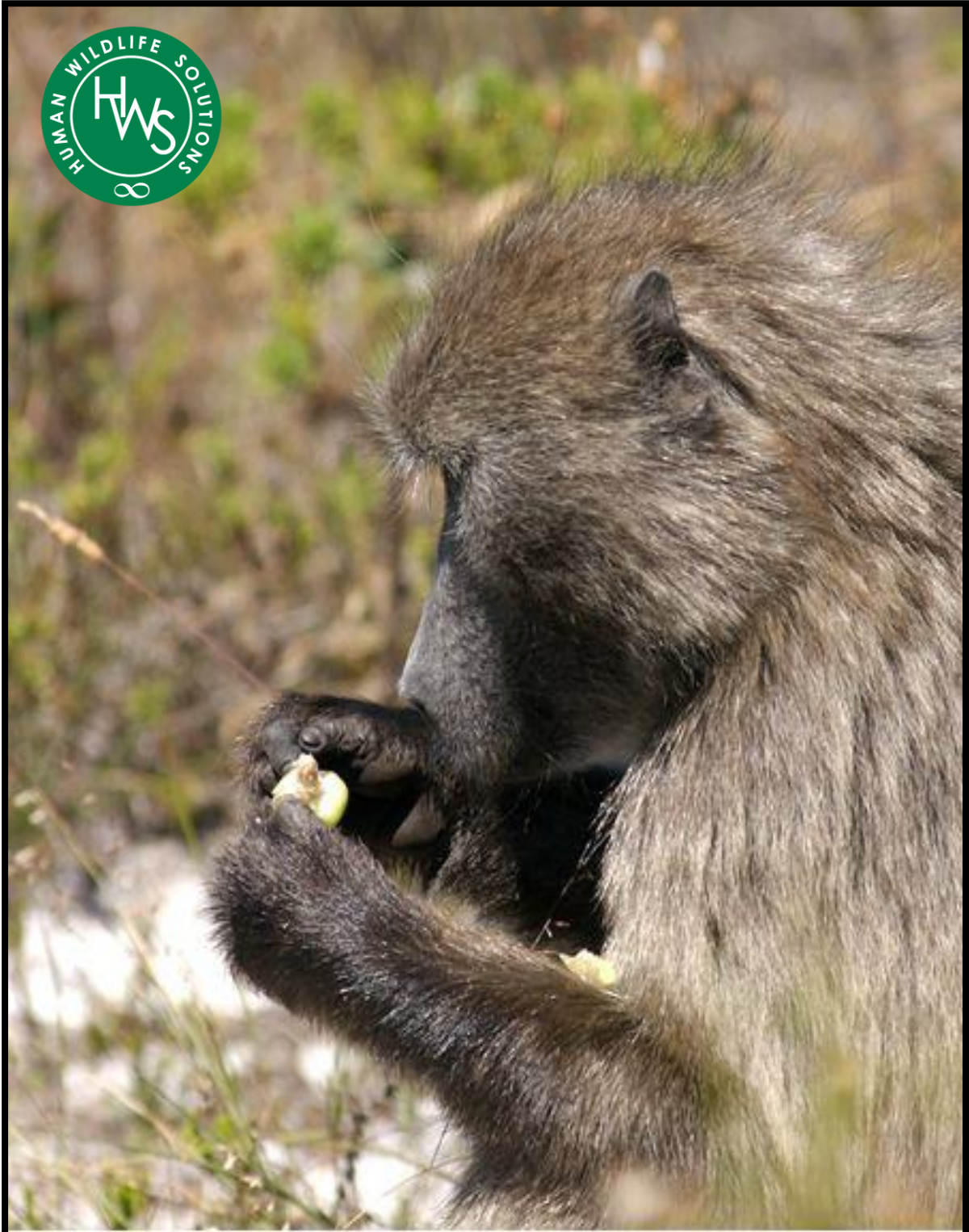




Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

February 2015

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A. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the four-week period from 24 January to 20 February 2015. This month the baboons' behaviour continued to be typical for the summer months with few showing much inclination to raid. On average the troops spent 98.8% of their time out of town, while individuals spent 97.9% of their time out of town.

The worst behaved troop was, once again, the Misty Cliff's troop, with both the female MCF3 and the young male MC2 being largely responsible for keeping the troop out of the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) Reserve and leading numerous visits to town. In Da Gama, again the next worst behaved troop, it was DG11 who was the main offender in terms of raiding alone, or leading the troop astray and taking it into town. DG11 has also shown a sudden and determined effort to become an alpha male. This development is discussed at some length during the report.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

Currently the Smitswinkel Troop are spending the majority of their time on the northern side of their home range, more towards Castle Rock, Miller's Point and Rockland's Farm. Although these areas contain the most attractants in terms of human derived foods (HDF's), the troop is spending 100% of the time out of the urban area.

SWB6, currently the alpha-male, has been a non-raiding male and has managed to keep the troop well away from raiding hotspots. Recently, SWB8, now a large sub-adult and a known raider, is taking SWB6 with him to raid. Furthermore, due to some residents who have not baboon-proofed their houses and/or are leaving attractants outside, such as dog food, SWB6 has now started to raid as well. The picture below is from a property in the Bluegums area and the resident alleges that the window was broken by SWB6. This would be the first time that he has broken anything to gain access to a house. This is of grave concern as we would like to preserve him as a non-raiding male.



Figure 1: Broken window, allegedly by SWB6, at the Bluegums area

SWB8 seems to be a fairly high ranking male and leaves the troop to attempt to raid by himself or with a few individuals, and more disturbingly, with SWB6. Our focus therefore was on collaring SWB8 in order to pre-empt his movements and stop him from entering the Black Marlin restaurant, the camp site and the houses at Miller's Point etc. He subsequently has been collared and tagged and is being managed more pro-actively.

The other concern is that there is a very old female with the troop and she seems to have trouble keeping up with the troop, which essentially means that her family group is, on most days, several metres behind the troop and this is not ideal.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																										
SECTOR			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																							
SE			1	In urban area										4	Attacking pets										7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																
BABOON TROOP: Smitwinkel			2	Raid bins										5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle										8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																
MONTH: February			2015	3	Non malicious damage										6	Raid occupied house or vehicle										9	Nocturnal Raiding															
BABOON ID			Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL										
SWB6			M	5,8										1																		3										
Troop																																0										
UnID Individuals																																0										
UnID Fem			F																													0										
SWBF1			F																													0										
SWB8			M	5										1																		2										
UnID Male			M																													0										
UnID Juveniles																																0										
			%																										HRS													
Troop			0.0																													0.00										
Individuals			0.2	15										10																		0.42										
Roost:			AM	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	3	3	1	3	6	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	6	6	5	5										
Roost:			PM	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	3	3	1	3	3	6	3	2	3	3	1	1	1	2	6	6	4	5	4										
Roost Sites			1	Smits Caves							2	Partridge Point							3	Bluegums							4	Millers Point							5	Rocklands Farm						
			6	Castle Rock							7	SANParks																														
ID Features of Baboons			SWB6 - red/blue tags + collar. SWB8 - purple/orange tags + collar																																							
General remarks																																										

Figure 2: Raid sheet for Smitswinkel Troop

2. Waterfall Troop

During this reporting period, the Waterfall troop has been difficult to manage. More than 50% of the time they slept at the South African Naval Armaments Depot (SANAD) sleep site however were also moving around and pushing hard to get back to the residential area in Simon's Town. During early evening of 8 February 2015, after the rangers had left, the Waterfall troop went over the mountain down to the Rockland's Valley area. On 9 February 2015 they raided the bins in Murdoch Valley. It was bin day and all the bins were out in the street.

Residents of Murdoch Valley have not seen baboons for a long time in their area and had to request the baboon hotline number again. From there they moved along the mountain at the top of Simon's Town to make their way towards the Waterfall Barracks.

