



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

August 2015

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A. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period 25 July until 28 August 2015. This period therefore covers both the end of winter and the start of spring, with cold wet periods being interspersed with warm sunny periods and new growth appearing. The new growth is widespread, but is particularly evident in areas burnt by the fire. In this regard, it is pleasing to note how much time the Zwaanswyk and Tokai Troops have started spending in the Silvermine Reserve, thereby alleviating pressure further down the mountain.

Most of the baboon troops, with the new exception of the Waterfall Troop, were generally well behaved during this month and spent on average 98.5% of their time out of town. This notwithstanding, a notable feature of baboon behaviour this month was a fairly widespread pattern of individuals from many of the troops raiding on their own and spending much less time out of town (95.1%) than usual. The reasons for this behaviour will be discussed.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Smitswinkel Troop continued to utilize the northern section of their home range throughout this reporting period, moving as far as Murdock Valley. The rangers worked tirelessly throughout the month, often in very difficult weather conditions which included howling wind, driving rain and cold.

On 27 July, a raiding party troop entered the Rocklands Centre and raided the kitchen, spending at least 15 minutes inside the building before being chased out. This happened in the very early hours of the morning and staff members of Rocklands Centre chased them out before the rangers got there.

On 9 August the entire troop spent 80 minutes moving through the Caravan Park at Millers Point and the parking area at the Millers boat launch. Most time was spent in the parking area looking for off-cuts from the fishermen. This was the first time in more than a year that the entire troop spent so much time in that specific area, this was mainly due to the troop scattering, SWB8 and an old female were predominantly responsible for entering the area.

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: SMITS		2 Raid bins														5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle							8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property														
MONTH: August 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	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	TOTAL
SWB6	M																																			0	
Troop																	1																			1	
UnID Individuals																																				0	
UnID Fem	F		2	5																																2	
SWBF1	F																																			0	
SWB8	M		2																																	1	
UnID Male	M		2	5																																2	
UnID Juveniles				5																																1	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS							
Troop	0.4																80																		1.33		
Individuals	0.6		15	15													80																		1.83		
Roost:	AM	5	5	6	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	5			
Roost:	PM	5	3	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	3,6	3	1	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5		
Roost Sites		1 Smits Caves				2 Partridge Point				3 Bluegums				4 Millers Point				5 Rocklands Farm																			
		6 Castle Rock				7 SANParks				8				9				10																			
ID Features of Baboons		SWB6 - red/blue tags + collar. SWB8 - purple/orange tags + collar.																																			
General remarks																																					

Figure 1: Smits Troop raid sheet for August 2015.

2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop has been exceptionally difficult to manage this reporting period. RH2, WF3 as well as WFF4, an old female who was in oestrus, broke the line on multiple occasions to raid the bins and the flats at the Waterfall Barracks. With the ranger team split, this often resulted in the entire troop breaking the line and going back to the urban area.

Once the troop spent continuous time back in the urban area it became increasingly difficult to get them back up the cliff and into the natural vegetation. They quickly returned to their old habits splitting into small raiding parties and with a team of four it became almost impossible to get them out of the Waterfall Barracks again. The poor waste management, open windows and doors makes human derived foods easily accessible and act as an attractant for the baboons to the area.



Figure 2: Waterfall Troop movement for the August reporting period.

When attempting to push the troop out of the Barracks, the troop tends to split into two and move along the cliffs on both sides of the Waterfall. The rangers then have to split up to block both sides and the baboons can move either side to go around the rangers, because they can move fast on the cliffs. It is therefore extremely difficult to hold the line in that area.

By 20 August, the decision was taken to bring in the two area response managers, plus two extra rangers, to assist with pushing the troop out of the urban area. It had become so difficult that the normal allocation of rangers was not enough, and the raiding and time spent in town was more than it had been since mid-October 2013.

The team was able to hold the line and by the following day the troop was back at Klaasjagersberg and slept at the SANAD sleep site. Unfortunately on 27 August, RH2 and WFF4 broke the line and ran back to the Barracks and the troop soon followed.



WF3 continued to be a problem within the troop, he was a known raiding individual and since WF2 was no longer there, he assumed a more dominant position and started raiding more assertively. He was known, since he was approximately two years old to have a twisted neck, this influenced his feeding patterns in the difficult months, which led to an increase in his raiding. Due to the increase in assertive raids, WF3 was euthanized on 14 August with WAAC approval.

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:	WATERFALL	2	Raid bins										5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																	
MONTH: August	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	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	TOTAL
Troop			2	2	2			2			2	2	2	2							2	2			2	2	2					1			2		15
RH2	M		2,6	2	2,5	1					2,7	2		2,5	1		2	1	2	2	2				2	2	2						2				21
WF3	M		2,6	2			2	2			2,7	2	2,5	2,7,5																				2			13
WFF3	F		2																							2,5								2	2		5
WFF4	F		2													2																					2
UnID Females	F		2,6				2	2		2	2,7		2,5	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2												2	2			19
UnID Juveniles			2,6				2	2						2	2			1															2	2			9
UnID Male	M		2							2																											2
UnID Individuals			2,6																					1	2,5												5
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS							
Troop	7.5	295	180	65			65			95	140	65	205						45	25			30	90	130									20		24.17	
Individuals	13.3	395	195	85	40	15	65		30	250	140	95	470	10	10	40	70	20	25	165	25			50	120	130	15						60	35	20		42.92
Roost:	AM	10	9	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	10	10	10	6	1	2	
Roost:	PM	9	1	1	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	6	6	6	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6	1	10	10	10	10	10	6	6	2	1	
Roost Sites		1	Waterfall Cliff					2	Happy Valley Mtn					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					18						19						20											
ID Features of Baboons		RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male WFF3 - three legs																																			
General remarks		Italics - raiding on farms Naval Ammunition depot area indicated in red																																			

3. Da Gama Troop

The Da Gama Troop predominantly utilized the sleep sites around the urban area, frequently sleeping at more than one sleep site, they were found to be mainly at the flats and Da Gama Park residential area. This hugely complicates management, because the troop needs to be regrouped firstly in the morning before they can be moved out of town. This can be difficult when they are sleeping separately because they tend to split into smaller raiding parties and spread throughout town. This means that the ranger team is split and regrouping the troop is really difficult. This has led to 14.8% time spent in town for raiding individuals, which is illustrated also on the map below.



Figure 5: Da Gama troop movement for the August reporting period. Yellow lines indicate the troop movements, and the red lines indicating the raiding individuals.

One of the main challenges in the troop is the management of the sub-adult males, DG13, DG14, DG15 and DG16. All four of these males are of similar age and will reach adulthood and dispersing age at the same time. Currently they form small raiding parties and leave the troop to raid either alone or with females/juveniles.

DG15 has been fitted with a VHF collar, DG13 and DG14 have been tagged, and DG16 still needs to be tagged and collared as he is currently the worst raider of the four. Due to their raiding behaviour they are currently not considered for relocation.

Figure 6: Da Gama Troop raid sheet for August 2015.

1 sub-adult male, WF3, euthanized in the Waterfall Troop – 14 August

- **The new waste management solution** that the Navy has decided on needs to be implemented as soon as possible.
- **Baboon-proofing** of the Navy flats in Da Gama Park is still an urgent requirement.
- **Waste management** should be rectified at the City Water Works facility at Lewis Gay Dam.
- It is requested that the **invasive alien vegetation behind the Cape Farmhouse** be cleared, so that a better line can be held in the area.

- **Residents in Da Gama Park as well as Welcome Glen** should revert back to baboon-proofing vegetable gardens, compost heaps and keeping doors and windows closed when they are not at home.
- **Fruit trees** in gardens, where people do not utilize the fruit, should be removed in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen.
- People with outside bird aviaries should secure the **bird food** and keep the outside of the cages as clean as possible to prevent it becoming a baboon attractant
- **Power lines** along the Elsie's River Valley that runs between the Water Works and Da Gama Park should be baboon-proofed or greased with water proofed grease.

South Western Region – Area Manager: Lana Müller

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)

The Groot Olifantsbos Troop moved in and out of the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) on a regular basis during this reporting period. The troop roosted mainly in the pine trees behind the Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre when they were outside the CoGH Reserve. While they were inside the CoGH Reserve they slept at the Crocodile Rock and Olifantsbos sleep site. On a few occasions the troop was found sleeping at the Klaasjagersberg SANParks offices inside the CoGH Reserve.

The troop spent the majority of the time period foraging in the natural fynbos vegetation around the Cape of Good Hope nursery and on the mountain behind the Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre. The troop also spent a number of days inside the CoGH reserve foraging in the natural fynbos vegetation behind the SANParks offices. They were also seen foraging and grooming at Blackwater's. On a few other occasions the troop foraged around the pine trees at the Shamballah sleep site.

On 6 August GOB7 was captured and fitted with a new VHF radio collar. The vet assessed his condition and he was found to be in an excellent health condition. The new collar will assist us greatly in keeping track of his movements and help us to avoid him coming into conflict with people.

The troop entered the Cape Farm House farm on a few occasions but no raids were recorded. On each occasion the baboons were blocked by HWS rangers before they could reach the houses on the farm, and were moved into the natural fynbos vegetation on the mountain above the farm. On 27 August the troop entered the Cape Farm House farm briefly to drink water from the dam.

No raids were recorded for GOB7 during this reporting period. However, GOB7 left his troop on a number of occasions and went to visit the Misty Cliffs Troop inside the CoGH Reserve. On all occasions he tried to dominate the females and kill the 4 babies currently in the troop, but the females managed to chase him away.

On 13 August, GOB7 was found alone at the Wildschutsbrand picnic site located opposite the Cape Farm House farm. The HWS rangers moved GOB7 slowly back towards the troop.



Figure 7: Sleep sites (red pins) and favoured locations (yellow pins) of the Groot Olifantsbos Troop (home range indicated in green).

2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)

The Misty Cliffs Troop spent 29 nights roosting at the Bonteberg sleep site, inside the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) and 6 nights at the Misty Cliffs 1 sleep site, situated on the cliffs between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs.

On one occasion four baboons (two adult females and two juveniles) broke away from the troop, which was inside the CoGH Reserve, and ran into Scarborough. One of the adult female's returned to the troop later on the same day, while the other three baboons spent the night sleeping at the

Misty Cliffs sleep site. The following day, the three baboons re-joined the troop, which was inside the CoGH Reserve. No bin raids were reported for the period these baboons were in town. However, they moved through the urban space foraging on oranges and other fruits from gardens.

The troop foraged mostly on the natural fynbos vegetation on top of Bonteberg, at the beacon, during the mornings. During the afternoons, the troop moved down to the coast to forage on the coastal vegetation and in the inter-tidal zone. On a few occasions the troop was also seen foraging around the wetland close to the Schusterskraal picnic site.

When the troop roosted outside of the CoGH Reserve the HWS rangers attempted to move the baboons towards the Stone House, in order to keep them away from the Scarborough and Misty Cliffs residential areas. On these occasions the troop foraged in the natural fynbos vegetation on the mountain between Misty Cliffs and Scarborough.

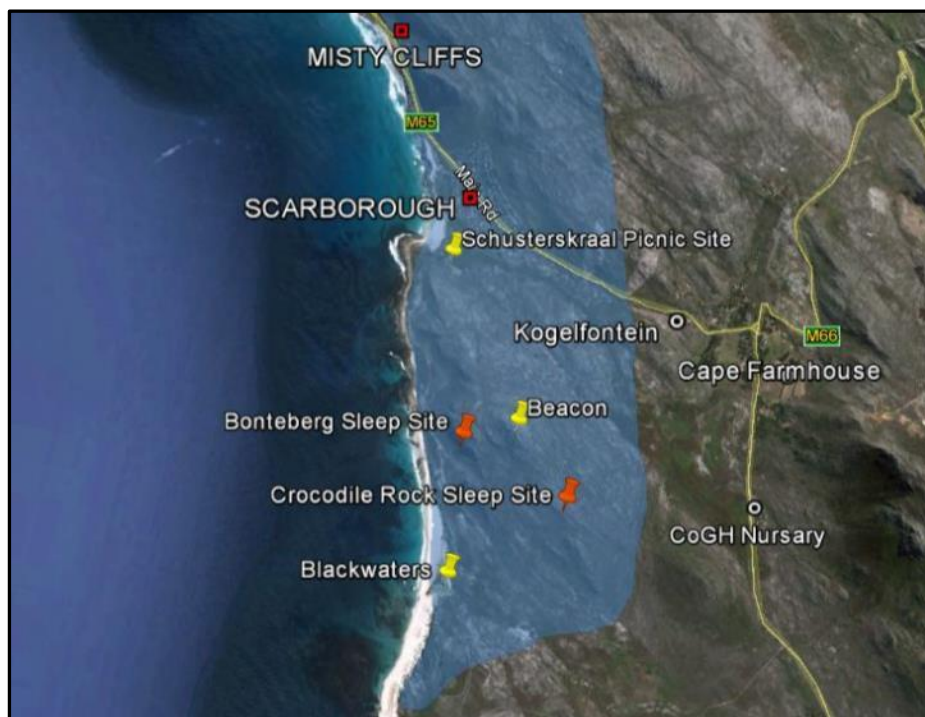


Figure 8: Sleep sites (red pins) and favoured locations (yellow pins) of the Misty Cliffs Troop (home range indicated in blue).

The Misty Cliffs Troop entered the urban space on four occasions raiding bins and foraging on lush natural vegetation in gardens. This is notably less raids than in the previous few months. During the last reporting period the troop entered the urban space on 10 occasions. The longest recorded time spent in town was 360 minutes on 2 August. On other occasions the troop was recorded to be in the urban space between 180 – 240 minutes.

Individual baboons were recorded in the urban space on five occasions. This is also much less than last month (10 occasions). In most cases the individual raids can be attributed to small raiding parties consisting of two to three adult females, two sub-adult males (MC3 & MC4) and/or one to two juvenile baboons. A total of two raids were recorded for individual female baboons, MC4 and MC3 respectively.

The longest recorded time spent in the urban space by individuals was 187 minutes on 14 August, when an adult female and two juveniles raided bins in the Scarborough residential area. On the same day one of the juveniles entered an occupied house through an open door. On the other occasions, individuals were recorded to be in the urban space for between 45 and 139 minutes. It has been challenging to move the baboons out of the urban space once they are in, as they tend to split up and hide in backyard gardens.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																													
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																											
SOUTH WEST		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: August	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	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	TOTAL								
MC3 (Sub-adult Male)	M		2		2																																2								
MC4 (Young Sub-adult Male)	M		2		2							1																									3								
Females	F		2		2							1									1	1															5								
Juveniles												1									1	6														3									
Troop			2	2							2					2																					4								
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS															
Troop	5.2	180	217							360					240																					16.62									
Individuals	2.8		78		90							45									139	187														8.98									
Roost:	AM	2	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	1,4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4										
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	1,4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4										
Roost Sites		1				Misty Cliffs 1					2				Misty Cliffs 2					3				Witsand					4				CoGH Reserve					5				Other			
ID Features of Baboons																																													
General remarks																																													

Figure 9: Misty Cliffs Troop raid sheet for August 2015.

On 22 and 27 August, GOB7 (the alpha male of the Groot Olifantsbos Troop) split from his troop and came over to the Misty Cliffs Troop, he tried to dominate the females and attempted to kill the four babies currently in the troop. On both occasions GOB7 did not succeed and was chased away by the females and later returned to his troop (Groot Olifantsbos Troop). No injuries or deaths occurred.

After both encounters with GOB7 the Misty Cliffs Troop was unsettled and tried to break out of the reserve. The HWS rangers managed to keep the troop inside the CoGH Reserve. According to the reports of HWS rangers it is a sub-adult male that encourages the Misty Cliffs Troop to break out of the CoGH Reserve.

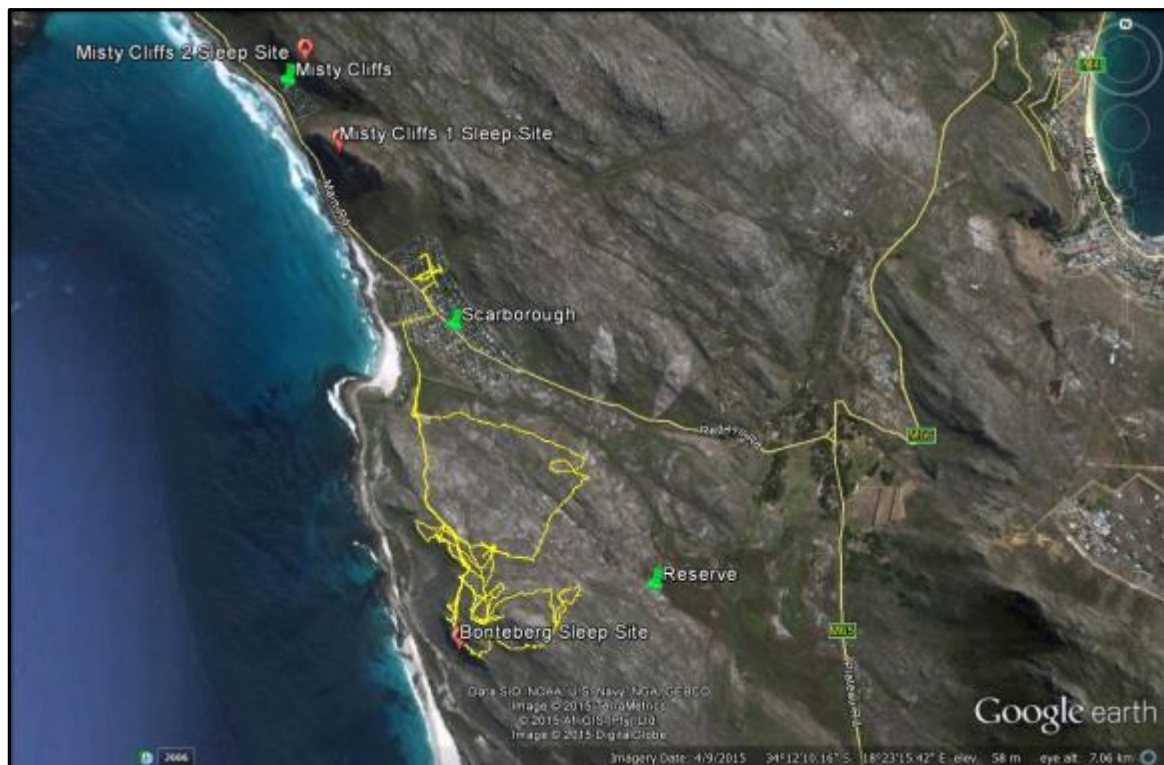


Figure 10: Misty Cliffs Troop movement for the August reporting period..

A community meeting was held at the Scarborough Community Hall on 27 August to discuss the proposal for the electrification of the CoGH Reserve game fence. The main aim of this proposal is to prevent baboons from entering Scarborough and Misty Cliffs from the CoGH Reserve. Electrification of this fence would also help reduce management protocol, and other human induced deaths (HID) in this troop.

At present this troop suffers double the average number of (HID) deaths per year compared to the other managed troops on the peninsula. This is primarily because most of its sleep sites are very close to town and on cliffs that overlook town. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting. A positive general consensus for the electrification proposal was evident from a quick show of hands at the end of the meeting.

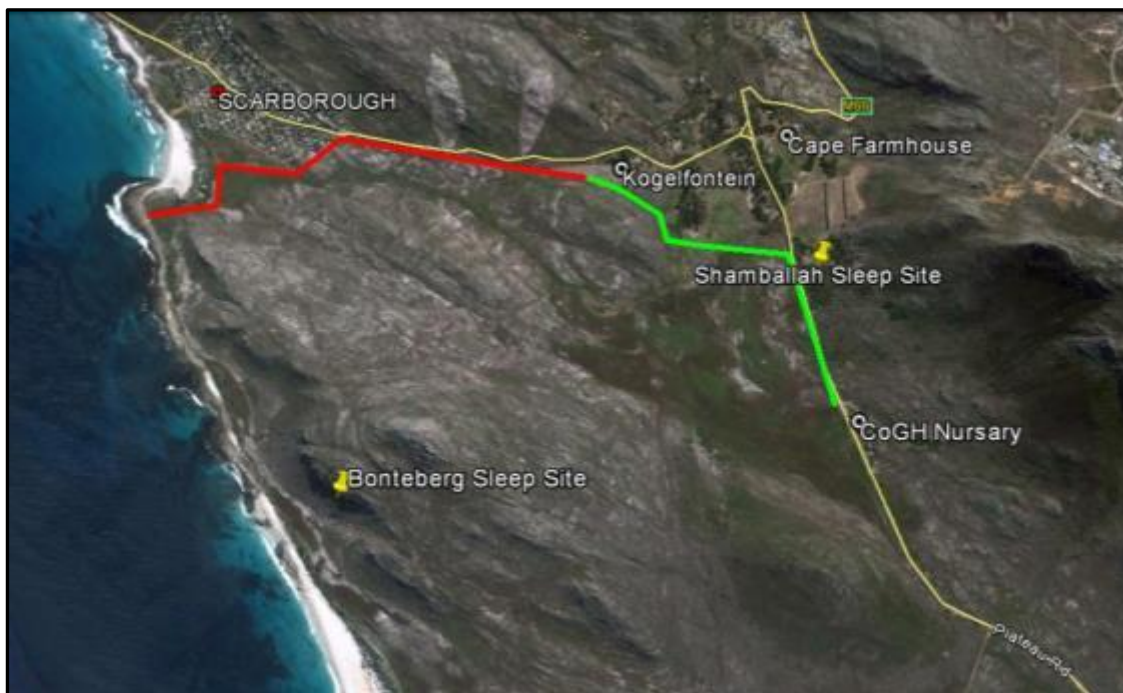


Figure 11: Proposed electrification of game fence between Scarborough and CoGH Reserve. Proposed section (red line) from the coast to Kogelfontein. Possible future extension (green line) from Kogelfontein to Shamballah, or to the Cape of Good Hope Nursery.

3. Slangkop Troop

This month the Slangkop Troop spent 19 nights roosting at the Compass Bakery sleep site and 16 nights roosting at the pine tree stands behind Ocean View. On three occasions the troop was chased by dogs from the Ocean View sleep site to the Compass Bakery sleep site during the night.

On 28 August the field manager came across a group of children in Ocean View throwing stones at the troop, he addressed the situation and requested that the children stop. The children stopped throwing stones and moved away from the troop.

The troop entered the urban space as a whole on three occasions. Bin raids were recorded at Compass Bakery (now known as In-2-Foods. The bakery is no longer there but for continuity purposes it will be referred to as Compass Bakery in this report). Bin raids were also recorded in Capri, Sun Hill Estate, Imhoffs Gift, Rodgers Fruiters and Ocean View.

The longest recorded time spent in town was 25 minutes on 28 August, when the troop went to raid at Compass Bakery. After raiding Compass Bakery the troop moved towards Rodgers Fruiters and from there they moved towards the mountain and entered Sunhill Estate. On the other two occasions the troop spent ten minutes in the urban space and only bin raids were recorded.

As in previous months, the troop visited Rodgers Fruiters, on Kommetjie Main Road, on numerous occasions. Here they foraged on the discarded fruits and vegetables from the compost heap and chicken/geese coop at the back of the property. This has led to an increase in baboon activity in the area because the discarded fruits and vegetables are acting as an attractant for the baboons. On 14 August a meeting was held with the owners of Rodgers Fruiters and CapeNature to discuss the situation and the way forward.



Figure 12: Chicken/geese coop at Rodgers Fruiters serving as attractant for the Slangkop troop.

The highest number of individual raids during this reporting period can be attributed to SK6 (sub-adult male), DG6 (Alpha-male), SKF1 (adult female) and SKF2 (adult female). In most cases the individual raids can be attributed to small raiding parties consisting of SK6 and one to two juveniles, or SK6 and DG6 alone or in some cases SK6 and DG6 together with two to three adult females and two to three juvenile baboons. In total, 13 bin raids were recorded for SK6, 14 bin raids were recorded for juveniles and a total of 12 bin raids were recorded for DG6.

In addition to the 13 bin raids, SK6 raided an occupied house on 2 August and 20 August gaining access through an open window in both instances.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																			
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																	
SOUTH WEST		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: August	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	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	TOTAL														
DG6	M		2	2		2	2				2								2	2	2					2	2	2							2		12														
SKF1	F		2	2		2					2								2	2	2		2													8															
SKF2	F		2	2		2					2								2	2	2		2													8															
SK6 (Sub-adult)	M		2			2	2				6	2				2		2	2	2	2		2				2	6			2			2		15															
Juveniles			2	2		2	2				2							2	2	2	2		2			2	2	2			2					14															
Females			2	2			2			2						2										2								2	2	8															
Troop														2		2																			2,3	4															
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS																					
Troop	0.2													10		10																		25	0.75																
Individuals	2.4		52	24		40	10			10	36					40		15	11	16	8		15			15	24	20			25		20	24	50	7.58															
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2															
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3														
Roost Sites		1					Slangkop					2					Ocean View					3					Compass balery					4					Witsand					5					Other				
ID Features of Baboons																																																			
General remarks		4 Births reported (31 July & 1 August) / No Deaths reported																																																	

Figure 13: Slangkop Troop raid sheet for August 2015.

The longest duration of time spent in the urban space by individuals was 52 minutes on 26 July, when SK6, DG6, four juveniles and three adult females went to raid the bins in Small Capri, the Kommetjie Dumpsite and the houses next to Rodgers Fruiters.

The Slangkop Troop spent the majority of the reporting period foraging in the natural vegetation on the mountain above the Rasta Camp in Ocean View, and along the stream running in between Compass Bakery and Ocean View. On a few occasions the troop was also seen foraging in the natural fynbos vegetation on the mountain above Small Capri.

On 21 August DG6, the alpha-male, was seen chasing after the sub-adult males in the troop. Later on that same day these sub-adult males were seen mating with a few of the adult females, who were in oestrous, when the alpha male was not in the vicinity. One of the lower ranking adult females was seen pursuing a couple of the sub-adult males. Later, when she approached the alpha-male he rejected her.

Births and Deaths

There were two births in the Misty Cliffs Troop and 4 births in the Slangkop Troop.

No deaths were reported this month, for either troop.

Recommendations

- **Removal of Invasive Vegetation:** The invasive alien vegetation situated above Ocean View and below the Compass Bakery sleep site needs to be removed in order to improve management of the Slangkop Troop. The issue has been addressed with SANParks and is pending.
- **Education and Waste Management** should be addressed at In-2-foods (formally known as Compass bakery).
- **Rogers Fruiterers:** It was suggested to them that they need to feed their chickens and geese inside the enclosed area of the coop, and with smaller quantities instead of dumping large amounts of fruit and veg.

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

The Tokai Troop have split their time this month between the lower sections of Tokai Plantation, (around the Tea Room, Manor house and Chrysalis Academy) and high up the mountain in Silvermine Reserve. Their preferred route to Silvermine is going through to the southern side of Tokai Plantation, they then follow the Zwaanswyk Fence to above Steenberg Estate, and then up and over to Silvermine (Figure 14).

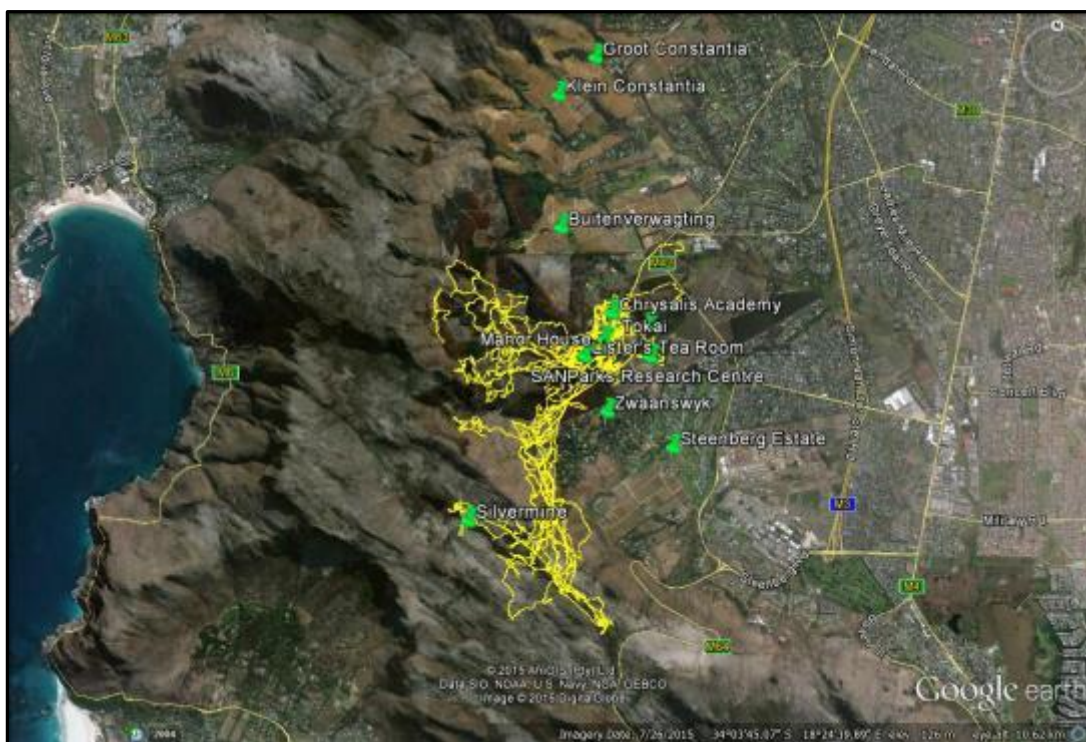


Figure 14: Tokai Troop movement for the August reporting period.

In previous months the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops only moved up to Silvermine on clear, sunny days. However, during this month it was noted that the baboons moved up the mountain even on cold, rainy and overcast days. This indicates that the troops are becoming more used to Silvermine, and there is sufficient forage up there to endure the cold and rain that occurs higher up the mountain.

During July (see July monthly report), TK46 left the troop to forage alone, mainly around the Cape Academy. This was the beginning of TK46 dispersing from the Tokai Troop. We made several attempts to cage capture TK46 while he was around the Cape Academy, however he never entered the cage.

On 31 July 2015, it was reported to HWS that TK46 was witnessed entering a property near the Cape Academy, and unfortunately attacked and killed by two dogs on the property. The owners of the dogs were questioned by CapeNature, and confirmed the story.

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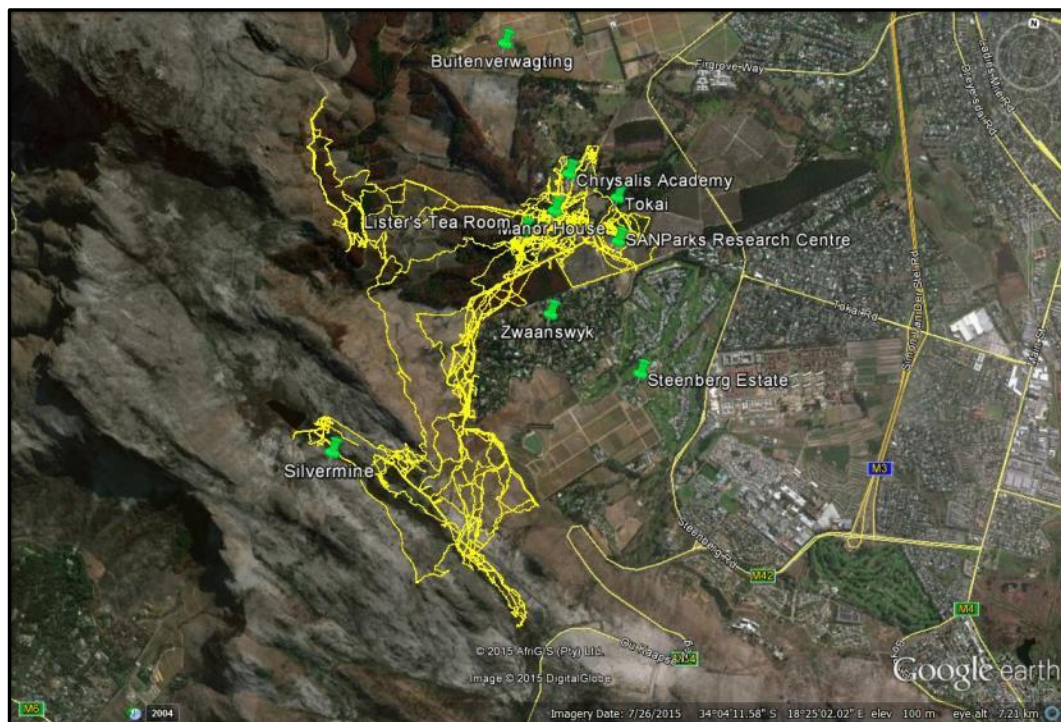


Figure 17: Zwaanswyk Troop movement for the August reporting period..

3. Constantia Troop

The Constantia Troop is no longer a single troop, and for purposes of reporting has been split into Constantia Troop 1 (CT1) and Constantia Troop 2 (CT2).

Klein Constantia and Buitenverwagting wine estates have both started erecting electric fences around their vineyards this month in an effort to keep the Constantia and Mountain Troops off the vineyards.

a. CT1 Troop

The CT1 Troop split their time this month between the far northern side of Vlakkenberg, as well as above Klein Constantia and around the Bike Trials.

On the Northern side of Vlakkenberg, the CT1 Troop was allowed to forage right up to Price Drive. The baboons foraged on the numerous silver trees in this area, and on the new post-fire growth. HWS considered it necessary to allow the troop to forage in the natural vegetation near Price Drive, however this made management of the males particularly difficult.

There are eight adult male baboons and at least two large sub-adult males in the Constantia troops at present, so it is not possible to monitor all of them as well as make sure that the troop does not raid town. As a result, on numerous occasions various males managed to break the line and run through to Price Drive and Bellair Drive. This spike in raiding is clearly seen in this month's raid sheets.

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Roost:	PM	1+3	1	1	3+6	1+6	1	1	1	1	1	1+6	1+3	1+3	1	1	1	1	1+6	1+6	1+6	1+6	1	1	1	1	1+6	1+6	1+6	3+6	1	1+3	1	1	3+6	6																									
Roost Sites		1					Upper Gums					2					Lower Gums					3					Bike Trail Gums					4					Middle Plantation KC					5					McKenzie's					6					Other				
ID Features of Baboons																																																													
General remarks																																																													

Figure 18: Constantia Troops (CT1 and CT2) raid sheet for August 2015. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place in the non-urban area.

Residents in Price Drive and Bellair Drive have numerous fruit trees that attract baboons. Additionally we noticed that many residents do not use baboon-proof bins, and leave their doors and windows open. In addition, properties in this area are very large and as such HWS rangers had a tough time getting the males back to the troop.

We urge all residents in Price Drive and Bellair Drive to baboon-proof their bins and homes, and remove all fruit trees, as this attracts baboons to the area.

On 25 August 2015, TK15 left the CT1 troop and moved into Constantia. TK15 was found in Parish Road, and spent the remainder of the day sitting in trees and moving through properties. HWS managers attempted to cage capture TK15, however this was unsuccessful. TK15 slept near Fern Close in Constantia on 25 August 2015. The following day TK15 was successfully darted and taken to the Westlake holding facility. No raids were evident from this baboon during his time in the urban area.

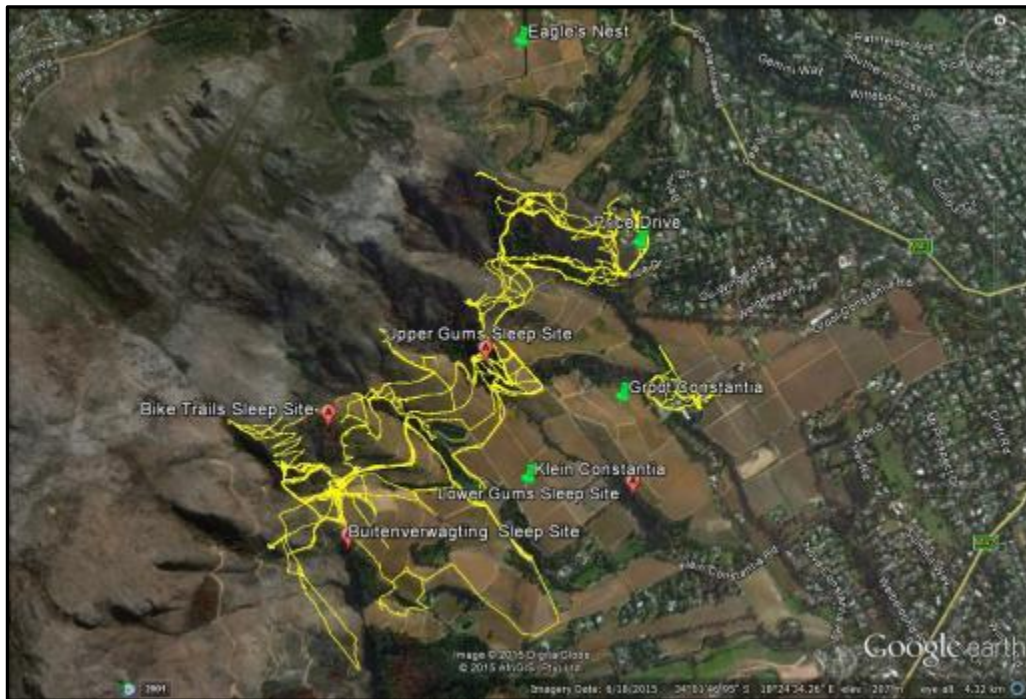


Figure 19: Constantia 1 Troop movement for the August reporting period.

TK15 was assessed in the Westlake holding facility by the City of Cape Town's veterinarian, the SPCA and BRU Researchers. Upon inspection it became apparent that TK15 was unwell, from a suspected blow to the head. It is unknown the cause of this. Additionally, TK15 had poor dental health and was a very old baboon. He was classed as a displaced male, as he was no longer able to maintain his social standing within the troop.

Given his condition and displacement, TK15 was euthanized as a welfare case, following WAAC approval.

b. CT2 Troop

The CT2 Troop spent their time this month above Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting. They were rarely seen, and not actively managed by HWS rangers. The tracking data (Figure 20) were collected only when the troop was seen and followed for a significant amount of time.

Towards the end of the month the CT1 and CT2 Troops were found foraging together peacefully. However, despite spending the day together, they still slept at separate sleep sites.

On some occasions this month CT2 ventured very high up into the mountains, heading towards the mast at the top of Constantiaberg. This area has excellent natural fynbos, which is recovering well after the fire, and hence provides sufficient forage for this troop.

Any raiding from CT2 has been on the houses on the farms, and unfortunately it is very difficult to gain accurate records of these.

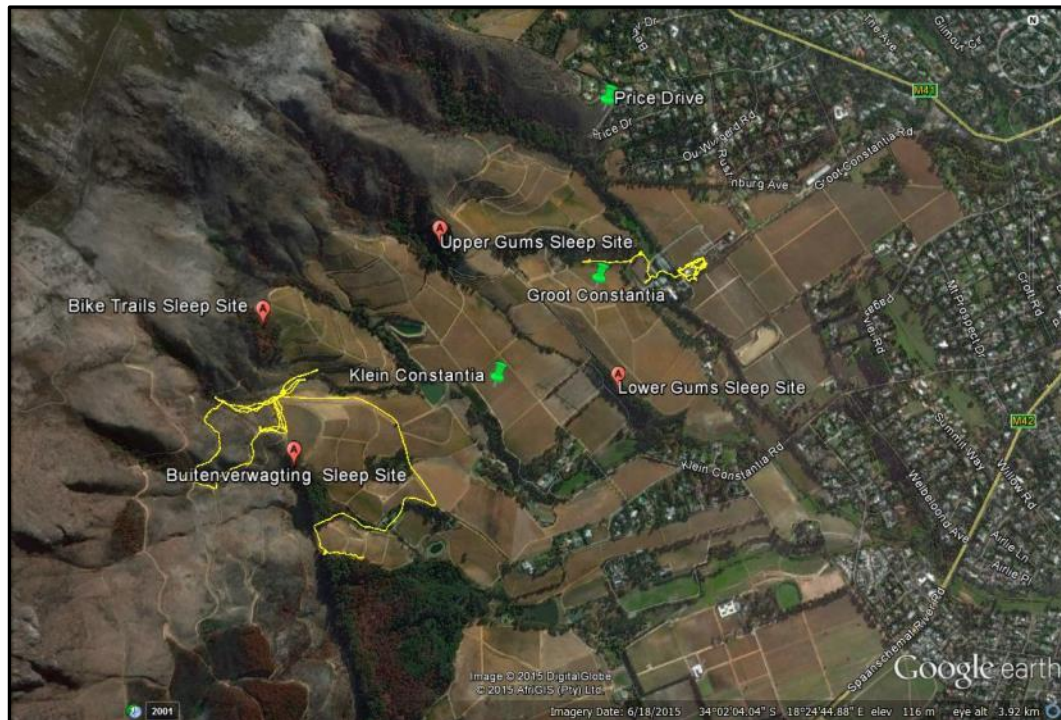


Figure 20: Constantia 2 Troop movement for the August reporting period.

4. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop have continued to be more noticeable this month than usual. This is possibly an influence of the March 2015 fires. In previous years the Mountain Troop has stayed high up in the mountains above Buitenverwagting, and were rarely seen. However given that the majority of their home range was burnt in the March 2015 fires, they are possibly extending their home range to lower down the mountain.

This month they were seen at Porter Estate at the bottom of Tokai Plantation, as well as in the lower sections of Buitenverwagting. They required active management from Buitenverwagting rangers to keep them off the farm and away from houses.

TK36 and TK3, adult males in the Mountain Troop, left the troop three times to raid bins at the Buitenverwagting staff complex and restaurant this month.

TK41, an adult male natal to the Tokai Troop, has continued to move with the Mountain Troop, and appears to have settled into this troop permanently. TK41 was only reported to have raided a bin once while with the Mountain Troop.

We received several calls this month on the Baboon Hotline about baboons in the private properties on Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting. The majority of these reports were about baboons in the gardens or those seen in the vicinity. We suspect that these were from the Mountain Troop, however no positive identification was given, and hence it's very difficult to prescribe these behaviours to specific baboons.

Unfortunately HWS do not have the man power to monitor the CT1, CT2 and Mountain Troops, as well as the males that leave these troops to raid. Our efforts are primarily placed on keeping baboons out of the urban area, and ensuring troops do not raid.

We urge all residents to continue to report raids to the baboon hotline, however precise details are needed if these are to be added to raid sheets. Information needed when reporting raiding activity includes area, behaviour of baboon, ID tag (coloured tags found in the ear), as well as time and date.

Births and Deaths

One juvenile from the Zwaanswyk Troop was struck and killed by a car while crossing Ou Kaapse Weg.

TK15, a displaced and old adult male from the Constantia Troop was euthanized as a welfare case following WAAC approval.

One dead infant was reported in the CT1 troop, cause of death is unknown.

Two new born baboons were seen in the Zwaanswyk Troop this month.

One new born was reported in the Tokai Troop.

Recommendations

- **Properties on Price Drive and Bellair Drive** are advised to remove all fruit trees, and to ensure they have and use baboon-proof bins. Additionally, these residents should ensure their homes are baboon-proof by securing burglar bars and gates at all access points into their homes.
- **Residents that live on wine farms** are advised to ensure their properties are fully baboon-proof and to report accurate raiding information to Human Wildlife Solutions, through the baboon hotline: 071 588 6540.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

In contrast to last month, when there were no births, this month nine births were recorded. In the past, no seasonal trend in terms of births has been evident, but it is pertinent to note that this

sudden spurt of births has coincided with early spring when more forage becomes available to the baboons.

Similarly, there was a surprisingly high number of births (four) in the Slangkop troop this month. However, this observation is unlikely to be of any significance in terms of population trends.

TROOP	Total Dec 2012	Total Dec 2013	Total Dec 2014	Aug Births	Aug Deaths	Total Births 2015	Total Deaths 2015	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	45	43			7	5	45
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	22			3	1	24
Waterfall	28	30	30		1	3	4	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	13	17			0	1	16
Misty Cliffs	18	16	14	2		5	8	11
Slangkop	33	32	36	4		5	2	39
SUB TOTAL	175	157	162	6	1	23	21	164
Zwaanswyk	25	26	28	2	1	6	6	28
Tokai	61	65	72	1		5	17	60
Mountain	33	44	48			1	0	49
Constantia 1 & 2	60	63	70		2	10	5	75
SUB TOTAL	179	198	218	3	3	22	28	212
TOTAL	354	355	380	9	4	45	49	376

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

Deaths	2012*	2013	2014	August 2015	2015 to Date
Management	16 (6)	17	7	2	6
Human Induced	3	5	10	1	6
Natural	6 (1)	33	19	1	34
TOTAL	25	55	36	4	49

Table 2: Causes of baboon deaths since 2012. (* Portion of total collected prior to HWS taking over baboon management in August 2012, is included in brackets.).

Hotline Data

Although there were approximately double the number of hotline calls this month, compared to last, there are still some quite pleasing trends. One, is that for the first time in many months, Scarborough is not top of the list, but, with only nine calls, is actually fifth in terms of hotline calls recorded. This is because the rangers managed to keep the Misty Cliffs Troop in the CoGH Reserve for 29 of the 35 days of this reporting period, and kept them out of town for 94.8% of the time.

Most of the hotline calls came from Constantia and were mainly in response to individual males raiding in the Price Drive area. Most of these raids were undertaken by males from the CT1 Troop. With the split in the Constantia Troops, and the Mountain Troop becoming much more active lower down the mountain, the HWS rangers are fully occupied just trying to keep all these troops out of town, let alone manage individual males as well. There are at least 8 fully adult males and several subadult males in the Constantia Troops. It is therefore extremely difficult to monitor the movements of them all, in addition to keeping the troops under control. As soon as one sends rangers to retrieve an individual raiding in town, it inevitably creates a weakness in the line holding the troop out of town. Individuals raiding town are always a feature of this time of year, and no doubt the fire in March has made the situation worse.

The high number of hotline calls from Tokai is also in response to an unusual situation, with virtually all the calls being made in response to the exploratory movements of two dispersing males, TK15 and TK46. One of these males was killed by dogs while visiting their property, and the other was euthanased on welfare grounds with WAAC approval.

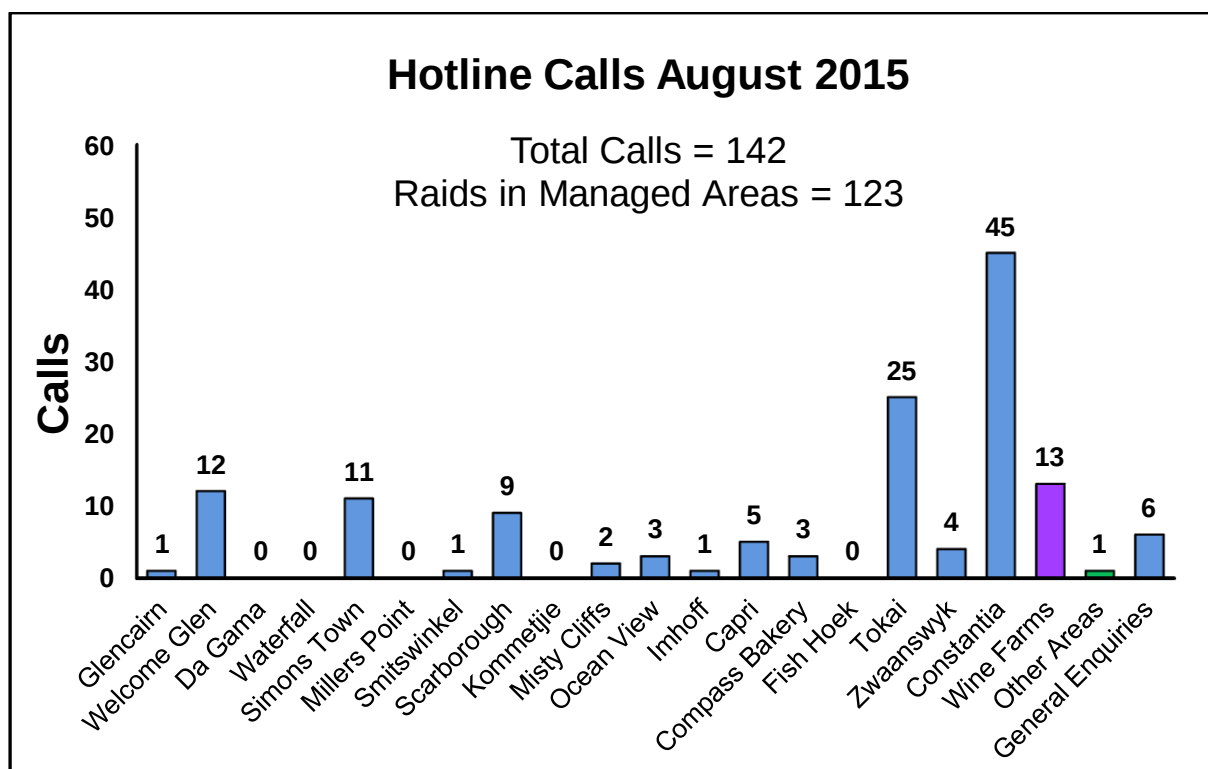


Figure 21: Hotline calls summary per urban area

Simonstown also had an unusually high number of calls this month, and these were largely in response to the old alpha male, RH2, the young adult male WF3 and the old female WFF4 taking the troop down to the naval barracks in town.

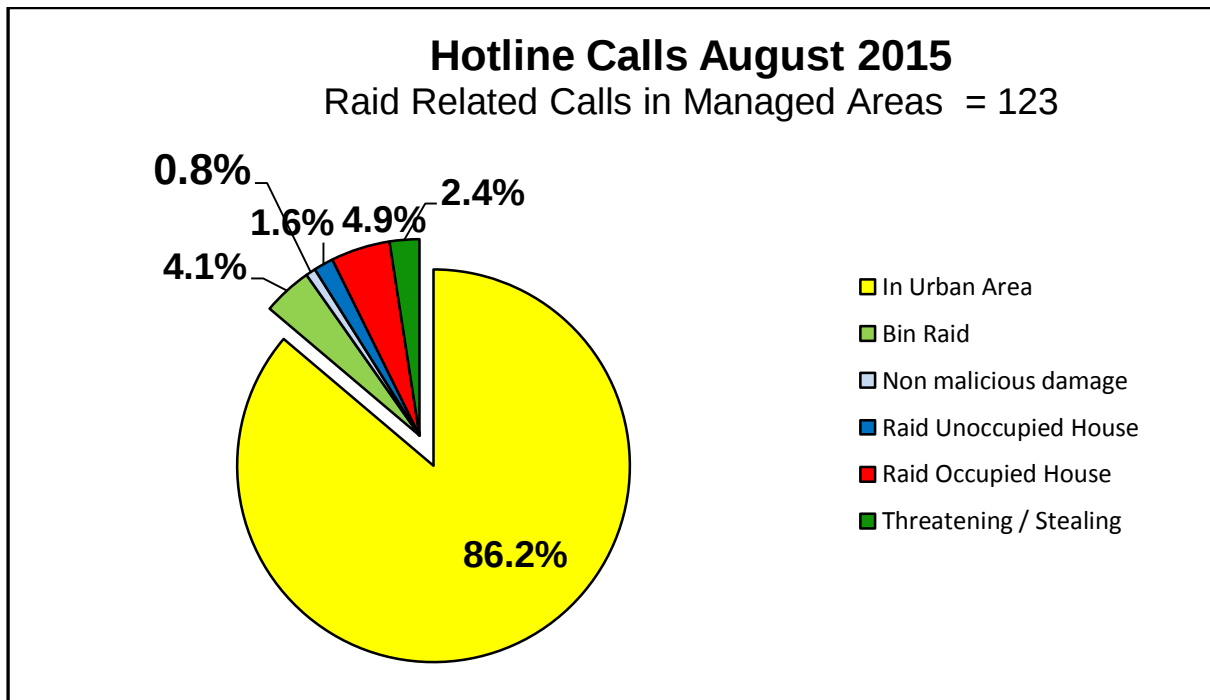


Figure 22: Composition of raid-related hotline calls

In terms of the composition of hotline calls, over 90% of all calls were either just reporting baboons in town, or bin raids. As usual, raiding of occupied houses was the next highest reason for calling, but these only accounted for 4.9% of all hotline calls.

Percentage Time out of Town

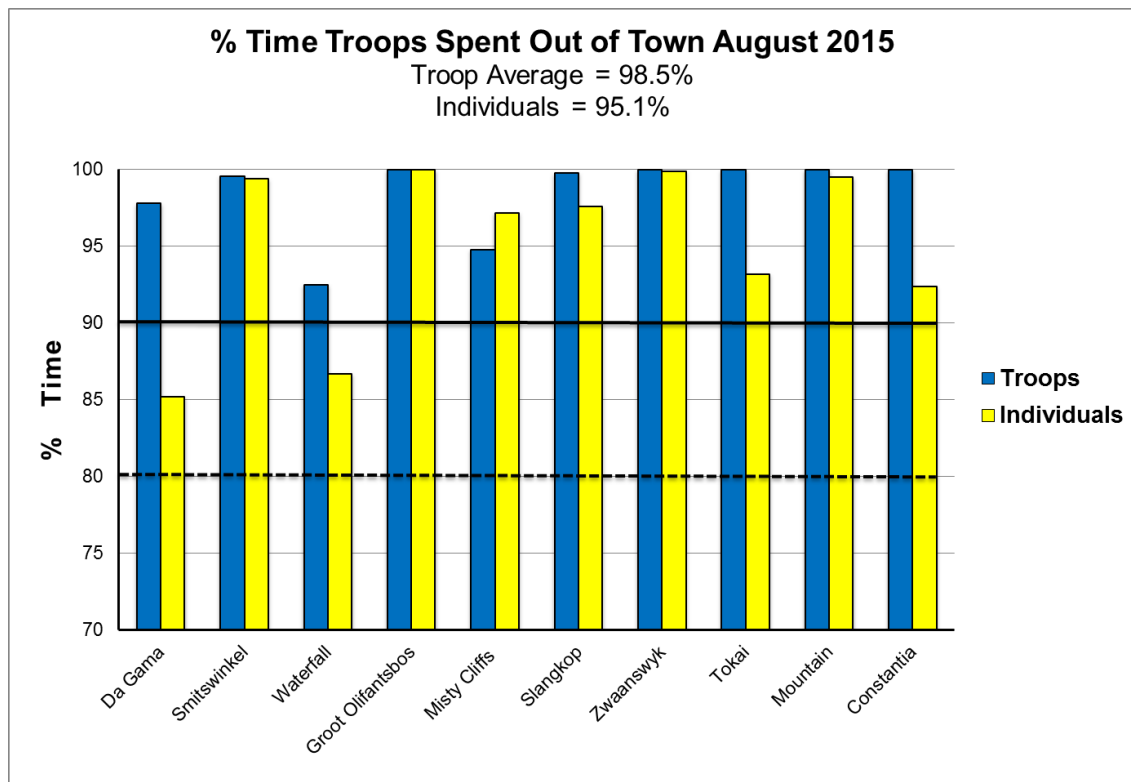


Figure 23: Percentage time troops spent out of town, solid line indicates the CoCT's 2014 contract requirement and the broken line indicates the 2012 contract requirement.

This month the Misty Cliffs Troop has shown another significant improvement in spending time out of town, while the Waterfall Troop showed a significant decline. This was largely the result of the alpha male, WF1, taking the troop back to town, particularly the naval barracks. On many occasions he seemed to be following the old female WFF4. This female is very old and it has become an annual pattern with her towards the end of winter to break back to town for HDF's.

Conclusion

August is generally a month which can be considered the end of winter and the start of spring, and the baboon behaviour over the past month reflects this. There were an unusually high number of hotline calls this month, but they were mostly reporting dispersing males or individuals leaving their troops to raid alone.

The large amount of time the troops in the north spent higher up the mountain, particularly in Silvermine, reflect the spring growth as well as how well the upper reaches of the mountain are recovering from the fire. Nevertheless, the high number of adult males in the two Constantia Troops and the high number of hotline calls made in response to them raiding town, and the farms, is a worrying feature that needs to be addressed.

Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions