



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

March 2015

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A. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the five week period from 21 February to 27 March 2015.

This month baboon management was completely dominated by a single event – The Cape Fire, which swept across the peninsula over three days, burning virtually everything from Muizenberg across the mountain to Constantia Price Drive. This was certainly the most dramatic event for the Cape Town baboons since HWS began managing them in 2012. The events during and after the fire have significantly changed perceptions on a variety of aspects of baboon management.

The most immediate effect of the fire was the death of 13 baboons, caught amongst tall pine and gum trees while sleeping at night. Fortunately, only the Tokai Troop was surrounded by fire whilst sleeping, but on that night all four northern troops were sleeping in tall plantation vegetation, and could theoretically all have been caught in the fire. They were certainly all very close to the fire and all experienced it on that fateful night.

A very significant point here, is the presence of the pine and gum plantations on the slopes of the Constantiaberg Mountain. Baboon lifestyles in the northern troops have been dominated by these plantations for many decades. The pines have provided an abundance of food (pine nuts) and sleep sites, and have been a major contributing factor towards the proliferation of the baboons in the north over the last 15 years. The gums have also provided numerous sleep sites.

All the burnt pines need to be cut down before they start rotting and losing their commercial value. Most of the gum trees have also been burnt, and will therefore also need to be removed because of the health hazard they will pose as they start to lose branches and die.



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

Figure 1: A blood lily (*Haemanthus coccineus*), was one of the first flowers to emerge from the ashes within a week of the Cape Fire burning most of the Constantiaberg Mountain.

Now that most of the pines and gums will be removed, the northern troops will have to adapt to a more fynbos environment. They have, over the past two years, been feeding quite extensively on fynbos while supplementing their diets with pine nuts, pine seeds and other pine associated foodstuffs, like mushrooms. Fynbos is reputedly highly nutritious in the first year after a fire, so this should aid the baboons in their transition to a more fynbos diet. The Arboretum and lower Tokai Plantation will, however, still remain and be available both as food sources and as sleep sites.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Smitswinkel Troop spent the majority of their time on the northern side of their home range, especially in the tall vegetation between Miller's Point and Rocklands Farm. The troop remained outside the residential area for the entire reporting period. The baboons crossed through Castle Rock to forage along the coast below, but even that was brief and no raiding occurred as they moved through the area. This was a notable achievement by the HWS ranger team because there was often heavy traffic with numerous tourists visiting the area. The rangers, with the assistance over weekends from Lorraine Holloway, managed to curb any raiding behaviour.

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: March		3	Non malicious damage			6	Raid occupied house or vehicle			9	Nocturnal Raiding																										
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	TOTAL
SWB6	M											1																									1
Troop																																					0
UnID Individuals												1																									1
UnID Fem	F																																				0
SWBF1	F																																				0
SWB8	M									2	1	1					1				1				1					1							7
UnID Male	M																																				0
UnID Juveniles																																					0
	%																													HRS							
Troop	0.0																																			0.00	
Individuals	1.2									15	10	10					10				30			40						60						2.92	
Roost:	AM	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	4	5	5	5	3	3	4	6	6	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	3	6	
Roost:	PM	4	5	5	5	5	2	5	5	6	5	5	5	3	3	4	6	6	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	6	2	
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	23 March - 1 Infant spotted																																				

Figure 2: Raid sheet for Smitswinkel Troop

SWB8 remains a concern, because he attempted to get to the campsite at Miller's Point or the Black Marlin Restaurant on several occasions. Since he was collared it has been easier to manage him, however he seems to be intent on raiding and shows very little fear of humans, especially women. During this reporting period SWB8 raided one bin and on other occasions when he was heading towards 'danger zones' the rangers were able to block him before he could raid.

SWB6 followed SWB8 only once, which is an improvement on previous months. It is hoped, that with intensive management of SWB6, he may revert to not raiding at all.

2. Waterfall Troop

During this reporting period there have been no raids in an urban area from this troop.

However, the Waterfall Troop has recently started raiding the Cape Farmhouse and their adjacent vineyards. These raids are usually carried out by RH2 and WF2. In the mornings the troop moves down from the South African Naval Armaments Depot (SANAD) sleep site, through a thick belt of proteas and invasive vegetation towards the Cape Farmhouse. This dense invasive vegetation makes it very difficult for the Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS) staff to control the movement of the troop between the sleep site and the farmhouse.

Further attractants are an availability of a consistent water source and waste management that is not baboon-proofed.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that HWS rangers are not permitted on the Cape Farmhouse property, and therefore cannot offer any assistance to the owners and staff on the farm.

The Cape Farmhouse, HWS and other stake holders in the region will shortly be having discussions in an attempt to resolve this situation.



Figure 3: Home range of the Waterfall Troop. The red area incorporates the Cape Farmhouse and farm, while the blue area illustrates the rest of the troop's home range.

When the troop used to live at the Waterfall Barracks or at the Happy Valley Shelter, occasionally there would be some individuals who would develop sarcoptic mange. During February, the troop slept at the Waterfall Cliff for two nights. Both RH2 and a female now have bare patches which look like the previous incidences of mange. At present it cannot be confirmed whether these baboons became re-infected by sleeping at this old sleepsites. At the time of this report RH2 seemed to be healing again.

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: March 2015		3 Non malicious damage											6 Raid occupied house or vehicle											9 Nocturnal Raiding													
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	TOTAL
Troop																																				0	
RH2	M																							2								2				2	
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	0.0																																		0.00		
Individuals	0.2																														25				0.42		
Roost:	AM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
Roost:	PM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	17		
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					17	Shamballah Pines																													
ID Features of Baboons																																					
General remarks		South African Naval Ammunition depot (SANAD) area indicated in red																																			

Figure 4: Raid sheet for Waterfall Troop

3. Da Gama Troop

During this reporting period, the Da Gama Troop slept at the flats, or at the adjacent pines for the majority of the time. This suggests that this general location is still their preferred sleep site. Waste management has become a major problem in Da Gama again, with the situation becoming similar to what it was in 2012 when HWS first became involved in baboon management (See Figure 5). This situation is soon to be discussed with Environmental Department of the Navy.

DG13 sustained a leg injury a few weeks ago, but seems to be recovering. He can put weight on his foot when he is walking and occasionally when he is running. He does however occasionally pull it up high enough so that it doesn't scrape on the ground. Dr Dorothy Breed, as well as Dr Elzette Jordan believes that he will recover well without any intervention.

In December 2014, DGF1 was treated for mange using with a drop out dart filled with *Ivermectin*. Virtually all the hair on DGF1's body has grown back, so it seems that a single injection of *Ivermectin* using a drop out dart, is a feasible method for treating mange. This could be a useful method for treating individuals from the Waterfall Troop if more of them get infected.



Figure 5: (a) 2014 and (b) 2015 the waste management has deteriorated to what it was in 2012 and provides a constant attractant to the baboons to come back to town.

On 21 February 2015, it was seen by HWS rangers that the baboons had found a hole in the eaves of the Bluefin flats as several individuals were seen crawling out of a space just below the gutter (see Figure 10). If this eave is not fixed, the problem will almost certainly escalate in winter, because the closed roof will provide a perfect shelter from the wind and rain and the entire troop could start using it as a sleep site. HWS' objective for winter, is to get the troop to sleep at Maylands sleep site. This site is protect from the wind and rain, and when the baboons sleep there, they very seldom try to break back to Da Gama by day.



Figure 6: Hole in the eaves of the roof (see arrow) of the Bluefin flats that the baboons use to enter the roof and sleep there.

On 18 March, SK3 came down last from sleeping in the pines at the flats and went as far as the firebreak. SK3 was moving very slowly and was hiding from the rangers. This behaviour is not common for SK3, as he usually moves with the dominant females at the front of the troop.

Figure 7: Raid sheet for Da Gama Troop

Births and Deaths

1 new born infant seen 22 March 2015 – Waterfall Troop

1 death, adult male 16 March 2015 – Da Gama Park

- **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**.
- **Implementation of baboon-proofing** recommendations and removal of at least the young fruit trees is urgently needed at SANAD.
- **Waste management needs to be improved** at the City Water Works facility at Lewis Gay Dam and at the house adjacent to the parking area for Kleinplaas Dam.

South Western Region – Area Manager: John de Jager

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)

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

The GOB Troop has moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) during this reporting period. The troop utilized their entire home range, using sleep sites at Bonteberg, Klaasjagersberg, Grootolifantsbos and the pines at Shamballah Tea house and Holistic Centre.

The troop was monitored with minimal interference from HWS rangers when they were inside the CoGH, 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.

On 4 March, a fire was reported within CoGH. The fire burnt an area of about 1000 hectares up to but not including Groot Olifantsbos. The Klein Olifantsbos Troop's (KOB) home range lies to the south of Groot Olifantsbos, so the troop moved further north because of the lack of forage left in their range after the fire. This shift in range meant that the KOB Troop often slept at the Groot Olifantsbos sleep site. In the later part of the month the GOB troop began using the Bonteberg sleep site to the north, and stayed away from the Groot Olifantsbos area because of the presence of the KOB Troop.



Figure 8: Image of the burnt area just South of Groot Olifantsbos



Figure 9: Map showing the shift of KOB and GOB home range due to the CoGH Fire

2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)

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

Most of the raids that occurred over this period were attributed to MCF3, MC2 and KOB1. MCF3 raided town on 19 occasions, one of which was a raid of an unoccupied 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. On several occasions this month MCF3 split off from the troop and encouraged other individuals to follow her into the urban area.

The raiding behaviour of MC2 continued on from what was reported in February. A total of 23 raiding instances were attributed to MC2. MC2 raided bins within Scarborough and Misty Cliffs on 20 occasions. He also raided one occupied house, and two unoccupied houses.

KOB1 seems to have become used to the urban space. On 19 occasions this month he was recorded being within the urban area. He mostly targeted fruit trees, vegetable patches and bird feeders. During the seven days the troop spent inside the CoGH reserve, KOB1 left the troop on four occasions to enter the urban area alone.

This is a very serious development because when KOB1 took over the troop in October 2014, this totally wild male would wait out of town while his troop raided without him. He has clearly already lost his fear of entering the urban area, and all efforts must be made to stop his raiding activities developing into house raiding and attacking people like his predecessors.

The troop entered the urban area on 17 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.

During the period the Misty Cliffs Troop spent within the CoGH reserve a noticeable decrease of raiding behaviour was observed. Unfortunately, because of the 1000 ha fire within the reserve, the natural foraging troop, KOB, moved its ranger further north to gain access to unburnt vegetation. This shift had a knock effect, pushing the GOB Troop further north and hence putting pressure on the Misty Cliffs Troop to do likewise. On 9 March, the three troops were seen drinking at Black Waters within the reserve. A fight broke out between the troops causing Misty Cliffs to run back towards Scarborough. The Misty Cliffs Troop was then allowed to forage outside of the reserve until such time that the vegetation has recovered within the reserve.

It is to be assumed that KOB will shift further south once the new growth begins, allowing GOB to move back to Olifantsbos and Misty Cliffs back onto Bonteberg. In the meantime, the troop will be managed on the mountain towards Ocean View and Kleinplaas Dam (see map below.)

Access to water within the reserve has on occasion led to conflict. GOB often make use of Black Waters as a water point, which is the available water source for Misty Cliffs when they are inside the reserve. As mentioned above, KOB have also been seen in the Black Waters region over this period. Having three troops around the same water source at a given point does lead to conflict and in this case caused Misty Cliffs to run back towards Scarborough.

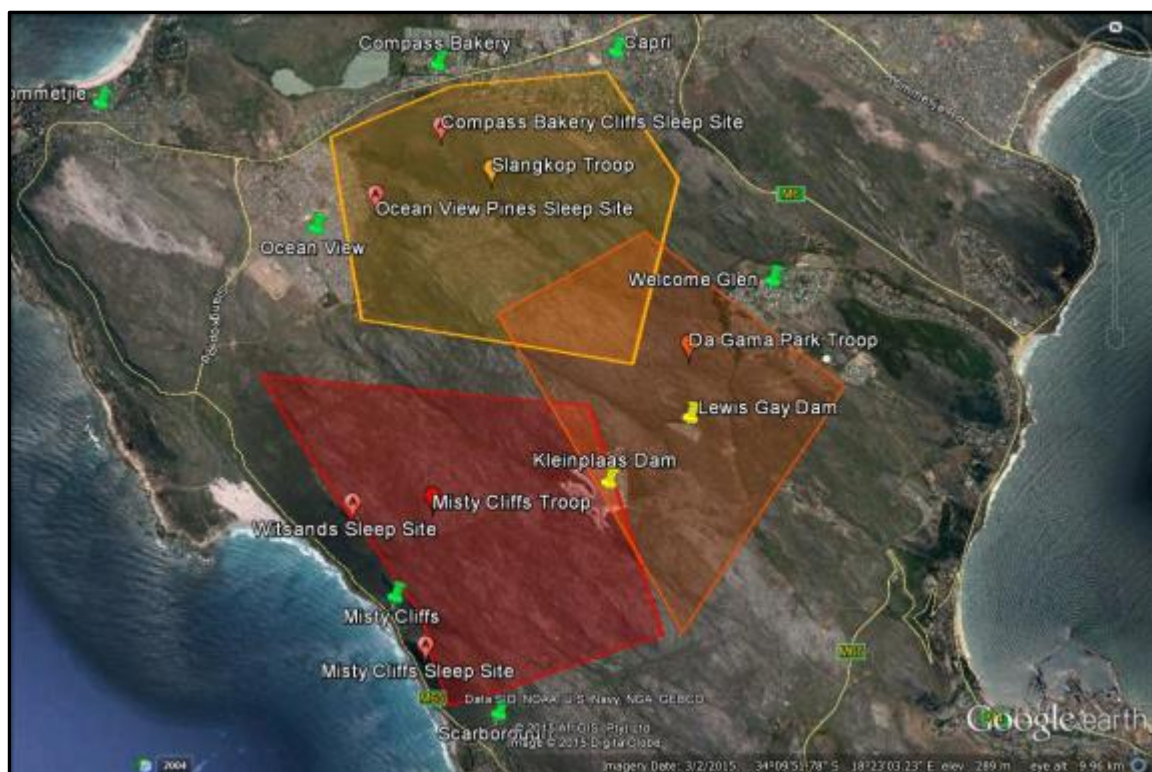


Figure 10: Map showing the proposed temporary area for use by Misty Cliffs Troop

On 22 February a female was seen carrying a dead infant in the Misty Cliffs Troop. It is thought to be an infanticide carried out by KOB1 in line with the fact that he has carried these out since joining the troop in October 2014.

Figure 11: Raid sheet for Misty Cliffs Troop

1 death was recorded for the Misty Cliffs troop namely 1 infant.

The worst impacted troop was the Tokai troop, which lost 12 baboons to the fire. The Zwaanswyk Troop is also missing a member, suspected to have died in the fire. The Constantia and Mountain Troops did not suffer any loss of life during the fire, however most of their home ranges and the natural vegetation therein have been burnt, resulting in both troops having to find refuge and forage in the adjacent wine farms.

After the fire, it was decided that all northern troops would not be held up the mountains, and would be allowed to move to lower lying sections to find forage. The Baboon Technical Team (BTT) decided that the affected troops would be monitored very closely to determine if they were foraging and if providing food for the troop was necessary. If so, this would be done in a very controlled manner. In the following weeks all troops were monitored very closely, and all managed to find natural food, even in the burnt sections. No provisioning was necessary, and since the fire, an abundance of new shoots have arisen and forage is once again plentiful.

1. Tokai Troop

Prior to the fire, the Tokai Troop mainly foraged on the northern side of Tokai Plantation, often trying to get into Buitenverwachting to eat grapes. Additionally, the troop spent much time foraging in newly felled clearings, feasting on the abundance of pine seeds after the tree removal.

The Muizenberg Fire, which impacted the Northern Troops, started on the 1 March 2015 and burnt until the 5 March 2015. This fire only became a concern for baboons once it entered Tokai Plantation on Tuesday 3 March 2015, at approximately 2pm. The fire entered Tokai Plantation on the southern side, coming over from Silvermine Reserve. As it entered, all available HWS managers went to the Plantation to help rangers move the troops down the mountain to the lower lying sections, as these areas were considered safer during the fires.

The Tokai Troop was pushed down the mountain to the Guest House sleep site by 5pm. They refused to move lower, and each time HWS managers pushed them lower, the troop split and ran back up the mountain to Level 1.

The troop and the fire was monitored into the evening, however HWS rangers were asked to leave the plantations at 8pm on Tuesday night. At this time, the Tokai Troop was in their sleep site, below Level 1, around the SANParks Guest House.

Late Tuesday afternoon, fire control indicated that the fires had reached Level 5 in the Tokai Forests and that they were holding the line on Level 4. However, in the very early hours of Wednesday (4 March 2015) morning, gusts of strong winds reignited the fires in Tokai Plantation. Between 1am and 3am, the fire broke through the Level 4 fire lines and rapidly moved down the mountain. Within an hour, the runaway fire had reached the SANParks Guest House on Level 1, where the Tokai Troop was sleeping. The Guest House was destroyed by the fire.

HWS, along with The Baboon Technical Team (BTT) was on site at 6am on Wednesday morning along with animal welfare representatives (Cape of Good Hope SPCA) and two veterinarians (from City of Cape Town and CapeNature). The forest was filled with smoke and visibility was low. Fire fighters evaluated that the danger of falling pine trees was high, and the baboon related authorities were asked to move out of the plantation for safety concerns. By this time the Tokai Troop had moved

into the riverine Fairy Forest near the Guest House. HWS rangers were not able to encourage the troop to move out of this area. By midday, it was agreed that there was no immediate danger for the Tokai Troop and they remained in this area for the remainder of the day.

At 6am the following morning, HWS rangers and managers, a team from the BTT, along with animal welfare representatives and two veterinarians were able to get up to the Tokai Troop to undertake an initial assessment of the situation.

Assessments continued daily until Monday 9 March to ensure all injuries were accounted for. A total of 12 confirmed deaths from the Tokai Troop were recorded as a result of the fire. Four critically injured baboons were euthanized, while 8 were found deceased as a result of the fire, either charred or died of their injuries shortly after the fire.

Most non-serious injuries sustained in the fire were small burns and were assessed by veterinarians who confirmed that they will heal naturally without human intervention. All injured baboons have been monitored very closely in the weeks following the fire, and all baboons with small burns are healing well.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																					
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																			
North		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	TOTAL								
BABOON TROOP:	Tokai	1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																														
MONTH: March	2015	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																														
		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																														
BABOON ID	Sex	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	TOTAL
TK28 (B-G)	M																																	1	2		
TK40 (P-Y) VHF Collar	M																																		1		
TK41 (Single P)	M																																	1			
TK42 (B-Y)	M																																				
TK43 (Single White)	M																																		1		
MT3 (Pu-B)	M																																				
Uni Male	M																																				
Uni SA Male x 2	M																																		1		
Uni Female	F																																				
Uni Juve																																					
TKF1 (B-B)	F																																				
TKF2 (untagged)	F																																				
TKF8 (W-W)	F																																				
Tokai Troop																																					
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																											HRS								
Troop	0.0																																			0.00	
Males	0.4																																20	60		1.33	
Roost:	AM	9	8	6	6	1	4	1	8	6	6	8	6	12	7	8	8	7	8	6	6	1	8	8	6	6	8	6	6	6	1	6	6	12	1		
Roost:	PM	8	6	6	7	7	4	8	6	6	8	6	12	7	8	8	7	8	6	6	1	8	8	1	6	8	6	8	6	6	1	8	6	12	1	6	
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 Tk Clearing				8	Level 1.5 Quarry gums				9	Level 1 new clear gums				10	Picnic site 1														
		11	Picnic site 2				12	Upper Tea Garden				13	Other				14					15															
		16					17					18					19					20															
		21					22					23					24					25															
ID Features of Baboons																																					
General remarks																																					

Figure 13: Raid sheet for Tokai Troop. Bold and italics represent raids that took place outside of the urban area.

After the fire, the troop were not pushed, nor held in any specific section by HWS rangers. It was suspected that they would move down to the lower lying sections around the Cape Research Centre, and Orpen Road to find unburnt forage. Very surprisingly however, the Tokai Troop did not change their foraging patterns significantly after the fire.

They slept at the Quarry gums or at the Guest House, and moved up the mountains, foraging as they went. This is possibly because the fires caused the pine cones to burst and release thousands of pine seeds. For the days following the fire the Tokai Troop were seen foraging on these seeds, and did

A detailed count of the Zwaanswyk Troop was conducted by Esme Beamish from the Baboon Research Unit, as part of the post-fire assessments. All the troops were counted in January, hence an accurate pre-fire count was available. After the fire it was reported that a juvenile from the troop was missing. This was suspected to be from smoke inhalation, however no body has been found.

After the fire HWS rangers monitored the movements of the troop closely. This troop followed much the same patterns of movement and foraging behaviour as were recorded for the Tokai Troop. They moved up the mountain and foraged primarily on pine seeds which were released as a result of the fire. In the weeks to follow many new shoots started growing, and the Zwaanswyk Troop are also foraging on these.

In addition to forays up the mountain, the Zwaanswyk Troop have also been spending much time on the Chrysalis Academy Estate trying to raid. The whole troop managed to raid bins at Chrysalis on the 13 and 14 March 2015. Individuals from the troop also tried to enter open kitchens and dining halls, but these attempts were thwarted by HWS rangers before they could progress into effective raids.

3. Constantia Troop

Pre-fire the Constantia Troop were foraging mainly above Buitenverwachting and Klein Constantia wine farms. The troop would push to enter these farms and forage on the remaining grapes, but were kept out by HWS and farm rangers.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, 4 March 2015, the fire swept across the mountain, burning above and into the upper sections of Buitenverwachting, Klein Constantia and Groot Constantia. The fire burnt everything above the farms and across to Price Drive where it was eventually brought under control. On the wine farms, most of the vineyards remained unscathed, however the upper sections of riverine and dense vegetation on these farms were quite extensively burnt in the fire.

As the fire swept through the Constantia Troop's home range, the troop found refuge in the upper gums sleep site. Although this sleep site did burn on the ground, the fire did not sweep through the canopy. The Constantia Troop therefore remained unhurt during the fire.

Post-fire, the Buitenverwachting, Klein Constantia and Groot Constantia wine farms kindly allowed the impacted troops to find refuge on their farms. The baboons were allowed in the upper sections of the vineyards, and were not deterred from feeding on harvested vineyards, which still contained many grapes. The baboons also fed on the remains of barley that had been planted between the vines last year, and on sections of natural forage found on the farms.

HWS rangers assisted farm workers in keeping the baboons off the un-harvested vineyards, and away from infrastructure on the wine farms. No raids, either urban or non-urban were carried out by members of the Constantia Troop.

4. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop lives higher up the mountain above Buitenverwachting, and sandwiched between the Tokai and Constantia Troops. As such, this troop does not enter the urban area to raid, and is therefore less actively monitored by HWS rangers.

When the fire entered Tokai Plantation on 3 March, the Mountain Troop was in the gums above Buitenverwachting. They slept at this location and were found there again the next morning. When they were found, there was a slow moving fire very near them, yet they seemed surprisingly unperturbed by this. As a precaution HWS rangers pushed the Mountain Troop down towards Buitenverwachting, allowing them to find refuge on the farm, and keeping them away from immediate harm.

The troop was kept away from the fire on Wednesday, and Thursday (4 and 5 March 2015), as it continued to slowly burn through the gums. On Thursday 5 March 2015, the fire in the gums was finally extinguished. No Mountain Troop baboons were burnt in the fire.

In the two weeks following the fire, the Mountain Troop was actively monitored by HWS rangers to ensure there was enough forage and that the troop suffered no adverse effects from the fire.

There was still some unburnt vegetation around the top sections of Buitenverwachting, and the baboons spent the majority of their time here. Additionally, the troop was allowed to forage on the harvested vineyards on Buitenverwachting. This troop did not raid at all during the month of March.

Births and Deaths

No births were recorded this month.

Thirteen deaths, all related to the fire, were recorded this month:

Twelve died in the Tokai Troop: 8 directly from the fire, and 4 euthanized for humane reasons.

One juvenile is missing, presumed dead, in the Zwaanswyk Troop.

Recommendations

- **Chrysalis Academy Waste Management:** The new waste management system on Chrysalis Academy should be modified to ensure all bins are baboon-proofed. In addition, all access points into Chrysalis kitchens or dining halls should be kept closed, or watched carefully when open to prevent raiding.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

Last month HWS presented the ground count data collected by Esme Beamish from the Baboon Research Unit, (BRU), at UCT. Unfortunately the later BRU counts were done in January and not December, so they do not reflect actual numbers at the end of each year, like in 2012. In this report, the data are being zeroed back to the end of December of each year, by taking the January births

and deaths into account. This modified table, reflecting baboon numbers at end of each year from 2012 onwards is given below.

TROOP	Total Dec 2012	Total Dec 2013	Total Dec 2014	March Births	March Deaths	Total Births 2015	Total Deaths 2015	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	45	43	1	1	4	2	45
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	22	1		3	1	24
Waterfall	28	30	30	1		1	0	31
Groot Olifantsbos	19	13	17			0	0	17
Misty Cliffs	18	16	14		1	1	4	11
Slangkop	33	32	36			0	1	35
SUB TOTAL	175	157	162	3	2	9	8	163
Zwaanswyk	25	26	28		1	1	3	26
Tokai	61	65	72		12	1	12	61
Mountain	33	44	48			1	0	49
Constantia	60	63	70			2	0	72
SUB TOTAL	179	198	218	0	13	5	15	208
TOTAL	354	355	380	3	15	14	23	371

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

This month, 12 baboons in the Tokai troop died from burns caused by the fire, and one baboon from the Zwaanswyk Troop is suspected to have died from smoke inhalation. Another two baboons died from non-fire related causes this month. Despite the losses in the Tokai troop, the population of baboons in the northern troops remains at a very high level with two troops still having over 60 baboons each.

These and other causes of baboon deaths since 2012 are summarised in Table 2. Here all recorded baboons deaths have been summarised into three categories: i) Management - baboons euthanased for management reasons according to the WAAC raiding protocol; ii) Human Induced – baboons killed by dogs, car accidents, electrocution, poisoning, shooting etc. This category also includes baboons seriously wounded by the above causes, then humanely euthanased; iii) Natural – baboons dying from old age, fights, infanticide, unknown causes etc.

The most notable point evident from this table, is the marked decline in the number of management deaths (7) in 2014, which is well under half that of the previous two years. Baboon management in Cape Town has now reached the stage where most of the alpha males are good parents that devote most of their time towards looking after their troops and spend very little, if any, time raiding. Thus most baboons that are now euthanased under the WAAC raiding protocol, are subadult or young adult males that have reverted to a lifestyle which they remember from when they were growing up. It is a prime objective of HWS to prevent juvenile baboons from learning the raiding lifestyle while growing up, so that they do not attempt to revert to it when they reach puberty or become emigrant males.

Months	2012*	2013	2014	2015
Management	16 (6)	17	7	1
Human Induced	3	5	10	2
Natural	6 (1)	33	19	20
TOTAL	25	55	36	23

Table 2. Causes of baboon deaths since 2012. (* Data collected prior to HWS taking over baboon management in August 2012 included in brackets).

Another notable point in Table 2, is the relatively high number of human induced deaths (ten) in 2014. In the spring of 2014 there was a peak of electrocutions of juveniles (five individuals) who suddenly took to playing on a low power line near Millers Point. The stays and bases of the pertinent poles have since been greased by HWS in a temporary attempt to prevent these juveniles from climbing this power line. The City has been approached to provide a more permanent solution.

Hotline Data

This month, virtually every raid related hotline call was made in response to raids by the Misty Cliffs Troop raiding in Scarborough or Misty Cliffs. Another eight raids were reported for the Da Gama troop raiding Welcome Glen. The raids into Scarborough have been led primarily by two individuals; the alpha female MCF2, and a sub-adult male MC3. These raids have been exacerbated by the large fire within the KOB range, which forced the troop to move north into the GOB range in search of forage. The GOB Troop responded by moving into the Misty Cliffs' Troop range, effectively forcing them out of the CoGH Reserve and into Scarborough.

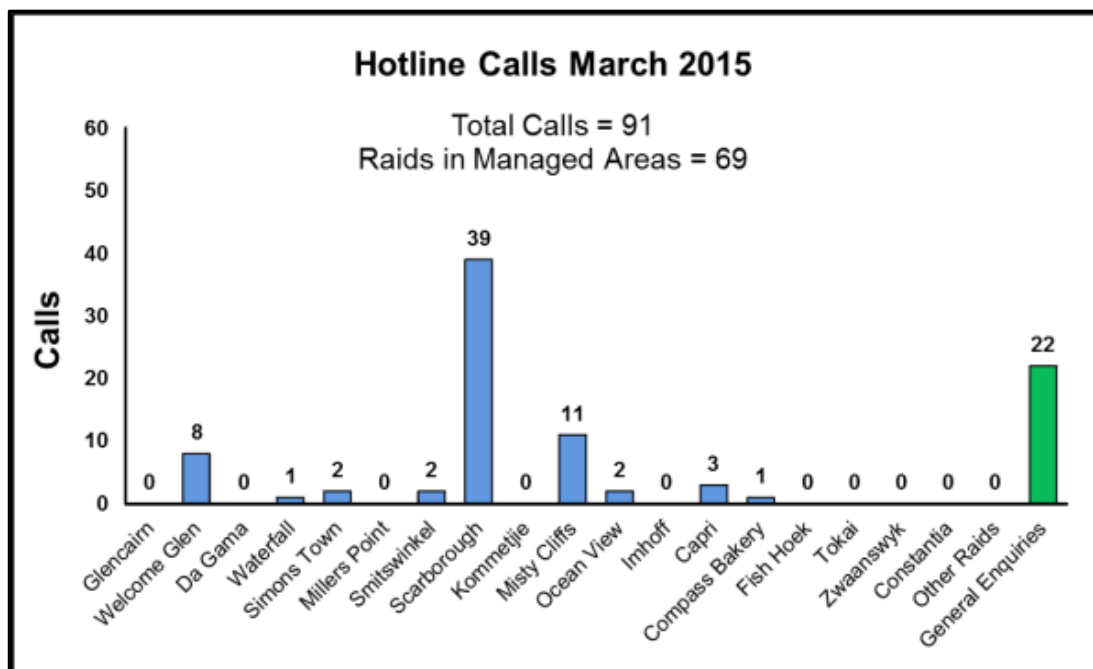


Figure 15: Hotline calls summary per urban area

Most of the hotline enquiry calls were made in response to the fire.

The composition of hotline calls this month set another record with 88.4% of raid related calls simply reporting baboons being within the urban area. However, as winter approaches one can anticipate more active raiding taking place as fynbos food supplies dwindle.

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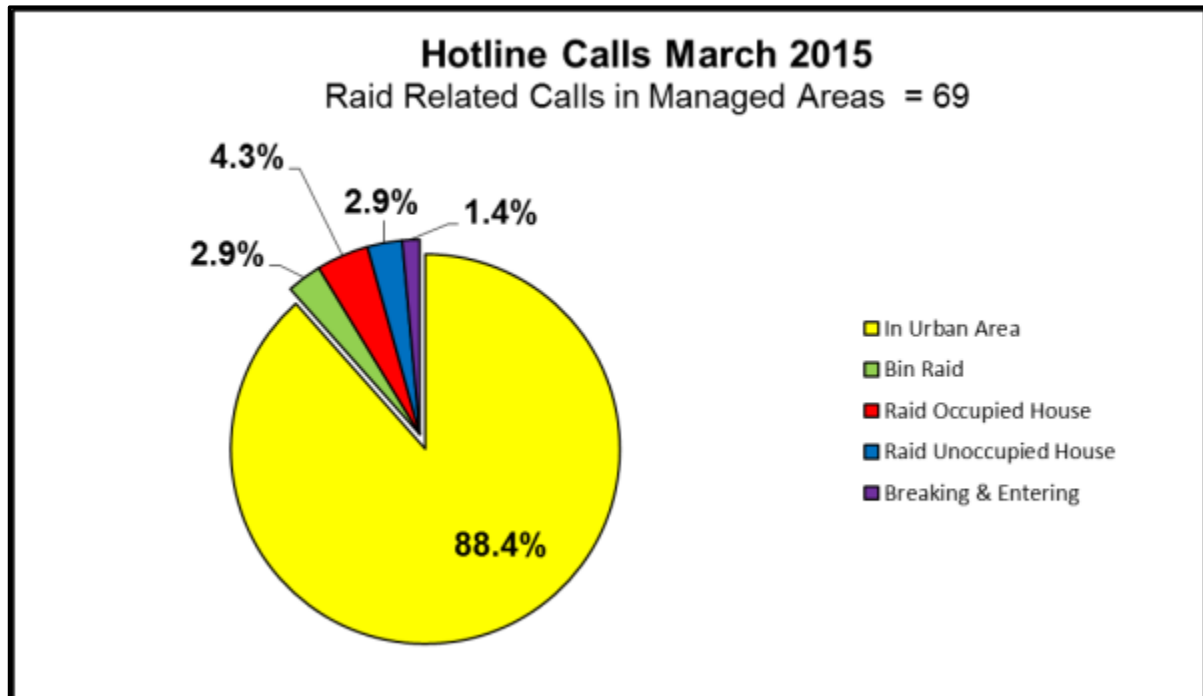


Figure 16: Composition of raid-related hotline calls

Percentage Time out of Town

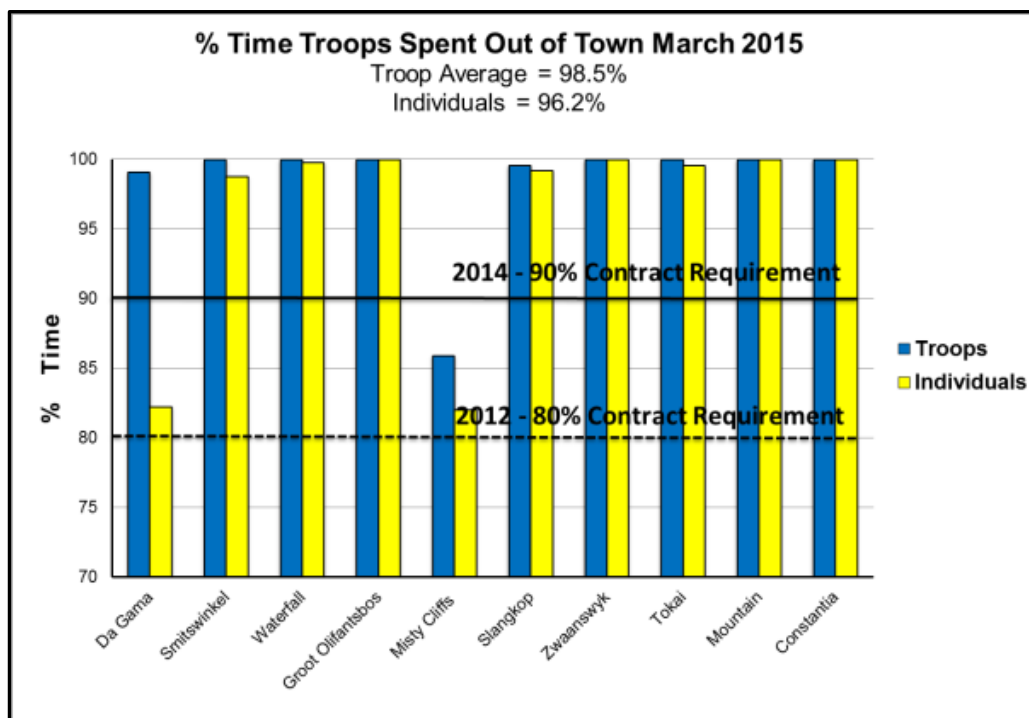


Figure 17: Percentage time troops spent out of town.

Conclusion

There have been some very dramatic changes to the baboon management scene over the past month. Not only were 13 baboons killed by the Cape Fire, but the fire has also precipitated the imminent loss of most of the remaining accessible pine trees in the Tokai / Constantia area. The fire also burnt virtually all the fynbos within the foraging ranges of the northern baboons.

In the short term, the felling of all the pine trees has created a bonus for the baboons because the fire, and the felling of the trees, has produced an abundance of pine cones, nuts and seeds for the baboons to feed on. As long as the pines continue to be cut, which could be another six months, the baboons should still have access to this nutritious food source. By then, the rains will have fallen, and the baboons should have access to the highly nutritious fresh fynbos that erupts after a fire.

Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions