 May as a result of a bad raiding history, in particular his habit of stealing backpacks from hikers. Hence, there are no adult males

currently in the Zwaanswyk Troop and the troop lacks an alpha. It is hoped that one of the males from the Tokai Troop will take over leadership of this troop.

Unfortunately, due to a faulty data logger, no tracking data is available for the Zwaanswyk Troop for this month. However from ranger observations, the troop seemed to spend the majority of their time around the tea garden area, stretching west up the adjacent mountain and into the levels of the Tokai Plantation.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
NORTH		1	In urban area					4	Attacking pets					7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food from pe																
BABOON TROOP:	Zwaanswyk	2	Raid bins					5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																
MONTH: April - May	YEAR:2014	3	Non malicious damage					6	Raid occupied house or vehicle					9	Nocturnal Raiding																
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total	
TK 38 (Sing.R) Collar	M						2*5*					5*																		3	
Un-ID fem	F					1																								1	
The Troop																					2*									2	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS	
Zwaanswyk Troop	0.0																													0.00	
Individuals	0.3					60																								1.00	
Males	0.0																													0.00	
Roost:	AM	9	1	9	2	8	8	3	8	1	2	10	8	8	1	2	8	8	5	1	11	1	1	8	1	4	1	8	11		
Roost:	PM	4	4	11	3	8	3	8	1	1	4	5	8	1	1	3	4	5	1	11	2	1	8	1	4	1	8	11	2		
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	Manor House					9	Tokai bridge Blue Gums					10	Level 2 Pines				
		11	Other					12						13						14						15					
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Fig.17. Raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Troop. *Indicates behaviour that took place outside the urban area.

3. Constantia

During this reporting period, the Constantia Troop has raided Simon's Restaurant on Groot Constantia on several occasions as there is often a lot of food in the waste disposal area, making this very attractive to the troop. Additionally, the waste disposal area is regularly unlocked giving the baboons easy access to the waste.

During May, the troop raided the bins at Simon's Restaurant twice (Fig.18), and the skip at the Jonkerhuis Restaurant once. In addition, CON5 intimidated patrons at Simon's Restaurant on two occasions and stole food from their tables.

On numerous other occasions the troop and single individuals such as CON5, CON3 and TK34, tried raiding at the restaurant, but were intercepted by HWS rangers.

Groot Constantia no longer provides their own baboon rangers and as a result, preventing raids at the restaurants has become increasingly difficult because HWS rangers are usually occupied holding the line along Price Drive in order to prevent urban raiding.



Fig.18. Bins at Simon's Restaurant after the troop raided on 14 May.

There was one urban raid this month committed by an untagged male that entered an occupied house in Price drive. The baboon was herded back to the troop shortly after this incident.

Other than this, several attempts were made by males to leave the troop and enter the urban environment but were intercepted by HWS rangers before crossing into urban space.

The PhD research project in Constantia continued this month, with observations of collared males being conducted daily.

Additionally, two more males were fitted with GPS collars, one of which was tagged (pink-green), and given the code CON7, the other already had tags (double white) and is known as TK16.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food from person																							
BABOON TROOP:	Constantia	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: April - May	YEAR: 2014	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total
CON 5 (G-G) Collar	M																						7*						6*	2
Untagged male	M														6															1
The Troop												2*			2*					2*										3
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS
Con Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	0.0																													0.00
Males	0.1															20														0.33
Roost:	AM	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Roost:	PM	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
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							
		6	Uitsig BG				7	Mckenzie/Groot				8	Other				9					10								
ID Features of Baboons		TK 16 (W-W) fitted with research collar 20/05																												
		Untagged male cage captured, tagged Pink and Green, collared with research collar 20/05, now labelled CON 7.																												
General remarks																														

Fig.19. Raid sheet for the Constantia Troop. *indicates behaviour took place outside of the urban area.



Fig.20. Tracking data for Constantia Troop during the May reporting period.

4. Mountain Troop

The mountain troop has scarcely been seen this month. The troop is ranging higher in the mountain above Buitenverwachting. They are unable to push down through Buitenverwachting because the Tokai Troop has capitalized this resource for the month. The Mountain Troop has therefore not committed any raids during this reporting period.

Births and Deaths

No births were reported this month.

TK38 was euthanased on 21 May 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Zwaanswyk Fence needs to be urgently repaired to prevent access into Zwaanswyk Road.

Waste management at both restaurants on Groot Constantia needs to be attended to. Bins need to be securely locked away to prevent baboons raiding.

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

This month the population remained much the same with no births and two deaths. The lack of births this month could possibly be attributed to the lack of food at this time of year, but this pattern was not evident last year. The only trend that one might consider from the population data this year, is that possibly the population is starting to stabilize after strict management and, as a result, the troops having markedly less access to human derived foods (HDF's) over the past 18 months. In 2013 the population of the troops in the south declined slightly, but most of that decline can be attributed to the very aggressive new alpha male in the Da Gama troop, who killed 11 infants and juveniles when he moved into the troop.

During 2013, the population of the troops in the north increased quite considerably from 179 to 216, but this year it seems to have stabilised and only marginally increased by two individuals. These troops still have much greater access to HDF's than troops in the south, nevertheless, their reduced access to these foods may be having a positive affect and preventing the unsustainable increase in the population from continuing. This argument is based on the assumption that, when female baboons have unnaturally high access to food, they can breed every year as opposed to the normal once every two years. This obviously greatly increases the rate at which the population grows.

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

TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	Total End Dec 2013	May Births	May Deaths	Total Births 2014	Total Deaths 2014	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	44			1	2	43
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21			2	1	22
Waterfall	28	30			0	1	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17		1	0	1	16
Slangkop	33	40			1	0	41
SUB TOTAL	175	171	0	1	4	5	170
Zwaanswyk	25	30			1	0	31
Tokai	61	70		1	5	4	71
Mountain	33	44			3	0	47
Constantia	60	72			1	4	69
SUB TOTAL	179	216	0	1	10	8	218
TOTAL	354	387	0	2	14	13	388

Fig.21. Population data for the ten managed troops on the Cape Peninsula.

Hotline Data

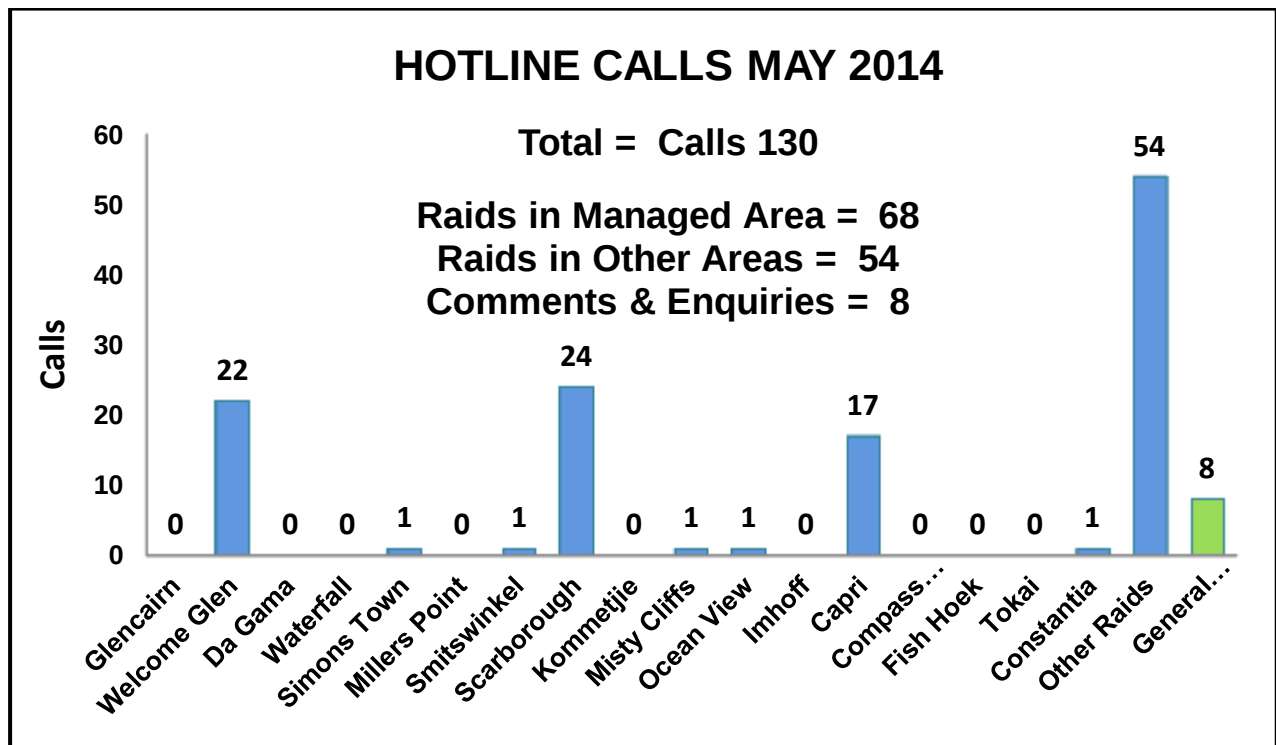


Fig.22. Hotline calls summary per area.

This month, despite the relatively high number of hotline calls, most of these can be attributed to just a few troops or individuals. By far the worst offender was the male, GOB9, who escaped overnight from the Westlake holding facility while being held in anticipation of being radio-collared the following morning. He roamed around and raided in Muizenberg, Kalk Bay and Fish Hoek for two weeks (see Other Raids in Fig. 22 above) before being caught and returned to Misty Cliffs.

The Da Gama and Misty Cliffs Troops were again the worst offending troops, and this was due to them having several individuals who left the troops to raid, and also the troops themselves occasionally raiding.

The composition of the hotline calls was again primarily (79%) as a result of callers just reporting baboons in town. The trend for the second highest reason for calls related to reports of raiding occupied houses which continues to be a worrying trend. However, in mitigation, it is pertinent that these are also the raids most likely to be witnessed and reported, particularly if the baboons are still in the caller's house.

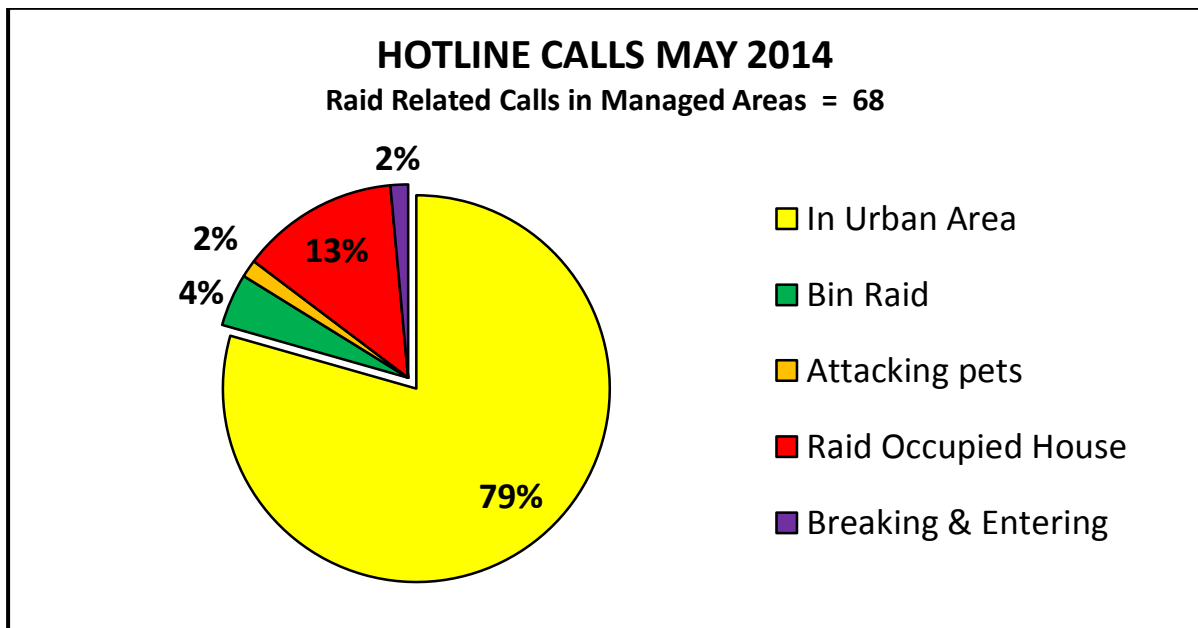


Fig.23. Raid-related hotline calls.

Percentage Time out of Town

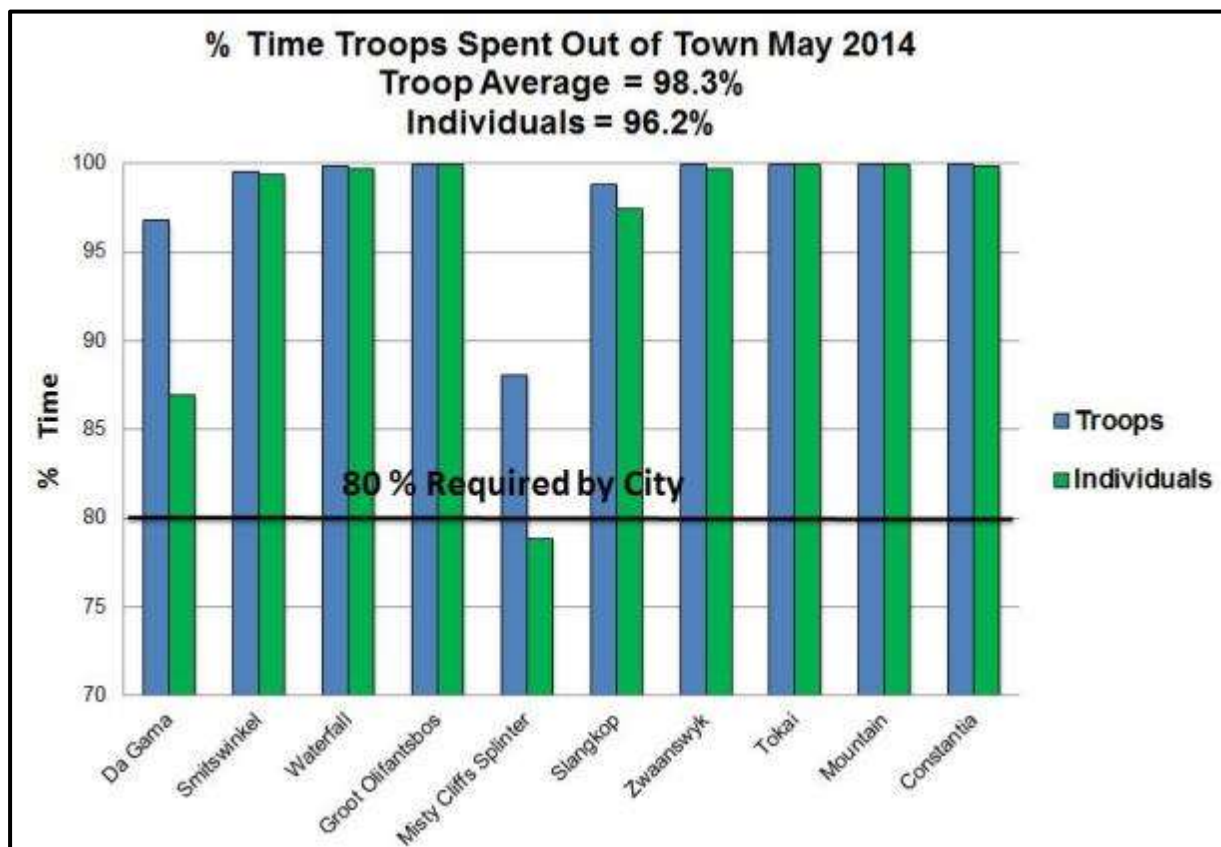


Fig.24. Percentage time troops spent out of town for the reporting period.

As is evident from the hotline data, all of the troops with the exception of Misty Cliffs, Da Gama and to a lesser extent Slangkop, were almost perfectly behaved this month. The Misty Cliffs and Slangkop Troops have very limited ranges and are therefore probably more affected by the lack

of food at this season than most other troops. When spring returns it should be possible to return the Misty Cliffs Troop to the CoGH reserve, and it might even join up with GOB, its parent troop, again.

The Da Gama Troop has access to an extensive range but, having been two troops until a year ago, and still having factions within the troop, it is extremely difficult to keep the troop together at this time with little forage available in the fynbos. Thus, when most of the troop has been moved out of town, there are frequently small groups or individuals that have hidden away or break back to raid in town again.

Conclusion

The Da Gama and Misty Cliffs Troops are undoubtedly the most difficult troops to manage in the southern peninsula. This is most probably as a result of them having lived in or on the border of the urban area for many years. It was only about six months ago that HWS was first able to get both halves of the Da Gama Troop to sleep out of town for about a month. We are now approaching the stage when one can get them to sleep regularly at a new roost site, Grootkop, without them running back to Da Gama under the cover of darkness.

It is a very positive development in the rehabilitation of the Da Gama Troop that it has started sleeping at the Grootkop sleep site. This site is out of view of any urban area, and thus the incentive to raid is much reduced. If the troop can be held at this site for some of winter, it should be much easier to get them to sleep there on an almost permanent basis in spring and summer, and hopefully into the future. This could change the troop from being one of the worst behaved on the peninsula, to one of the best, as it was for a spell last spring.

Similarly, although the Misty Cliffs Troop is sleeping back at the cliff site between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs, during the spring and the first half of summer 2013, they spent over 5 consecutive months sleeping in the CoGH Reserve with only a few individuals occasionally raiding town. This pattern should be repeated with the arrival of spring 2014. Then, if the troop joins with the GOB Troop, the raiding of Scarborough and Misty Cliffs could also become a thing of the past.

The rehabilitation of the Misty Cliffs and Da Gama Troops is therefore a distinct possibility. However, the lesson recently learned from GOB8 and GOB9, has shown us that one requires constant vigilance for many years before one will truly be able to say that a troop has been rehabilitated.

Dr. Philip Richardson
Human Wildlife Solutions