On 10 February 2015 there was a very serious incident with WF2 charging a man who was walking along Admiral's footpath. The man had no food on him and displayed no threatening behaviour towards WF2 however, WF2 still charged the man from several metres away causing him to stumble and fall. He got back up and WF2 continued to charge him.

At this point the field manager, Louis van Wyk, arrived on the scene and managed to stop WF2 from attacking the man. WF2 then jumped on the bonnet of a car and proceeded to bark at him. Louis and the rangers pushed the troop back down to the Barracks to get the situation under control and then went back up to check up on the man.

The man explained that he had seen a navy staff member throwing stones at a juvenile baboon which caused the juvenile to start screaming. WF2 possibly thought it was him who was threatening the juvenile baboon. He had no injuries but was in shock and seemed to be aggravated about people throwing stones at baboons.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																	
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
SE		1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																				
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
MONTH: February		2015	3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																			
BABOON ID	Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		TOTAL		
Troop																		2	2												2		
RH2	M																		7	2,6											3		
WF2	M																					2									1		
WFF3	F																														0		
WFF4	F																														0		
UnID Females	F																			2											1		
UnID Juveniles																						2									1		
UnID Male	M																														0		
UnID Individuals																															0		
		%																												HRS			
Troop	0.4																	40	20												1.00		
Individuals	0.7																	40	20	15			30								1.75		
Roost:	AM	10	10	9	10	10	9	10	10	9	9	9	10	10	10	9	10	16	16	1	6	1	14	14	10	10	10	10	10				
Roost:	PM	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	10	10	10	9	10	12	16	1	1	3	14	14	10	10	10	10	10	10				
Roost Sites	1	Waterfall Cliff				2	Happy Valley Mnt				3	Signal School				4	Waterfall Barracks				5	Mountain Residents side											
	6	Admiral footpath				7	Cape Farm House				8	Happy Valley Home				9	Red Hill				10	SANAD											
	11	Mountain CoGHN				12	Gate 3 - Plateau Road				13	Rocklands farm				14	North peak				15	Bungalow											
	16	Rocklands Valley																															
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks		South African Naval Ammunition depot (SANAD) area indicated in red																															

Figure 3: Raid sheet for Waterfall Troop

3. Da Gama Troop

The Da Gama troop has been challenging to manage this reporting period. One of the biggest challenges at the moment is DG11, which is now a fully grown adult male and at a point where he would normally either disperse or challenge SK3 for alpha status.

A prolonged fight between the two males took place on 10 February 2015. There was extensive chasing and barking during the fight, however neither male sustained any obvious injuries. After the fight SK3 remained with the troop and DG11 was left behind with only one female and her infant. It therefore appears that SK3 retained his status as alpha male and DG11 either had to content himself with being the beta male, or would need to disperse in order to gain status in another troop.

This is a problem that all male baboons face when they reach dispersal age. On the peninsula this problem is exaggerated because there is a limited number of troops to which a male can disperse. The nett result is that many males remain in their natal troops, which could lead to inbreeding problems. Alternatively, some males try to create splinter troops, thereby artificially boosting the number of troops on the peninsula beyond that which the habitat can sustain. The only reasons why

splinter troops are viable on the peninsula is because there are no natural large predators to stop small groups splitting away from the safety of the main troop, and also because these splinter troops almost invariably subsist largely on HDF's acquired by raiding urban areas.

This problem has led to DG11 spending time in town together with a female and infant, and at times, some juveniles. Some home owners have given permission for HWS rangers to enter their properties when they are not present. However, in Glenalpine Road there are several owners in the area who won't grant access to HWS rangers, and it is on these properties that DG11 seems to raid and seek refuge. It can take several hours before he and his raiding party are moved out of Welcome Glen.

More recently DG11 has spent all his time with a female and infant, and uses the infant as protection when SK3 approaches him. He has a VHF collar which makes tracking him easier, but still manages to hide in the Glenalpine Road area.

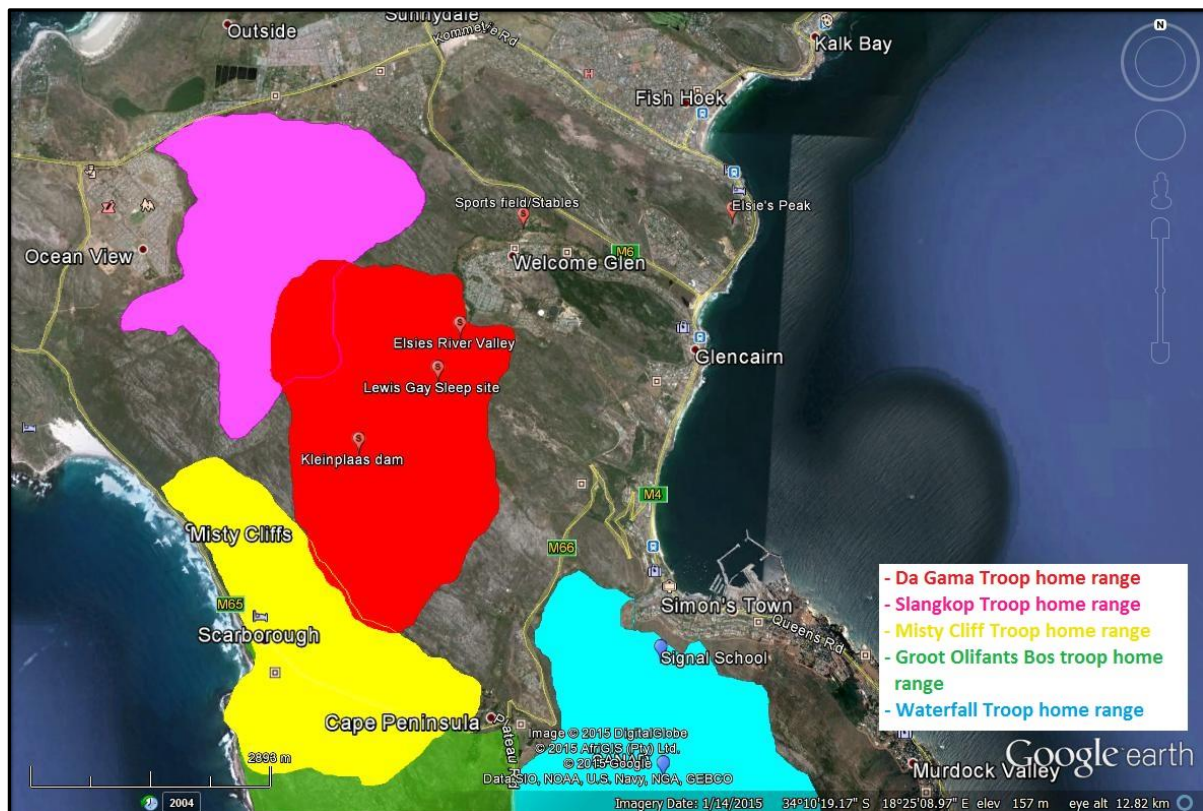


Figure 4: Rough map of home ranges of troops surrounding the Da Gama troop and the residential areas

On 13 February, DG11 and DG13 made, what seemed to be, an attempt at dispersing to the neighbouring Slangkop troop. They disappeared in the direction of the troop and were spotted on the outskirts of the Slangkop troop.

A fight ensued between them and the alpha male, DG6, and they ran back to Da Gama. It is believed that DG13 sustained an injury to his left hind leg during this fight. Veterinarians, Dr. Dorothy Breed and Dr. Elzette Jordan, have been out to see him and he is being monitored closely.

SK3 seems to prefer sleeping in the Elsie's River Valley just above Da Gama Park, possibly because it offers better protection from the wind. However, because of the continued poor waste

management in Da Gama Park, the majority of the troop keep pushing to sleep down at the flats. When the troop pushes back to town, SK3 often sits on the firebreak above the flats till late, before going down to join his troop on the flats or the pines nearby.

During this reporting period there was also a problem with waste collection as the waste truck often only arrived at about mid-day. This meant that the waste would be available and visible to the baboons for several hours before being picked up. In order to try and rectify this problem, meetings were held with the relevant authorities, Solid Waste Department, Waste-Mart and the City of Cape Town. The outcome of the meeting was very positive and the problem should be rectified going forward.

Another problem that has become very apparent is that the residents in Da Gama Park are also being encouraged to recycle their refuse. Although this is an excellent initiative from an environmental perspective, it is not practical in a baboon inhabited area. This is because the baboons still see recycling bags as sources of food and tear them open to gain access to the contents inside. Thus while most refuse is contained in baboon proof bins, recycling bags are easily accessible and therefore become an added attractant and source of waste. Therefore in order for recycling to work in this area, baboon-proof recycling bins will also be necessary, but it will take some time before this could become a reality.

The troop spends a considerable amount of time at the top of the mountain either in the Kleinplaas Dam area or at Lewis Gay Dam. There is a lot of forage available for them and a huge water supply, which also provides them with the occasional swim on very hot days. Around these two dams there is mostly indigenous fynbos vegetation and the troop feeds extensively on *Leucadendron* cones. The baboons also dig for bulbs and a variety of other natural foods available on top of the mountain. This whole area is therefore ideal foraging habitat for wild baboons.



Figure 5: Waste dumped at the back of the Water Works building at Lewis Gay Dam

Unfortunately however, there is a house near the Kleinplaas Dam parking area which has very little baboon-proofing and there is frequently conflict between the residents of the house and the baboons. The occupants of the house have been advised in terms of waste management and baboon-proofing, but this has not changed the situation. There are also ducks and chickens outside and the baboons often steal their food.

Waste management at the City Water Works just below the Lewis Gay Dam is also poor, so baboons are often attracted to the waste dump as well. This hampers efforts to rehabilitate the troop and prevent them from raiding. This problem has been addressed with the management at the site and HWS hopes to see the problem being rectified.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																	
SECTOR										CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																							
SOUTH EAST										1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour /attack/stealing food												
BABOON TROOP:					Da Gama					2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property												
MONTH: February					2015					3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding												
BABOON ID		Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		TOTAL	
Troop																				1	1					1						3	
SK3		M						2												1	1					1	1	2		2		7	
DG11		M			1			2				1	1	7,6					1		1	1	1		1	1	1	2,6,7	2,6,7	1	1	21	
DG13		M																						1	1	1				1		4	
DGF1		F																		1	1					1				2		4	
DGF2		F																		1	1					2						3	
UniD Females		F						1				1								1	2					1	1			1		7	
UniD Female		F			1			1				1	1	1				1		1	2	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	
UniD Juvs								1				1	1						2	2	2	2		1	1	2	2	2	1	1		14	
		%																		50	80					195						HRS	
Troop		1.7																														5.42	
Individuals		12.2			150			105			120	450	75					15	60	230	120	215		160	20	240	240	65	50	200		41.92	
Roost:		AM	1	1,2	1,2,3	1	18	1,2	1,2	18	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2	2	18	22	2	3	2	2	1	1	1,2	2,3	1	1	1,2	1	1,2,4			
Roost:		PM	8	22	1	18	1,2	1	18	1,2,3	8	18	1	2	18	22	2	3	16	1	22	1	1,2	2,3	22	1	2	1	1	1,2			
Roost Sites		1 Flats										2 Pines - Flats					3 Pines - Da Gama					4 Pines - WG					5 Sport Fields Stables						
		6 Compass Bakery										7 Pines - Outspan					8 Jacks Shop					9 Elsie's Peak					10 Rotary Camp						
		11 Witsand										12 Slangkop					13 Platkop					14 Rasta Camp					15 Ocean View						
		16 KL sleep site										17 Maylands					18 Elsies River Valley					19 Red Hill/Windford					20 Grootkop						
		21 16th Avenue, DG										22 Lewis Gay Dam					23 Pinehaven					24 Kleinplaas dam					25 Scarborough						
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks																																	

Figure 6: Raid sheet for Da Gama Troop

Births and Deaths

One new-born infant was seen on 24 January 2015 in the Da Gama Troop.

Recommendations

- **Urgent action in terms of waste management** is needed in Da Gama Park as the baboons will continue to raid unless waste management is addressed. Waste management is the ultimate downfall in the area and the troop keeps returning to town because of the **constant attraction to waste**.
- **Co-operation and implementation of baboon-proofing** recommendations and removal of at least the young fruit trees is urgently needed to be implemented at SANAD before the winter months. Currently the troop is spending most of their time outside of this area but this by no means suggests that SANAD won't be raided again if they haven't baboon-proofed problem areas.
- **Waste management and baboon-proofing** of the houses in Da Gama Park has to be addressed too.
- **Waste management** should be rectified at the City Water Works facility at Lewis Gay Dam.
- **An education initiative** should be started so that any new residents with children in Da Gama Park are made aware of the baboon problems in the area and are offered advice on how to deal with, and live with, baboons and what not to do.

- **Visit by authorities** to guest houses along the Smitswinkelbay route to come up with a solution of baboon-proofing the houses and to keep visitors informed of the baboons.
- **A visit by authorities** to the house at the Kleinplaas Dam parking area is needed, as this is visible to the public and directly attracts baboons down to the parking area.

South Western Region – Area Manager: John de Jager

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)

The GOB Troop has moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) Reserve during this reporting period. The troop utilised their entire home range, using sleep sites on Bonteberg, Klaasjagersberg, Groot Olifantsbos and the pines at Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre. On many occasions they also moved through the Protea stands behind CoGH nursery.

The troop was monitored with minimal interference from HWS rangers when they were inside the CoGH reserve but on occasion it was deemed necessary to block the troop from entering the Shamballah Tea House & Holistic Centre and Cape Farmhouse area. The troop was also blocked from entering the farm lands located along Plateau Road. This is to prevent any possibility of the troop raiding in the area.

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

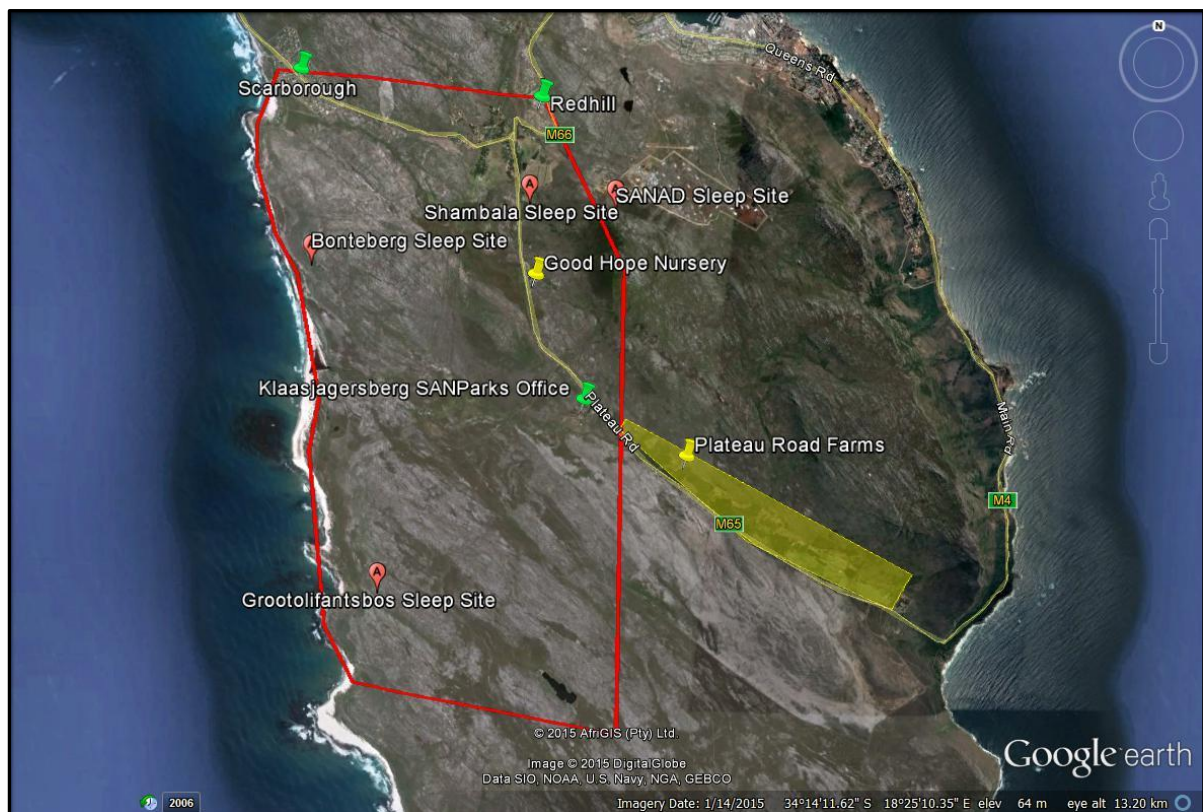


Figure 7: Map showing the GOB Troop territory with the Plateau Road Farms highlighted in yellow.

Recently a male, PT2, from the Plateau Road Troop has been sighted with the GOB troop. In previous months, he was noted as being seen near the troop but has since become a regular member of the troop. GOB7 has had altercations with PT2 during this time and PT2 has, on each occasion, picked up a juvenile from the troop in an attempt to protect himself from GOB7.

The concern, with the addition of PT2 to the troop, is that the troop will begin to move towards the farm lands on Plateau Road. PT2, having grown up in the Plateau Road area, is a noted raiding individual and there is a possibility he may attempt to draw the troop towards the farm lands to raid. The troop and its behaviour are being monitored carefully to ensure no raiding occurs. At this point there is little evidence to suggest that GOB7 will lose control of the troop, however on a few occasions this month some females followed PT2 towards the farms.

2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)

The Misty Cliffs Troop has spent nine days of the reporting period in the Bonteberg region of the CoGH Reserve. The troop spent the remainder of the month using the Misty Cliffs and Witsand sleep sites.

Most of the raids that occurred over this period were attributed to MCF3 and MC2. Twelve instances of raiding can be attributed to MCF3, one of which was a raid of an occupied house. MCF3 is a high ranking female within the troop and, as noted on the raid sheet below, raids mainly with the troop as a whole.

The raiding behaviour of MC2 in January, continued unabated into February. A total of 16 raiding instances were attributed to MC2, of which 12 were bin raids within Scarborough and Misty Cliffs. During the same period three raids of occupied houses were recorded.

The troop entered the urban area on 12 occasions this month. Bin raids were recorded in both Misty Cliffs and Scarborough, but the troop focussed largely on fruit trees, including grape vines, and lush natural vegetation within the urban area. The area behind Camel Rock Restaurant is a notable target for baboons as there is a lack of baboon-proof bins.

Numerous attempts were made to return the troop to CoGH, but all were unsuccessful. Due to the location and topography of the Misty Cliffs sleep site, difficulties were experienced in preventing the troop from gaining access to the urban area on nearly every occasion that the troop made use of the sleep site. On many occasions the troop split up into smaller groups above the cliffs. Given this, and the difficult terrain above the cliffs, the troop often managed to evade the rangers and thereby double back to town. In addition, due to recent infanticides, some of the females were scared of KOB1 and have been seen running away from him. This therefore, also led to the scattering of the troop, making it more difficult to control.

KOB1, the alpha male of the troop, entered the urban area on ten occasions during the reporting period. On many of these occasions KOB1 was seen following MCF3 and while no raiding was attributed to KOB1, it is concerning that he may become comfortable within the urban area. It was noted that on each occasion, KOB1 targeted fruit trees and natural vegetation.



Figure 8: Poor waste management in Scarborough

On 6 February a female, MCF2, was found in Scarborough with severe injuries. MCF2 was assessed by a veterinarian and the injury was deemed too severe for her to make a full recovery. MCF2 was therefore euthanized. On 22 February an infanticide was recorded where KOB1 killed a small baby.

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: February		YEAR: 2015		3 Non malicious damage		6 Raid occupied house or vehicle		9 Nocturnal raiding																							
BABOON ID		Sex	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
MCF2		F	2	2	2																								3		
MCF3		F	2	2							2					2,6	2	2	2	2	2						2		2	12	
KOB1		M	1	1							1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1								10		
MC2		M	2,6	2							2			1	2	2,6	2	2,6	2	2	2							2	2	16	
Females		F									2				2		2,6	2,6	2,6	2,5	2	2,6				2	2	2	2	16	
Troop			2	2									2		2		2	2	2	2	2							2	10		
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS			
Troop		9,7	180	120									90		180		211	120	185	180	220						95	190		100	31,9
Individuals		6,5	80	120								290		60	60	30		150	100	60	60	90					90	60		20,83	
Roost:		AM	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1		
Roost:		PM	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1		
			1 Misty Cliffs				2 CoGH Reserve				3 Witsand				4				5												
			6				7				8				9				10												
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks			An adult male from the Klein Olifantsbos Troop joined the MC troop on 18/10/14																												
			MCF2 euthanased due to severe injury 06/02/15																												

Figure 9: Raid sheet for Misty Cliffs Troop

3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop has spent most of the reporting period roosting at the Compass Bakery roost site. They roosted in the pines behind Ocean View on one occasion. The troop entered the urban area as a whole on two occasions.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																						
SECTOR				CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																		
BABOON TROOP:		Slangkop		1		In urban area						4		Attacking pets						7		Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																
				2		Raid bins						5		Raid unoccupied house or vehicle						8		Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																
				3		Non malicious damage						6		Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
MONTH: February		YEAR: 2015																																				
BABOON ID		Sex	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL								
DG6		M	2	2			2					2	2	2				2			1				2		2		2	11								
SKF1		F	2									2	2	2				2							2		2	2		8								
SKF2		F	2											2				2							2		2	2		5								
SK6		M		2							2		2	2							1				2		2	2	2	9								
Juveniles											2		2	2													2	2		5								
Troop																			2				2							2								
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																			
Troop		0,2																	38				10							0,80								
Individuals		1.0	9	16								5	5	30	45				15			10			5		28	11	10	3,15								
Roost:		AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	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	2	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																																						

Figure 10: Raid sheet for Slangkop Troop

Bin raids were recorded in Ocean View and Compass Bakery. Most raids can be attributed to DG6, SKF1 and SK6 but all raids were very brief with a maximum of 45 minutes being spent in town. On two occasions the troop managed to gain access to the bins at Compass Bakery in the late evening. This is normally due to individuals running down the mountain while they are on their way back to the sleep site.

SK6, a young sub-adult male within the troop was attributed nine bin raids during this reporting period and DG6, the alpha-male, was attributed 11 bin raids. Both baboons spent a minimal amount of time within the urban area and returned to the troop quickly.

The Slangkop Troop has spent most of the month foraging on the alien vegetation above Imhoff's Gift and in the mountains above Ocean View. Each evening they have returned to the Compass Bakery sleep site, which is their preferred sleep site during the summer months. The invasive alien vegetation has grown extremely dense below the Compass Bakery sleep site and above Ocean View and makes it difficult for rangers to form a solid line in order to prevent the troop from moving towards the urban area.

One death was recorded in the Slangkop troop this month. A juvenile was killed by the alpha male, DG6, during an altercation on 13 February. During a show of dominance, DG6 threw a female in the air causing her to land on the juvenile she was carrying. The juvenile was killed instantly.



Figure 11: Comparisons. An area of invasive alien vegetation cleared by the City of Cape Town Invasive Species Unit above Ocean View - seen here alongside an area of invasive vegetation still to be cleared in the background left.

Births and Deaths

Two deaths were recorded for the Misty Cliffs troop; namely one infant and one adult female. One death was recorded in the Slangkop troop.

Recommendations

- **Education and waste management** should both be addressed again in the Ocean View area. The Slangkop Troop has a sleep site close to town and the two top rows of houses usually get raided on refuse day. These houses should all be baboon-proofed, and residents should also be advised on baboon-proofing their vegetable gardens or compost heaps. The Compass Bakery and surrounds need to improve waste management.
- **Law enforcement:** A stronger law enforcement presence is required in Scarborough, to prevent people from intentionally feeding baboons or creating 'feeding patches'. Baboon-proofing of vegetable gardens and compost heaps should be enforced.
- **Removal of Invasive Alien Vegetation:** The invasive alien vegetation above Ocean View and below the Compass Bakery Sleep site needs to be cleared in order to improve management of the Slangkop Troop.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury

February has been a quiet month in the North in terms of raiding. No urban raids from any troops or individuals occurred, and there has been minimal non-urban raiding. February is grape harvesting season hence most troops have been pre-occupied trying to raid the ripe grapes, rather than pushing into the urban area to raid.

During February, our North Region Area Manager, Robyn Khoury, teamed up with Chrysalis Academy during their Environmental Week to educate the newest students about living in baboon affected areas. Chrysalis Academy, situated at Porter Estate, Tokai, is a non-profit organisation that runs a Youth Development Program, in an effort to uplift local young adults.

The Academy is severely impacted by baboons; hence to mitigate human-baboon conflict Robyn gave a series of lectures to educate the students about baboons. Students were asked to create posters relating to baboon management, to facilitate discussion and to reinforce what they had learnt (Figure 12). The lectures were a great success, and HWS has been asked to present at each new intake, ensuring all recruits are educated about baboons on the Peninsula.

1. Tokai Troop

The Tokai Troop has spent most of their time this month on Level 1 and 2 in the Tokai Plantation, near Buitenverwachting Farm. They have been sleeping at the Quarry Gums or in the pine trees above the Guest House (Figure 13). These areas are near Buitenverwachting Farm which allows the troop quick access to the farm in the mornings.

There is a fence that runs along the Tokai Plantation/Buitenverwachting border, however it is not baboon-proof and provides minimal protection for the grapes. The Buitenverwachting rangers, with the help of HWS rangers, have been pushing the Tokai Troop off the farm in an attempt to minimise crop damage.

A young, non-raiding adult male (MT5) has dispersed from the Mountain Troop to the Tokai Troop this month and seems to be settling down with the troop.

The only raids in the Tokai Troop this month were non-urban raids. The majority of these were carried out by the previous alpha, TK28. TK28 ran to Chrysalis Academy on 7 February 2015, with an unidentified female and raided the bins and kitchen. Additionally, he also raided a table at the Tokai Produce Market, Porter Estate on 14 February 2015.

On 4 February 2015, TK41 raided a bin opportunistically at Chrysalis Academy.

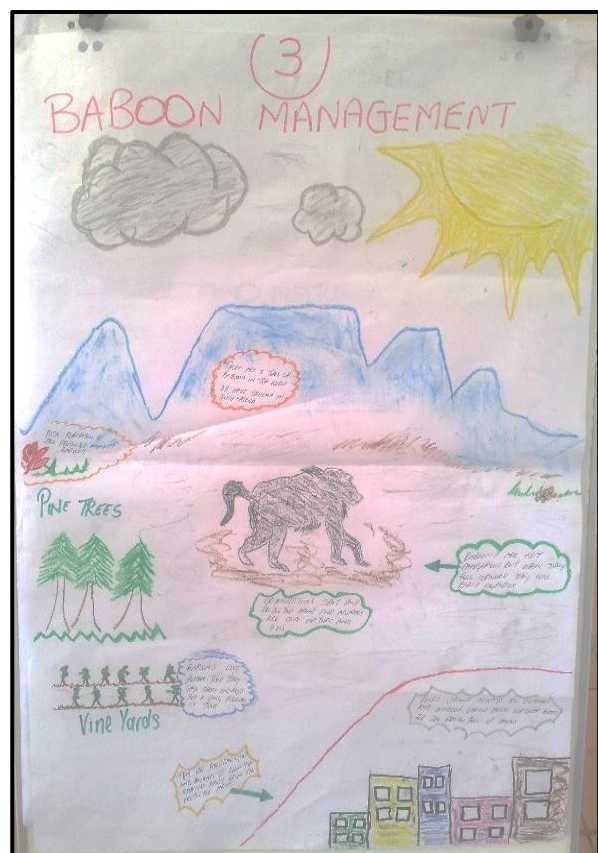
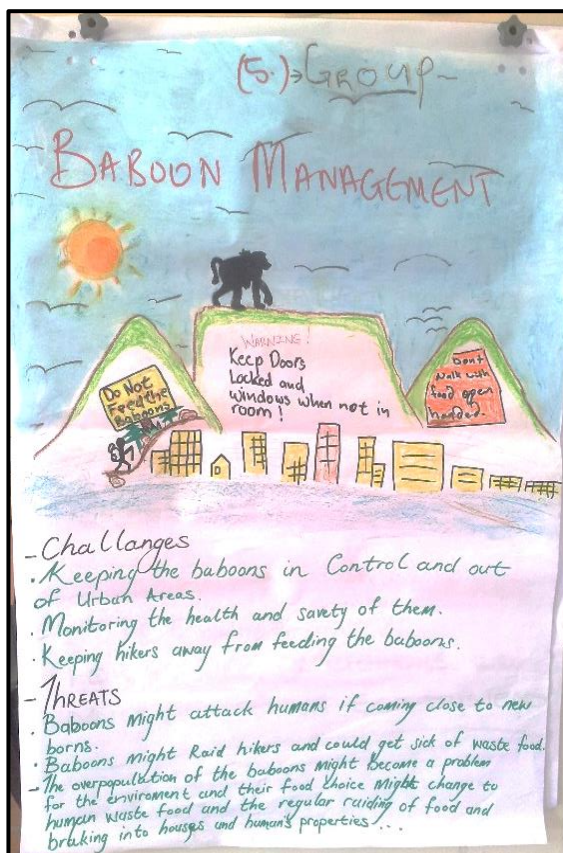
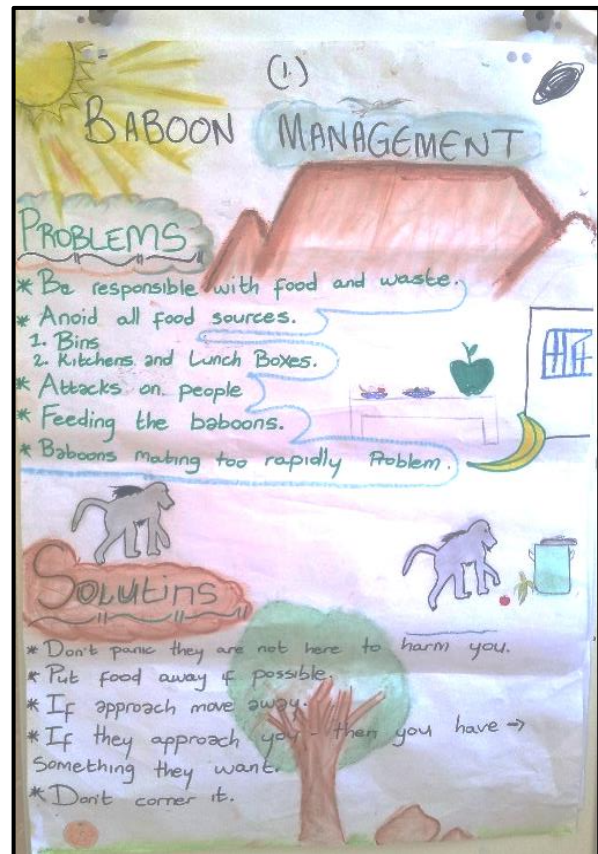
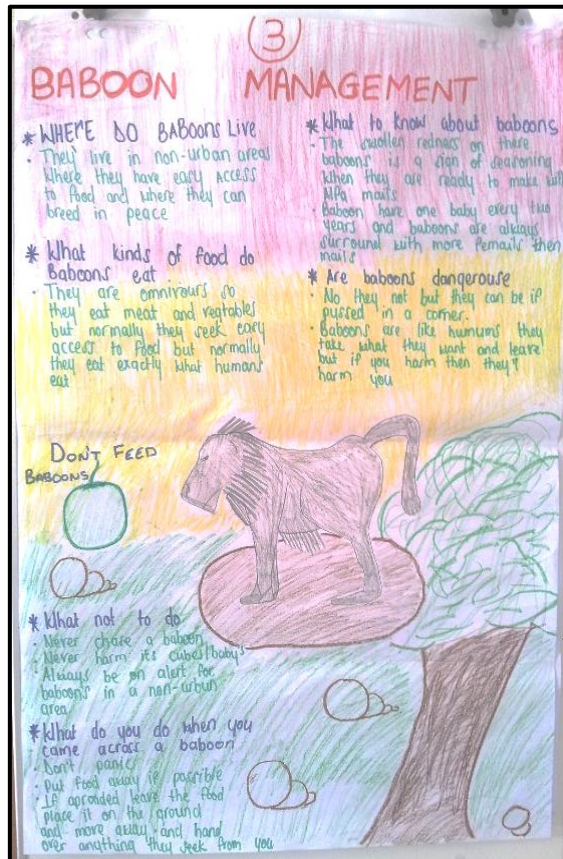


Figure 12: Posters made by Chrysalis Academy students

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																	
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
NORTH		1 In urban area															4 Attacking pets					7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing											
BABOON TROOP:		Tokai		2 Raid bins															5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging proper									
MONTH: Jan-Feb		YEAR: 2015		3 Non malicious damage															6 Raid occupied house or vehicle					9 Nocturnal Raiding									
BABOON ID		Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total		
TK 28 (B-G) Collar		M		1													2,2,6						6								4		
TK 40 (P-Y) Collar VHF		M																													0		
TK 41 (Single Pink)		M												2																	1		
TK 42 (Blue Yellow)		M																													0		
TK 43 (Single White)		M																													0		
MT 3 (Purple Blue)		M																													0		
UnID male		M																													0		
UnID Sub ad male		M																													0		
Un ID Female 1		F															2														1		
UnID Female 2		F																													0		
UnID Juvenile																															0		
TKF 1 (B-B)		F																													0		
TKF 2 (Untagged)		F																													0		
TKF 8 (W - W)		F																													0		
Tokai troop																															0		
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS					
Tokai Troop		0.0																													0.00		
Individuals		0.0																													0.00		
Roost:		AM	8	8	8	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	1	6	8	8	6	6	6		
Roost:		PM	8	8	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	1	6	8	8	6	6	9		
Roost Sites		1 Tea Garden											2 Level 1 Zwk Gums					3 Level 2 stream					4 Level 2 Pines					5 Level 4 Pines					
		6 Guest House											7 Level 1 Tokai clearing					8 Level 1.5 Quarry gums					9 Level 1 new clear					10 Picnic site 1					
		11 Picnic site 2											12 Other					13					14					15					
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks																																	

Figure 13: Raid sheet for the Tokai Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place inside non-urban areas

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop has been particularly well behaved this month. They have been spending much of their time high up in the Tokai Plantation, generally above Level 2, which removes the temptation to raid.

The troop has raided twice this month. Several individuals from the troop raided workers in the Tokai Plantation who were felling pine trees and because no particular individuals could be identified, the whole troop is prescribed this raid. On 15 February 2015, several individuals also raided tables at the Tea Garden.

On 10 February 2015, TK44 was reported to have a serious injury due to baboon on baboon fighting with TK41, an adult male from the Tokai Troop. TK44 had a wound in his abdomen and some of his intestines were outside of his body (Figure 14). With assistance from Cape Nature's appointed veterinarian, Dr. Dorothy Breed, TK44 was darted and euthanized for humane reasons.

A female was seen carrying a dead infant on 8 February 2015. The cause of death is unknown. Often dead infants such as these are the result of infanticide. In this case infanticide is unlikely to have been caused by the resident alpha male, MT2, because he had already been there for over nine months. It is, however, possible that infant may have been killed by the Tokai male TK41, the same male considered to be responsible for the death of TK44 mentioned above.



Figure 14: Abdominal injury on TK44 as a result of baboon on baboon fighting

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																			
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																	
NORTH		1	In urban area					4	Attacking pets					7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing																																				
BABOON TROOP:		Zwaanswyk					2	Raid bins					5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																															
MONTH: Jan- Feb		YEAR:2015					3	Non malicious damage					6	Raid occupied house or vehicle					9	Nocturnal Raiding																															
BABOON ID		Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total																				
Zwaanswyk Troop (ZT)					7																				6																										
MT 2 (Untagged alpha)		M																																																	
Untagged Adult Male		M																																																	
TKF 4 (Grey)		F																																																	
TKF 5 (Green)		F																																																	
TKF 7 (Red)		F																																																	
Sub adult		M										2																																							
Un-ID fem		F																																																	
Un-ID Juvenile																																																			
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS																				
Zwaanswyk Troop		0.0																													0.00																				
Individuals		0.0																													0.00																				
Roost:		AM	8	1	9	1	5	8	6	8	8	6	1, 9	5	9	8	9	6	8	9	9	8	8	5	8	8	9	12	1	9	8																				
Roost:		PM	1	9	1	5	8	6	8	6	1, 9	5	9	8	9	1	8	9	9	8	8	5	8	8	12	1	9	8	8																						
Roost Sites		1					Tea Garden					2					Level 1 Zwk Blue gums					3					Level 2 Stream					4					Level 2 Pines					5					Level 4 Pines				
		6					Guest House					7					Level 1 Tokai clearing					8					Upper Tea Garden					9					Manor House					10					Tokai Bridge Gums				
ID Features of Baboons		11					Picnic site 2					12					Other					13										14										15									
General remarks		08/02/15: Adult female carrying a dead infant																																																	
		10/02/15: Un-tagged sub adult male euthanised due to abdominal injury																																																	

Figure 15: Raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place inside non-urban areas

3. Constantia Troop

During February the Constantia Troop has been foraging at the bike trails, above Klein Constantia, and in the natural fynbos above Groot Constantia. They have also been pushing down into the adjacent wine farms to forage on ripe grapes. Farm rangers at Buitenverwachting and Klein Constantia are keeping the troop out of the vineyards, while HWS rangers ensure the baboons are not running towards the urban boundary. No raids, urban or non-urban, were committed by this troop.

Figure 16: Raid sheet for the Constantia Troop

The two groups slept separately at the Bike Trail Gums and Buitenverwachting Gums between 27 January and 6 February 2015. During the day the two groups would alternate between foraging separately and foraging together. Towards the end of the month the troop seemed to merge again, and slept at the Bike Trail Gums. The splitting of the troop will be monitored closely to determine if action is necessary to prevent a new troop from forming.

4. Mountain Troop

When the troop attempt to forage in the vineyards, the Buitenverwachting rangers push the troop south and into the Tokai Plantation, or west, above the farm. When in the Plantation, the troop forage on pine seeds in the upper levels, which increases the chance of interacting with people. It would therefore be preferable if they were only pushed west, above Buitenverwachting, and not south into the Plantation. HWS Managers are currently in the process of implementing training for Buitenverwachting rangers, to ensure the baboons are moved in the correct direction, and in the correct manner.

This troop committed no urban or non-urban raids.

One new infant was reported in this troop on 15 February 2015.

Births and Deaths

Two births were recorded this month:

One in the Constantia Troop on 16 February 2015.

One in the Mountain Troop on 15 February 2015.

Two deaths were recorded this month:

One dead infant was reported in the Zwaanswyk Troop, likely due to infanticide.

TK44 was euthanized after sustaining a serious abdominal injury from baboon on baboon fighting.

Recommendations

- **Buitenverwachting Rangers Pushing Baboons:** The Buitenverwachting Rangers should only push the Mountain Troop west, above the farm, and not south into Tokai Plantation.
- **Workers in Tokai Plantation:** Any workers, such as tree fellers, should be vigilant while in Tokai Plantation to avoid being raided by the resident troops. They should lock all food in a vehicle while working, and ensure there are no baboons in the vicinity if they are eating on the mountain.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

This month HWS are incorporating the ground counts made by Esme Beamish from the Baboon Research Unit (BRU) of the University of Cape Town, into their report and validating past HWS counts against them. Over the past two years HWS has simply been counting births, deaths and emigrations/immigrations in order to derive troop numbers, starting from Ms. Beamish's count of December 2012. These counts have been updated every month in order to determine trends in the managed population of baboons.

The latest ground count by Ms. Beamish is accurate up to the end of January 2015. This count is therefore being used as the new baseline for future counts, and all previous HWS data are being zeroed back to this. Both counts (BRU and HWS) for January 2015 are given in Table 1. These counts are not very different and for two troops the numbers are exactly the same.

Given the difficulty of observing baboons in thick fynbos or forest vegetation, and of seeing all births and all deaths, HWS consider this method of keeping a running total of the baboon population a valid and relatively good quality count, which does not require additional man hours in order to be maintained. The major differences between the BRU and HWS counts are for the Slangkop Troop, where the HWS count is +8, and for the Tokai Troop where the HWS count is 3 greater than for the BRU counts. These differences most probably relate to HWS rangers double counting some births, and also not being aware of some natural deaths that occurred.

In future HWS staff will also undertake total counts for troops whenever opportunities present themselves, like when the whole troop crosses a road or an open area where most of the troop is visible at once.

TROOP	TOTAL COUNTS				Feb Births	Feb Deaths	END FEB TOTAL
	BRU	HWS		BRU			
	End Dec 2012	End Dec 2013	End Jan 2015	End Jan 2015			
Da Gama Troop	54	44	47	44	1		45
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	20	23			23
Waterfall	28	30	29	30			30
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19	19	17			17
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17	16	14		2	12
Slangkop	33	40	44	36		1	35
SUB TOTAL	175	171	175	164	1	3	162
Zwaanswyk	25	30	29	29		2	27
Tokai	61	70	76	73			73
Mountain	33	44	47	48	1		49
Constantia	60	72	72	71	1		72
SUB TOTAL	179	216	224	221	2	2	221
TOTAL	354	387	399	385	3	5	383

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

Hotline Data

This month, like last, the majority of hotline calls were in response to raids in Scarborough (37 calls). Also like last month, the majority of the raids leading to these calls were made by MCF3 or MC2 raiding alone or leading females into town. The new alpha male, KOB1, followed them into town on ten occasions, but fortunately has still not taken part in a house raid.

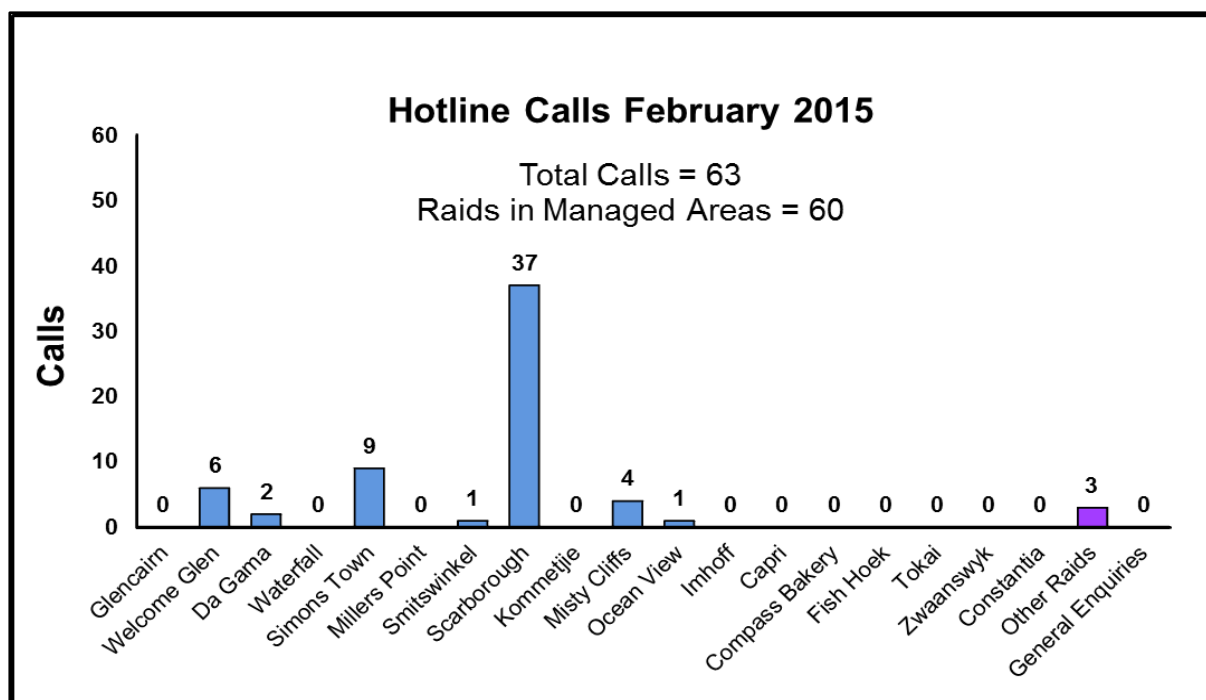


Figure 17: Hotline calls summary per urban area

The only other really noticeable raiders this month, were DG11 leading splinter groups into Welcome Glen, and WF2 taking his troop over the mountain and down to Murdoch Valley. This is a range extension which HWS must vigorously discourage from developing into a new habit.

The Zwaanswyk fence appears to be fully functional again, and it is pleasing to note that the extensive raiding that took place during the first half of summer has come to an end.

This month the composition of hotline calls has the lowest percentage (6.8%) of assertive raids (attacks or house raids) recorded to date by HWS. Furthermore, almost 85% of all raids were simply reporting baboons in town.

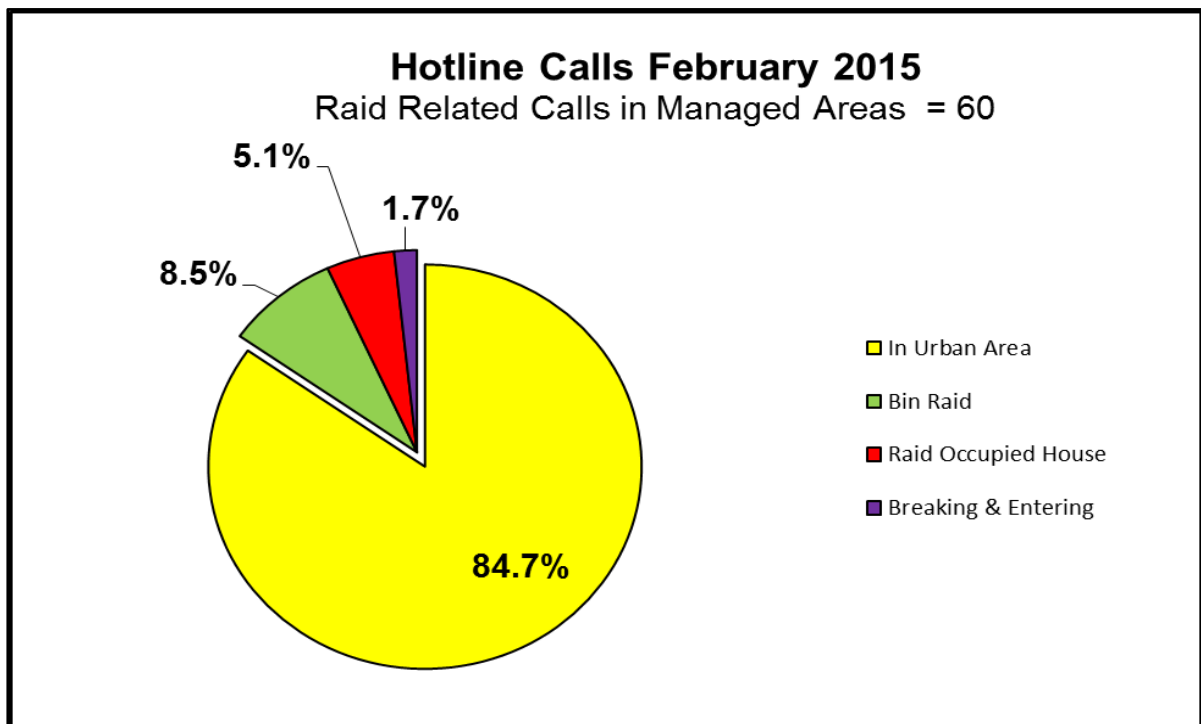


Figure 18: Composition of raid-related hotline calls

Percentage Time out of Town

This month virtually all the troops remained out of town for close on 100% of the time, with the obvious exceptions again of the Misty Cliffs and Da Gama Troops. The Misty Cliffs troop is particularly worrying because it has probably the wildest, least habituated alpha male, but it is being corrupted almost every second day into going into town while following his females as they raid. All efforts must be made to return the troop to the CoGH Reserve and keep them there to avoid further corruption of this male.

Although the Da Gama troop spent about 98% of its time out of town, individuals, particularly DG11, spent considerable time in town raiding and, towards the end of the month, taking small splinter groups to Welcome Glen.

Although D13 also spent considerable time raiding last month, this month his fight with DG6 from the Slangkop troop seems to have damaged him considerably and since then he has spent most of his time within the troop.

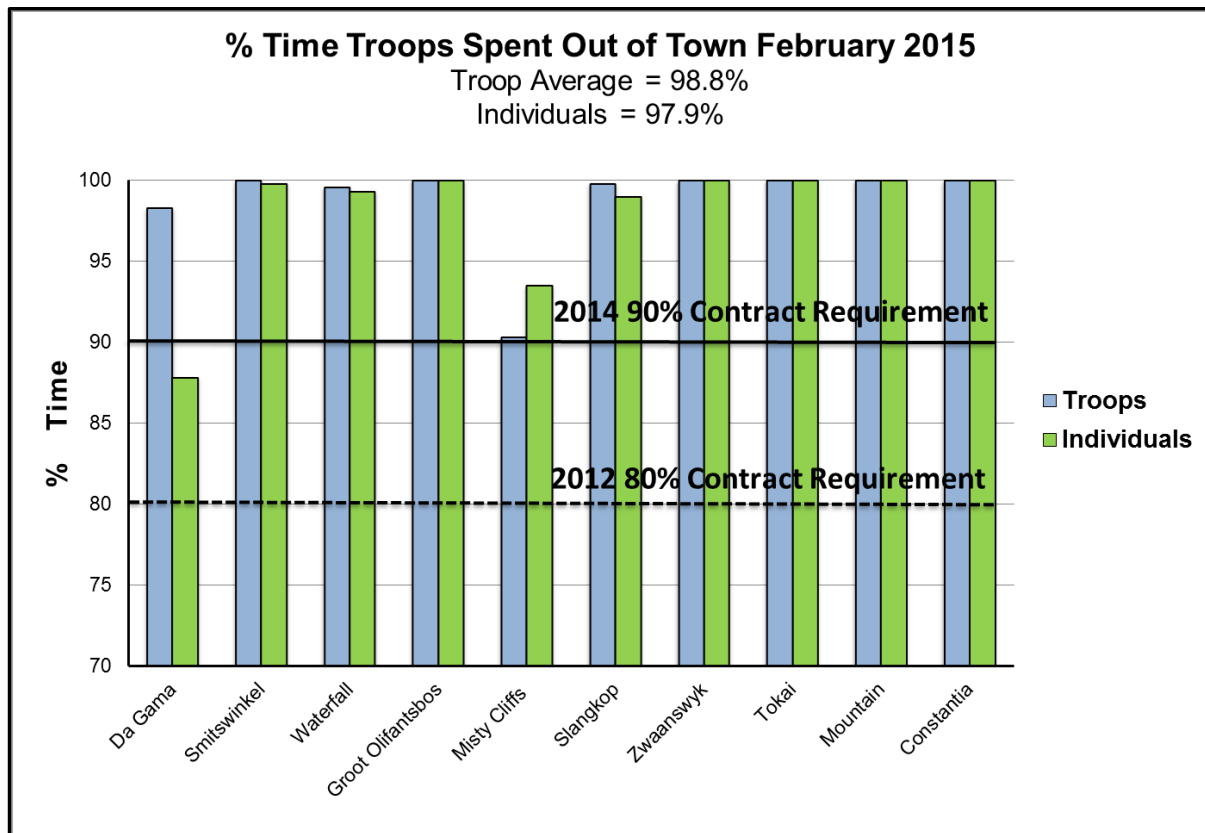


Figure 19: Percentage time troops spent out of town.

Conclusion

This month has been another typical summer month with relatively little raiding and most troops spending over 99% of their time out of the urban area. Probably the most significant development this month has been the sudden and rapid changes in behaviour undertaken by DG11, now a very well developed and fully grown young male. DG11 seems to have suddenly got the urge to become an alpha male, and is now making all possible efforts to achieve this.

At first, on 10 February, DG11 challenged SK3 for alpha status. A hard and protracted fight ensued involving considerable chasing and shouting, but eventually SK3 emerged as the undisputed winner.

Just three days later DG11 took DG13 with him on a dispersal foray into the Slangkop territory, belonging to DG6. It was not long before they were discovered and were soundly chased back by DG6. During this excursion DG13 sustained a serious injury to his left hind leg, almost certainly inflicted by DG6.

On their return to their natal territory, DG11 seems to have assumed the third option available to adult males which have not yet been successful in attaining a territory of their own – namely, to form a splinter troop. This option is particularly viable in Cape Town where there is an absence of predators, and where traditionally easy pickings are available to baboons who are still prepared to raid. DG11 now seems to be attempting to exercise this option.

In the past, most of DG11's raids have been on his own, whereas raids taking other females and juveniles into town were undertaken first by DG12 and latterly by DG13. Now however, not long after returning from his abortive raid into the Slangkop territory (February 13), DG11 has led three raids (February 3, 17 & 18) into Welcome Glen, taking several juveniles and unidentified females with him.

Furthermore, on 20 February he was found sleeping with 10 other baboons in the Pines at Welcome Glen, which is an area where the original Da Gama Big troop has not slept for almost two years. He also shows particular interest in a female with an infant, and he uses the infant as protection whenever he is in the vicinity of SK3. This is a very serious development in DG11's behaviour which will be monitored closely. His behaviour illustrates how quickly things can change in baboon troops.

Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions