



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

September 2015

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A. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period 29 August until 25 September 2015. Spring has arrived in full force and there is an abundance of fresh flowering fynbos vegetation available to the baboons. The data on baboon movements and time spent out of town clearly reflect this. This month HWS equalled its record, of baboon troops being out of town 99.8% of the time. Furthermore, the two troops which traditionally are the worst behaved of all, have shown marked improvements. The Da Gama Troop was out of town 100% of the time, and the Misty Cliffs Troop has improved by over 12% over the past two months, averaging 99.1% time out of town for September, and spending only part of one day in town.

In the areas affected by the fire in the north, the troops are also doing very well, feeding on the nutritious fresh growth that followed the fire. The regrowth of vegetation in areas where there were plantations has generally been quite poor, most probably because of the greater heat of the fire there and most of the organic matter, including seeds, being burnt. However, higher up the mountain in the natural fynbos, the regeneration after the fire has been good and the baboon troops have been feeding extensively on the fresh growth in the Silvermine Reserve and on Vlakkenberg.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Smitswinkel troop had a particularly quiet month in terms of raiding. The troop was kept out of town 100% of the time. Although this is very positive news for the troop, it has a worrying aspect in that these baboons have been utilizing the northern section of their home range and pushing further north than they have in several years.

The baboons spend a considerable amount of time above Murdock Valley, high on top of the mountain. This is not a problem *per se*, but it could become a problem if they decided to run down to raid in the urban area. This area is too steep for the rangers to climb, so here it is impossible for the rangers to block the troop from going further north.

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: September	YEAR: 2015	3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																	
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
SWB6	M																													
Troop																													1	1
UnID Individuals																														
UnID Fem	F																													
SWBF1	F																													
SWB8	M																													
UnID Male	M																													
UnID Juveniles																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS
Troop	0.1																												10	0.17
Individuals	0.0																													0.00
Roost:	AM	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	1	5	5	3	6	1	2	4	4	5	5	5	3	1	1	2	5	5	5	
Roost:	PM	4	3	5	5	5	5	3	2	1	5	5	3	6	6	2	4	4	5	5	5	3	1	1	1	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: Smitswinkel Troop raid sheet for September 2015.

On 14 September there was a very heavy thunderstorm on the southern peninsula and a lightning strike set the mountain alight just above Murdock Valley and Rockland's Farm. The troop could luckily be pushed down to Miller's Point and slept there that night. During the night Ziggy Rode, Cath Shutte and Fanus Ferreira went out to ensure that the fire was not endangering the baboons. Luckily the wind turned and it started to rain just in time and the fire did not come close to the baboons.

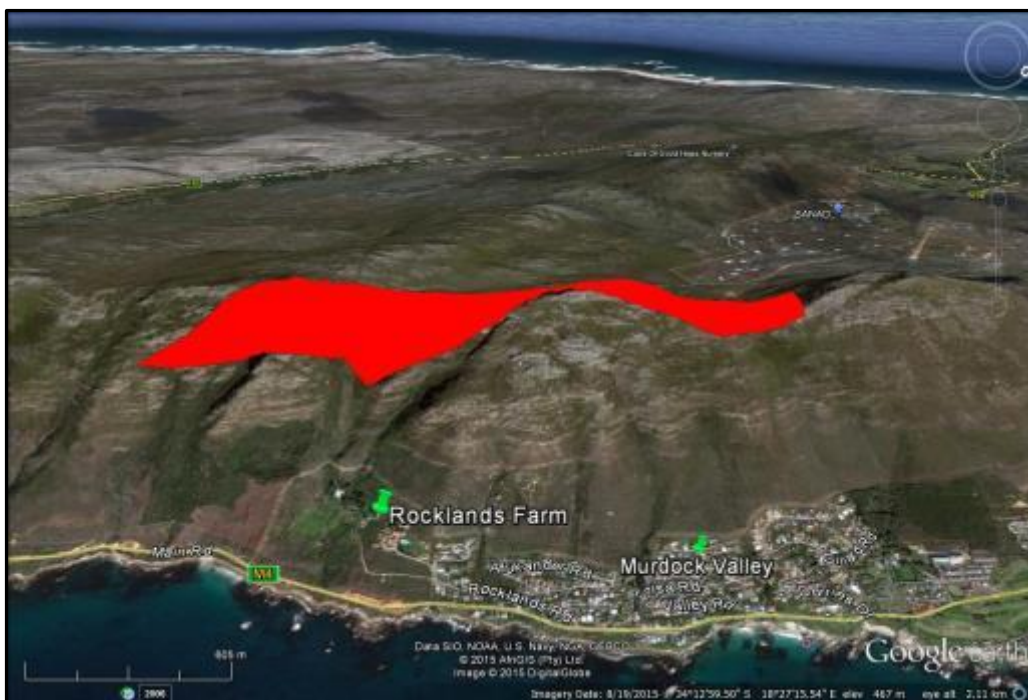


Figure 2: Red area indicating the burnt area above Murdock Valley and Rocklands.

2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop slept 47% of the time at the cliffs above the Waterfall Barracks and only 43% at SANAD (South African Naval Ammunition Depot)/Red Hill sleep site; this meant that the troop spent more time around the urban area than in previous months. As highlighted in previous reports, RH2 continued to break the line to get into the urban area, which also led to the troop spending more time around the urban edge.

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:		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																		
MONTH: September		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																		
YEAR: 2015																															
BABOON ID		Sex	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	TOTAL
Troop						1			1	1																					3
RH2		M						2	1,2		6	1																			5
TK19		M																	2	1				1	2		1,2	2,2,1		7,2,2	12
TK42		M																			2					1					2
WFF3		F																										1			1
WFF4		F																													0
UnID Females		F					5	2	1	6		1									2							2		7	8
UnID Juveniles								2	1			1							1	1	1							2		7	8
UnID Male		M																													0
UnID Individuals							2				1																		1		3
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS			
Troop		0.5				15			35	50																				1.67	
Individuals		5.6					25	30	80	50	40	75							55	45	5			10	196	20	90	185		170	17.93
Roost:		AM	1	1	1	2	10	6	2	2	1	2	1	10	10	10	10	9	3	2	2	10	9	10	10	9	9	2	1	1	
Roost:		PM	1	1	2	10	9	1	2	1	2	2	10	10	10	10	9	9	2	2	10	9	10	10	9	10	2	1	1	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 - Yellow Tag & Collar; TK19 - Red/White Tag & Collar; TK42 - Yellow/Blue Tag & Collar																												
General remarks																															

Figure 3: Waterfall Troop raid sheet for September 2015.

RH2 was an old male, approximately 17 years, with a very bad raiding history, which was being exacerbated by his age and poor dental health. An application for his euthanasia was therefore put into WAAC, and was approved. It was decided to relocate two dispersing, but non-raiding males, from the troops in the north, in order to bring new blood to the south, and also to give some males a realistic opportunity for dispersal. Two adult males from the northern troops – TK42 and TK19 – were chosen for relocation. They were given the opportunity to settle down and be accepted by the troop before RH2 was euthanased on 23 September, 2015.

TK42 was a young dispersing male, which had no significant raiding history and had been attempting to disperse in the north. He was caught at Chrysalis Academy and appeared to be a good candidate for

relocation to the south. Shortly thereafter, TK19 left the Constantia troop and was caught in Bergvliet. TK19 is however an older male and it is more likely that he was being displaced, as opposed to dispersing. He also had no raiding history, so it was decided that these two males could be relocated together. This was considered because it would double the chances of at least one of the males bonding with the females in the troop.

Furthermore, if the two males were to bond, then they would present a more powerful force against GOB7, the GOB alpha male, who had recently been challenging RH2 and trying to access the Waterfall females. The effect of this had been to push the Waterfall troop further east and thereby encouraging the troop to raid SANAD and Simonstown itself.

On 14 September, the female, WFF4, who used to raid with RH2 broke the line and went to raid the Waterfall Barracks during the heavy thunderstorm, and the whole troop quickly followed.

Between 12 and 16 September TK19 went in and out of the troop, staying for a couple of hours at a time and then leaving again. But from the 17th of September he started spending more and more time by himself.



Figure 4: Waterfall Troop movement for the September reporting period.

Noteworthy in this troop, is also that two females seem to have mange again. Both these females seem to be old and the one appears to be the same female that has had it in the previous years. This occurrence of mange was noticed just after the troop had spent a long period in and around the Happy Valley Shelter and Waterfall Barracks in late August.

3. Da Gama Troop

It is probably the first time in the history of HWS that the Da Gama Troop has not spent any time in town. The only recordings for time in town have been for individuals but none for the entire troop. This has been one of the major goals that the team has been working towards and although there is still much work to be done, it is a huge milestone that has been achieved with this troop.

This success can be ascribed mainly to the fact that the troop spent 14 nights out of town, predominantly at Grootkop and at Maylands and once at Witsands sleep site. The other nights the troop slept on the edge of town in the pines at Dalgleish or at the Da Gama flats. When the troop just enters the edge of town to sleep, and then moves straight out again in the morning without heading towards town or raiding, then this is considered no time in town.

The time this troop's individuals spent in town also improved considerably from 17.3% in town in July, to 13.3% in August and only 9.3% in September. The improved veld condition of late spring must certainly have played a big role in the troop spending more time in the mountain.

It is also worth mentioning that the waste management at the Naval flats has mostly been far better managed over September. Bin days have been far less chaotic, with the individuals that stayed in town spending much less time going through the waste than usual. It was noteworthy to see that in the residential area, several residents have started laying their bins down instead of letting them stand upright and this has assisted management because the baboons have not been able to toss the bins and thereby get the lids to snap open. This has been of great assistance and it is hoped that this behaviour will continue and spread throughout the community.

TK43 is most certainly now the alpha male of the Da Gama troop with SK3 the beta male. Although there is still some fighting from time to time it is less severe than in the beginning and it does seem like the two males might be heading towards a level of stability. The last big fight between the two males was on 1 September, which left both males with lacerations, however both of them recovered from their wounds. This fight seems to have been the final fight in the challenge for alpha status, and SK3 has not challenged TK43 again.

The individuals responsible for time spent in town were usually raiding parties consisting of the young sub-adult males and at times SK3.



Figure 5: SK3 can be seen with a laceration on his left shoulder after the fight on 1 September.

These parties were often joined by females and/or juveniles, who split off from the troop. The main instigators of these raids were DG13, 14, 15 & 16. They are all of similar age and this is of major concern for the future when they will reach dispersing age.

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: September		YEAR: 2015		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																	
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL		
Troop																														0		
SK3	M	1	2	1				2		2								1	1			1			1	1		1	2	12		
DG13 (W)	M									2								1	1								1			4		
DG14 (O-G)	M									2								1		2	1	1		1	1	1			2	9		
DG15 (R-W)	M									2								1			1			1		1			2	6		
DG16	M			1						2													6			1				5		
TK43 (W-W)	M							2							2						1									2		
DGF1	F																													0		
DGF2	F																									1				1		
DGF4	F																				1					1		1		3		
UnID Females	F	1	1	1						2								1							1	1	1	1	2	10		
UnID Female	F	1	1		2													1			1				1	1				7		
UnID Individuals																			1	2,9	9		9	9			1	1	2	9		
UnID Juvs										2										2,2		1			1	1	1	1	2	9		
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS					
Troop	0.0																													0.00		
Individuals	9.3	77	96	30					15		140							105	43	80	79	82		305	30	156	105	180	270	29.88		
Roost:	AM	2	5	2	2	20	20	20	20	25	20	17	17	20	20	20	11	20	20	2	2	1,2	1,2	1,2	2	1,2	1,2	2,3	2	3,2		
Roost:	PM	5	2	2	2	20	20	20	20	25	20	17	17	20	20	20	11	20	20	2	2	1,2	1,2	2	1,2	1,2	2	2,3	1	2		
Roost Sites		1 Flats				2 Pines - Flats				3 Pines - Da Gama				4 Pines - WG				5 Sport Fields Stabl														
		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: Da Gama Troop raid sheet for September 2015.

Another concern this month was that there were individuals walking around for about four nights, until approximately 9pm, through the urban area. On some nights these individuals only jumped on roofs and alarmed residents, but at times they also walked around and tossed bins over. This is quite unusual because most other troops are fast asleep by 9pm.

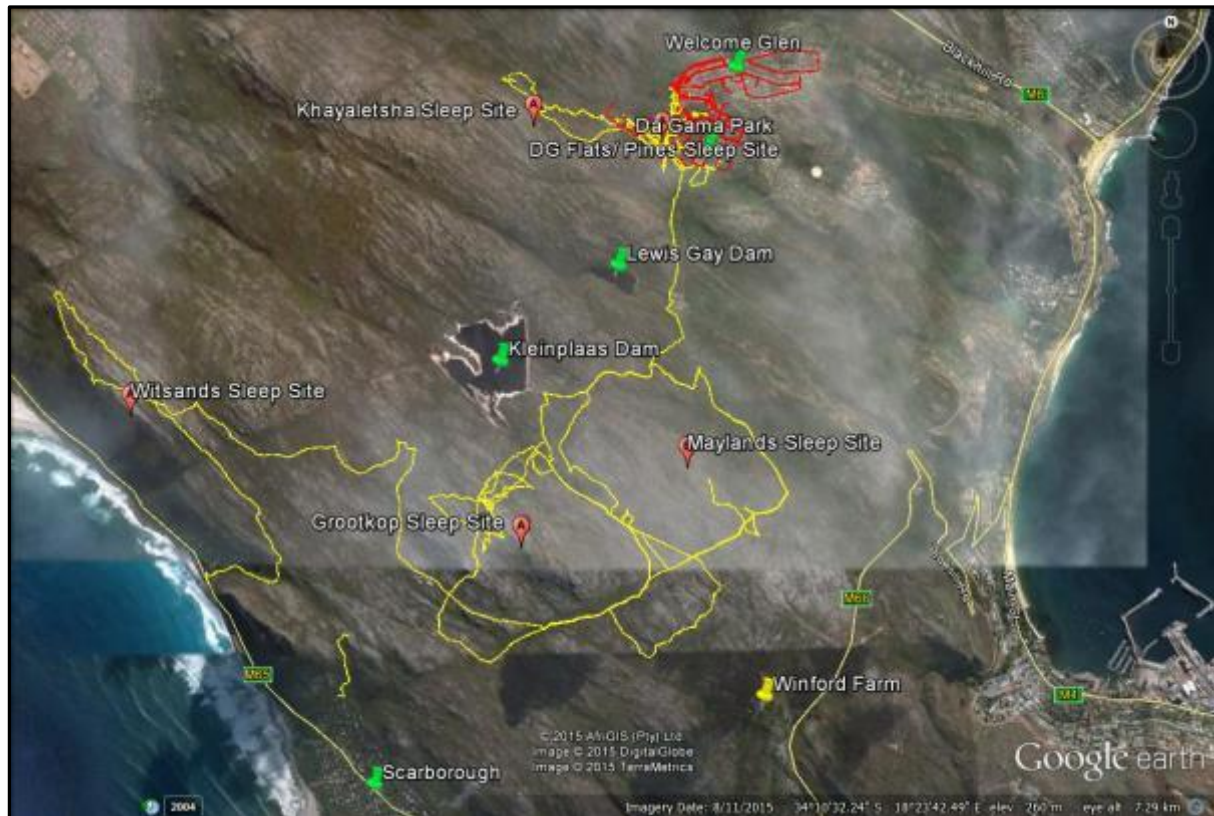


Figure 7: Da Gama troop movement, yellow lines indicating the troop and the red lines indicating the raiding individuals, for the September reporting period.

Births and Deaths

1 Adult male euthanized, Waterfall Troop – 11 September 2015

Recommendations

- An **education and awareness** campaign should be considered by all the Stakeholders for Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park again, because there has been no campaign in a long time.
- A **progress report** on the new bin bays at the Navy flats in Da Gama Park would be of great assistance.
- **Baboon proofing** of the entrances, air vents and windows of the Navy flats in Da Gama Park is still an urgent requirement.

- **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 or cleaned of their fruit 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.
- **Long term solutions for laying the power lines** along the Elsie's River Valley (that runs between the Water Works and Da Gama Park) underground should be started. Greasing of the poles has been started as a short term solution.

South Western Region – Area Manager: Lana Müller

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)

The Groot Olifantsbos (GOB) Troop remained within the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) for the majority of this month. While inside the reserve, the troop roosted mainly on the rocky outcrop behind the Klaasjagersberg SANParks offices or at the Olifantsbos sleep site. On a few occasions the troop was found sleeping outside the reserve, in the pine trees at the Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre.

The troop spent the majority of the reporting period foraging on the natural vegetation inside the CoGH Reserve. They foraged at Blackwaters on the fynbos vegetation, on the coastal vegetation along the beach as well as on the variety of organisms in the intertidal zone. While outside the reserve, they foraged on the mountain behind the Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre, as well as on the natural fynbos vegetation surrounding the Cape of Good Hope Nursery.

GOB7 (the alpha-male), left his troop on a few occasions this month to pursue two of the Misty Cliffs Troop's females who were in oestrus. On all of these occasions, the rest of the GOB Troop remained within the CoGH reserve and GOB7 was moved swiftly back to the troop by HWS rangers.

On 30 August, the GOB Troop was foraging behind the Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre when the Waterfall Troop moved into the area, a fight broke out between GOB7 and the Waterfall Troop's alpha male, RH2. The rangers managed to move the Waterfall Troop further up the mountain, and the GOB Troop continued to forage on the lower slopes closer to the Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre.

2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)

The Misty Cliffs Troop spent the majority of this month foraging on the natural fynbos vegetation within the CoGH Reserve. The troop spent 27 nights roosting at the Bonteberg sleep site, inside the CoGH Reserve and 1 night outside the CoGH Reserve on the cliffs between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs.

While in the reserve, the rangers held the line on top of Bonteberg and the troop enjoyed the nutritious forage of coastal vegetation and the variety of organisms in the intertidal zone. On a few occasions, the troop would move to Blackwaters to forage and groom, strengthening social bonds.



Figure 8: Movements of the rangers managing the Misty Cliffs Troop during September. (Note the rangers hold the line on the Bonteberg Ridge leaving the troop to forage undisturbed while along the coast or further south in the COGH Reserve).

On 6 September, the troop was found in the reserve and spent the morning foraging on the natural vegetation. During the late morning, three baboons broke the line and entered Scarborough. They spent 37 minutes in town before being joined by another two individuals, who had broken away from the rest of the troop in the reserve. The five baboons spent a further 80 minutes in town before moving up to the cliffs above Scarborough. The rangers managed to hold the line along the Cape of Good Hope Reserve fence, preventing the remainder of the troop from entering the urban space.

These individuals did not make another attempt to enter the urban space because the Da Gama Troop had moved over the mountain and were raiding in Scarborough. The five individuals, of the Misty Cliffs Troop, remained on the cliffs above Scarborough and ended up roosting on the cliffs between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs. The remainder of the Misty Cliffs Troop roosted inside the reserve.

The following day, 7 September, the remainder of the Misty Cliffs Troop broke out of the reserve. They joined up with the 5 individuals on the cliffs between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs and they spend the day foraging on the mountain. They slept on the cliffs between Scarborough and Misty Cliffs that night and were moved back into the CoGH Reserve the following day, where they remained for the rest of the month.

On five occasions the alpha male from the GOB Troop, GOB7, entered the Misty Cliffs Troop and attempted to mate with two of the females who were in oestrus. The troop becomes very unsettled when GOB7 attempts to mate with the females. They scream, run and attempt to hide from him because two of the females have infants. On every occasion HWS rangers managed to move GOB7 out of the troop and back to his troop as quickly as possible.

The Misty Cliffs Troop as a whole only spent 180 minutes in town this month. This occurred on 8 September while the troop was being moved back into the reserve. During this time no raids occurred. The HWS rangers kept the troop inside the CoGH Reserve for the remainder of the reporting period.

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: September		YEAR: 2015		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																		
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL			
MC3 (Older Male)	M																													0			
MC4 (Younger Male)	M									1																				1			
Females	F									1																				1			
Juveniles																														0			
Troop												1																		1			
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS							
Troop	0.9											180																		3.00			
Individuals	0.6										117																			1.95			
Roost:	AM	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4,1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4				
Roost:	PM	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4,1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4				
Roost Sites				1	Scarborough				2	Misty Cliffs				3	Witsand				4	CoGH Reserve				5	Other								
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks				1 Birth reported on 1 September																													

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

3. Slangkop Troop

This month the Slangkop Troop spent 17 nights roosting in the pine tree stands behind Ocean View and 11 nights at the Compass Bakery sleep site.

The troop spent most of the month foraging in the natural vegetation on the mountain above the Rasta Camp in Ocean View, and along the stream running in between the Compass Bakery sleep site and Ocean View. On a few occasions they also foraged under the pines above Ocean View and on two occasions they foraged at Solole Reserve.

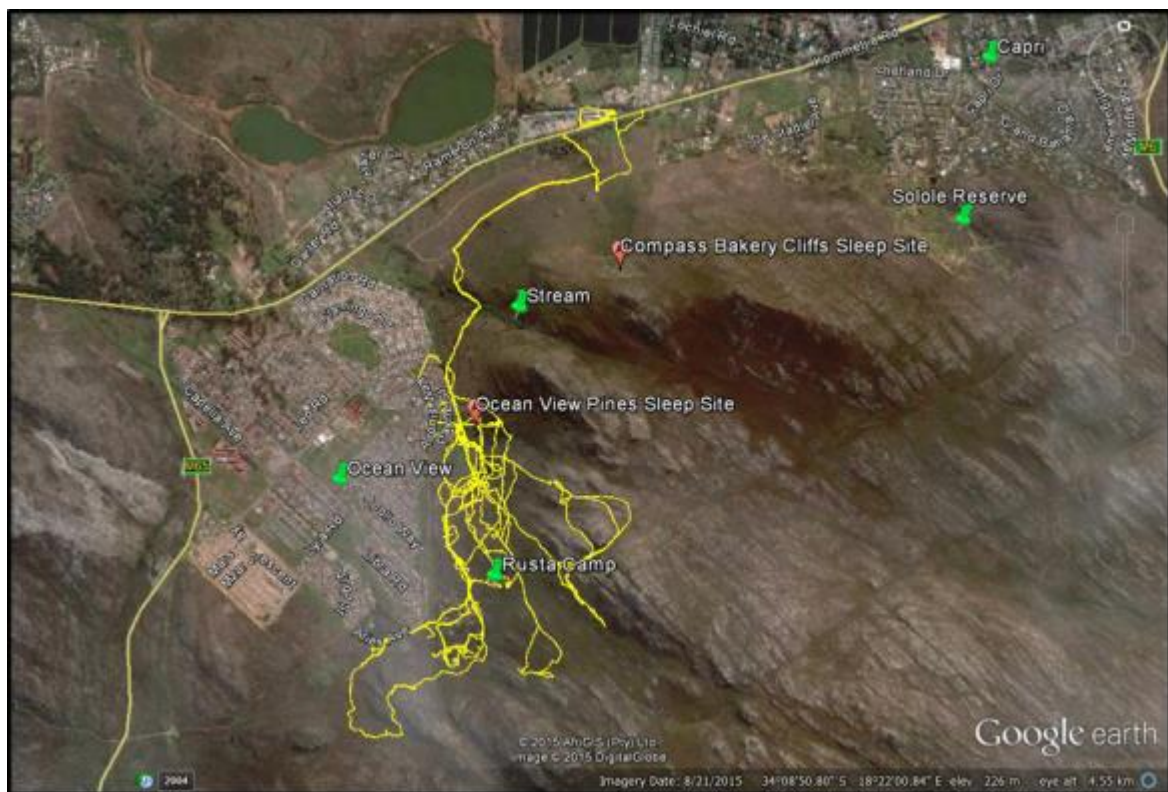


Figure 10: Slangkop Troop movement for the September reporting period.

The highest number of individual raids this month, can again be attributed to SK6 (sub-adult male), which raided bins on three occasions at both Compass Bakery and Ocean View. Although SK6 was responsible for most of the individual raids (three this month), they are significantly less than last month (where he raided bins on 13 occasions). This decline is most probably related to the increase in natural forage now available during spring. On 15 September, SK6 broke the line and was found sitting on the roof of a house in Ocean View. He was moved out by rangers seven minutes later and no raids were recorded.

The next highest number of raids can be attributed to DG6 (alpha male) and two or three adult females, which raided bins on three occasions. The troop as a whole entered the urban space on two occasions. In both instances the troop entered Big Capri and raided bins. The longest time that the troop spent in the urban area was 40 minutes and this occurred when the troop was in Big Capri.

During the previous reporting period, the troop raided Rogers Fruiters on numerous occasions. It is important to note that HWS Rangers worked hard at keeping the troop away from Rogers Fruiters, and at no time during this month were there any raids at Rogers Fruiters. The number of raids and time in town, for both individuals and the troop, is considerably lower than the previous month. This is due to intensive management of the troop and individuals. Furthermore, the owners at Rodgers Fruiters followed the recommendations of HWS and CapeNature, and are currently in the process of building a baboon-proof enclosure for their geese to assist with baboon management.

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: September		YEAR: 2015		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																								
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL									
DG6	M																2						2	2						3									
SKF1	F																													0									
SKF2	F																													0									
SK6 (Sub-Adult)	M				2					2								2	1	2			2	2						7									
Juveniles	M																													0									
Females	F									2								2						2						3									
Troop			2																			2								2									
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS								
Troop	0.4		28																			40								1.13									
Individuals	0.3				5					4							6	12	7	15			5	6						1.00									
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2										
Roost:	PM	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2										
Roost Sites		1				Slangkop				2				Ocean View				3				Compass Bakery				4				Witsand				5				Other	
ID Features of Baboons																																							
General remarks																																							

Figure 11: Slangkop Troop raid sheet for September 2015

The troop moved to the green water tank above the Rasta Camp on two occasions. On both occasions they spent a considerable amount of time there, drinking, grooming and foraging on the natural fynbos vegetation.

Births and Deaths

There was 1 birth in the Misty Cliffs Troop on 01 September.

Recommendations

- **Removal of Invasive Vegetation:** The patches of invasive alien vegetation situated above Ocean View and below the Compass Bakery sleep site need to be removed in order to improve management of the Slangkop Troop. The issue has been addressed with SANParks and is pending.
- **Rogers Fruiterers:** A follow up site visit needs to be conducted to check on the progress of the goose and chicken coop.

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

Once again the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troop spent much of their time together this month (Figure 12 map). They were either foraging in the lower sections of Tokai Plantation, or they were high up the mountain, at level 4, 5 and in Silvermine Reserve.

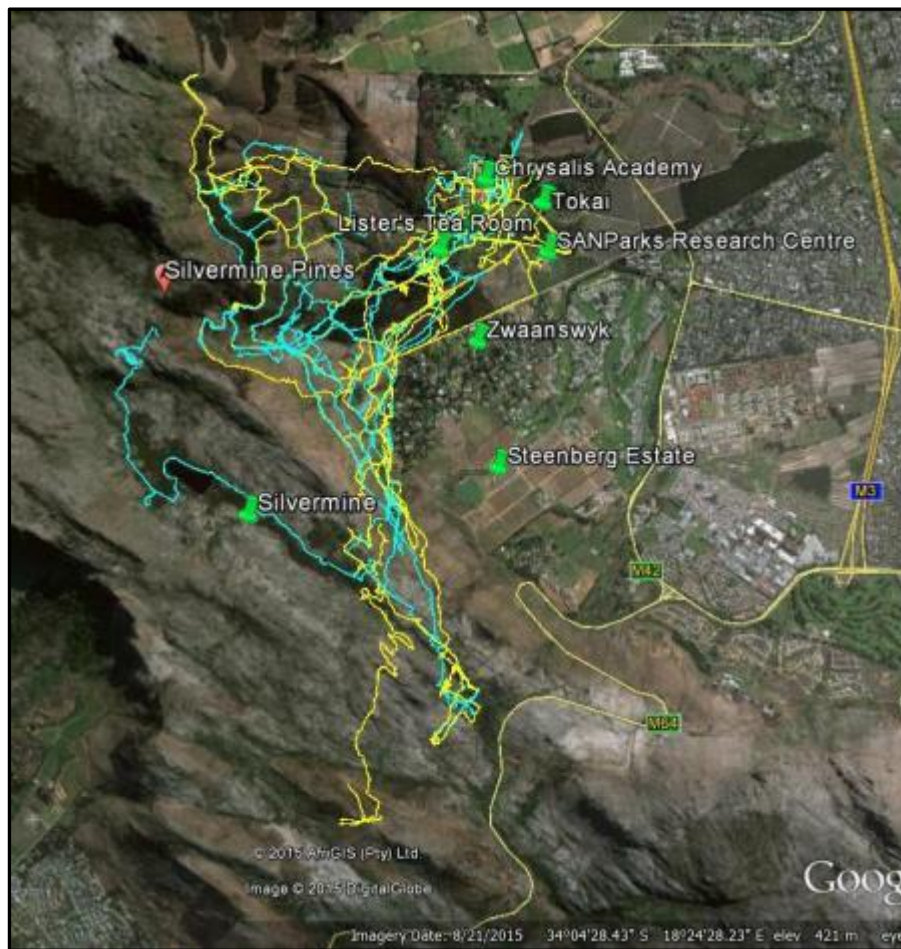


Figure 12: Tokai Troop movement (yellow) and Zwaanswyk Troop movement (blue) for the September reporting period.

The upper sections of the mountain, which contain more natural fynbos than the plantation, are recovering much faster than the pine plantations. When the pines burnt earlier this year, the heat from the fire in the pine trees left large portions of the plantation almost completely sterile. In contrast, the natural fynbos that burnt left behind a seed bank which was germinated by the fire, and hence is now growing well in the spring. As such we have found that the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troop have been focusing their foraging effort on the higher sections, which contain better, more natural forage (Figure 13).



Figure 13: The Tokai Troop foraging in Silvermine Reserve, enjoying the fresh spring growth.

The felling operations within Tokai Plantation are steadily continuing, and soon all the unnatural, burnt pines and gum trees within the plantation will all be removed. Whilst the southern baboon troops mostly roost on cliffs, the northern troops have, in recent memory, primarily roosted in trees. The removal of the pine and gum trees within the plantation are forcing the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops to find new sleep sites.

This month, the Tokai Troop were reported using two new sleep sites. They were reported regularly roosting in pine trees at Chrysalis Academy, Porter Estate. Additionally the Tokai Troop found a sleep sight in Silvermine Reserve, in a stand of pine trees at the edge of a cliff (Figure 14). Although they are still roosting in alien trees, they are one step closer to trying out a cliff sleep site.

Despite spending a significant time high up the mountain, TK28 and TK40, males from the Tokai Troop, still managed to raid a few times this month.

On several occasions, they left the troop and ran down the mountain in an attempt to raid. HWS rangers were able to stop the majority of these attempts, however occasionally they got past rangers and raided Chrysalis Academy, the Tokai Picnic Site and the Cape Academy.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
NORTH		1 In urban area				4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																					
BABOON TROOP:		2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																					
MONTH: September		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle				9 Nocturnal Raiding																					
Tokai		YEAR: 2015																													
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL	
TK28 (B-G)	M				1,2									6			2					1								5	
TK16 (W-W)	M																													0	
TK40 (P-Y) VHF Collar	M				1,2						6						2							5				7		6	
TK42 (B-Y)	M							5,5																						2	
MT3 (Pu-B)	M																													0	
Tokai Troop																									2					1	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS					
Troop	0.0																													0.00	
Individuals	0.2				15												15					10								0.67	
Roost:	AM	2	2	10	10	1	1	1	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	1	2	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	10	2	3	4	10	
Roost:	PM	2	7	10	1	1	1	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	1	2	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	10	2	3	4	10	1	
Roost Sites				1	Tea Garden				2	Lev 1 Zwk Gums				3	Lev 2 stream				4	Lev 4 Pines				5	Upper Tea Garden						
				6	Manor House				7	Picnic site 1				8	Picnic site 2				9	Middle Plantation				10	Chrysalis						
				11	Other				12					13					14					15							
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

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In the first week of September, TK42, a young non-raiding adult male natal to the Tokai Troop, started showing signs of dispersal. TK42 was spending time between the Tokai Troop and Zwaanswyk Troop, as well as spending time alone. On 4 September 2015, TK42 moved to the Tokai Picnic Site, and refused to be moved back to the Tokai Troop, despite rangers trying to move him in that direction.

This was a clear sign of dispersal, and hence the decision was made for TK42 to be captured and relocated to the south of the Peninsula, where non-raiding males are needed. TK42 was cage captured at the Tokai Picnic Site on 4 September, 2015. TK42 was collared at the Westlake holding facility, and together with another dispersing adult male baboon (TK19) from the Constantia Troop (see Constantia section), was translocated to join the Waterfall Troop a few days later.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop have been moving with the Tokai Troop for most of this month (Figure 12). They have also been foraging high up the mountain, in Silvermine Reserve, as well as in the lower sections of the Plantation around Porter Estate, and the Tea Garden. The Zwaanswyk Troop also slept in Silvermine Reserve, in the same stand of trees as the Tokai Troop for two nights this month (Figure 14).

It is pleasing to note how much time these two troops spend together, because this aids management. It's interesting to watch how the troops intermingle freely, with very little agonistic behaviour, even amongst the more dominant males. This is likely because these two troops were once one, and hence there are still strong kin relationships between them.

No raids were carried out during this month by the Zwaanswyk Troop (Figure 16). The alpha male MT2, and an adult female, TKF5, managed to get over the Zwaanswyk fence on 1 September 2015. They used the adjacent reservoir fence in Tokai Plantation to get over the Zwaanswyk fence (see August Monthly Report for more details).

Once inside Zwaanswyk, MT2 and TKF5 realised that the rest of the troop was not following, and returned back to the troop within 15 minutes (Figure 16). No raiding was evident.

The Zwaanswyk fence has since been extended upward where MT2 and TKF5 entered, and hence no more incursions into Zwaanswyk have been recorded. This is an excellent example of how well a baboon-proof fence works if it is properly maintained and monitored. A huge thank you goes out to the Zwaanswyk Association of Property Owners for erecting this fence and keeping it so well maintained.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																										
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																								
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																																			
BABOON TROOP:		Zwaanswyk	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle		8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																	
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2015	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle		9	Nocturnal Raiding																																	
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL												
MT2 (Yellow+collar)	M				1																									1												
TK45 (Untagged L. SA)	M																													0												
TKF5 (Green)	F				1																									1												
TKF7 (Red)	F																													0												
Zwaanswyk Troop																														0												
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS												
Troop	0.0																													0.00												
Individuals	0.1				15																									0.25												
Roost:	AM	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	12	12	1	8	8	10	11	2	2	3	11	11	6	11	6	5	8	2	3	4	1													
Roost:	PM	1	8	1	1	1	1	12	12	1	8	8	10	11	2	2	3	11	11	6	11	6	5	8	2	3	4	1	1													
Roost Sites				1				Tea Garden				2				Level 1 ZWK gums				3				Level 2 stream				4				Lev 4 Pines				5				Upper tea Garden		
				6				Manor House				7				Picnic 1				8				Picnic 2				9				Middle Plantation				10				Chrysalis		
				11				Tokai Bridge				12				Other				13								14								15						
ID Features of Baboons																																										
General remarks																																										

Figure 16 : Zwaanswyk Troop raid sheet for September.

In addition, HWS would like to extend a huge thank you to the Friends of Tokai Forest for kindly donating a GPS collar to monitor the Zwaanswyk Troop movements post-fire.



Figure 17: MT2 with his new GPS collar and yellow tag.

After many months of trying to capture a Zwaanswyk baboon, we were finally successful and managed to cage capture MT2 (the alpha male) on 19 September 2015. He was fitted with a yellow tag, and the donated GPS collar. This collar has already given some invaluable data, providing proof that the Zwaanswyk Troop spent the evening roosting in trees in Silvermine Reserve (Figure 14).

In the first week of the GPS collar deployment we had to smooth out some teething problems, such as setting the correct time

intervals. Hence, no GPS data is displayed in this report. However look out for the full months' worth of movements in next month's report.

3. Constantia Troop

CT1 and CT2 spent 36% (10 days out of 28) of their time together during this reporting period. When not together, CT2 was rarely seen, because the focus of HWS rangers was on CT1, to prevent them from entering the urban area near Price Drive.

When together, CT1 and CT2 were foraging around the bike trails, above Buitenverwachting Farm. On some days the CT1 troop moved above the bike trails, and onto the Plateau of Vlakkenberg Mountain. This area is lush, with many small streams, and full of fresh spring growth, which attracts the baboons.

It is evident from the data loggers, that HWS rangers either followed the CT1 troop near the bike trails and up into Vlakkenberg, or they were holding the urban line, along Price Drive (Figure 18).

When the troop was on the northern (Price Drive) side of the mountain, individual adult males managed to slip past rangers and enter the urban area. This spike in raiding can clearly be seen between the 14-24 September 2015, when the CT1 troops spent the majority of their time in the northern section of the mountain (Figure 18).

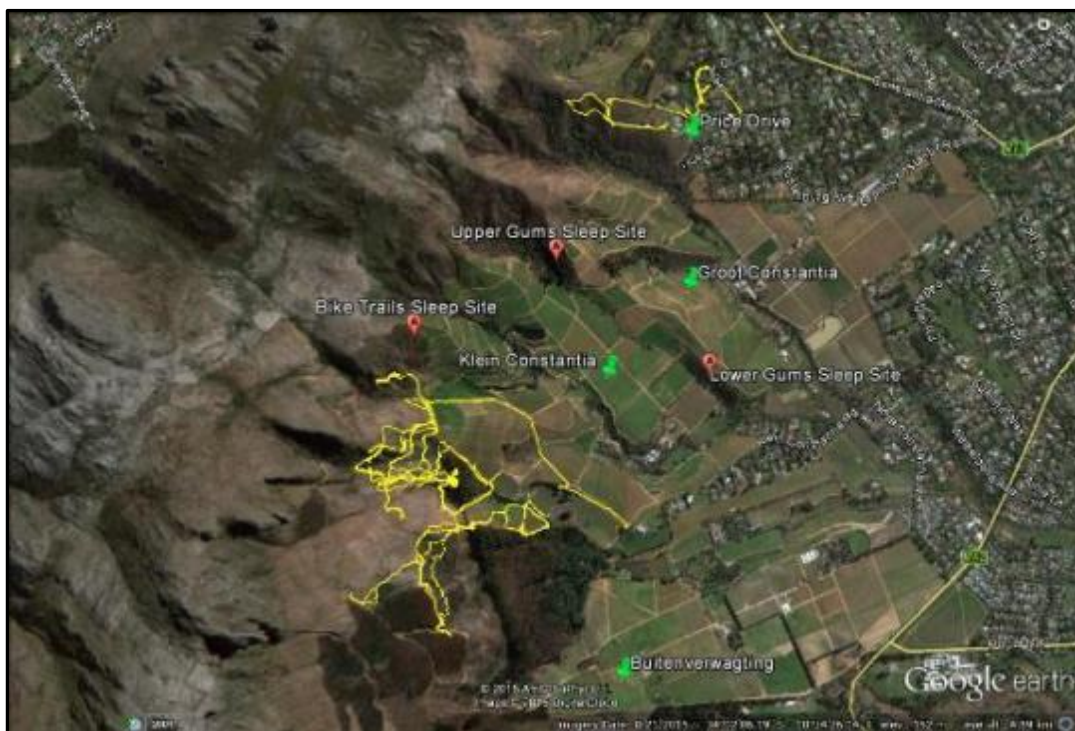


Figure 18: CT1 Troop movement for the month of September.

Three adult male baboons (TK33, CON2 and CON7) stand out due to their raiding behaviour (Figure 19). TK33 entered a house in Price Drive on 19 September 2015, as well as entered the urban area a few other times and raided bins or fruit trees. CON2 displayed very similar behaviour, but spent more time foraging on the loquat trees found in properties in and around Price Drive. CON7 entered an occupied house on two occasions this month to take food.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
BABOON TROOP:		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: September		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
TK33 (R-O)	M																	2			1		6,7	1						5
TK15 (Y-O)	M																													0
TK19 (R-W)	M										2																			2
CON1 (untagged)	M																		1		5			1						3
CON2 (B-O)	M																	2			1	2,6,7	1	1		1				9
CON3 (G)	M																													0
CON4 (B)	M																													0
CON5 (G-G)	M																													0
CON6 (O) Collar	M																									1				1
CON7 (P-G)	M																				6,7							6,7		2
MT1 (G-W)	M																													0
Untagged M	M																													0
SA Male	M																	5												1
Uni Female	F																													0
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	7.9										720	180						120	75		75	30	45	160		60		55		25.33
Roost:	AM	6	3	6	6	6+7	3+6	3+6	6+7	6	6	3+6	3+7	6	3+6	3+6	1+?	1+?	1+6	1+6	1+?	1+?	1+?	1+6	1+?	8+?	1+6	1+3	3+6	
Roost:	PM	3	6	6	6+7	3+6	3+6	6+7	6	6	3+6	3+7	6	3+6	3+6	1+?	1+?	1+6	1+6	1+?	1+?	1+?	1+6	1+?	8+?	1+6	1+3	3+6	3	
Roost Sites		1	Upper Gums				2	Lower Gums				3	Bike Trail Gums				4	Middle Plantation KC				5	McKenzies							
		6	Buiten gums				7	Block 10 gums				8	Castle gums				9	Other				10								
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 19: CT1 and CT2 raid sheet for September 2015.

On 7 September 2015, TK19, an older non-raiding adult male in the Constantia Troop, left the troop and crossed the M3 highway, and moved into Bergvliet. This was a clear indication that this male was dispersing. During TK19's time in the urban area (15 hours) only one bin raid was recorded.

The following day TK19 was successfully darted in Bergvliet with the help of the City of Cape Town environmental officials. During examination it was noted that he had poor dentition with all his canines broken (Figure 20).

At this time, TK42 from the Tokai Troop, was in the Westlake holding facility awaiting translocation. Following a Baboon Technical Team (BTT) management decision, the two dispersing adult males, TK42 and TK19 were translocated to the Waterfall Troop. TK19 was also fitted with a VHF collar and both TK42 and TK19 were moved to the south later that afternoon (see Waterfall Troop section).



Figure 20: TK19's poor dentition.

4. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop were mostly seen around the Veels-te-ver Woods this month. This is a small section of gum trees between Buitenverwachting and Klein Constantia. The troop sleeps and forages in this area.

Most days the Buitenverwachting Rangers find the Mountain Troop and ensure that they stay in the Veels-te-ver Woods, or move higher up the mountain.

The main concern with the Mountain Troop is related to two adult males in the troop, TK41 and TK3, who leave the troop on several occasions to raid at Buitenverwachting.

Both males were reported to be around the staff villages on Buitenverwachting farm, and around the restaurant. It is difficult to get accurate records of these raids, because Buitenverwachting rangers do not always record raid details.

Whenever HWS rangers are not occupied holding a line, a ranger will attempt to find the Mountain Troop to check all is well and to assist the Buitenverwachting rangers, however due to a lack of manpower the HWS rangers are not able to monitor them daily.

Births and Deaths

Four births were reported this month, one in each of the Tokai, Zwaanswyk, CT1 and CT2 Troops.

Recommendations

- **Properties on Price Drive and Bellair Drive** are advised to remove ripening fruit from trees, and to ensure they have and use baboon-proof bins. Additionally, these residents should ensure their homes are baboon-proof by installing burglar bars and securing gates at all access points into their homes.
- **Residents that live on wine farms** are advised to ensure their properties are fully baboon-proof by installing burglar bars and securing gates at all access points into their homes. 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

This month there was only one death and five births recorded in the managed population of baboons (Table 1). Like last month, there were many more births (four) in the northern troops, than were recorded (one) in the southern troops. As suggested last month, this more than likely reflects these baboons' access to human derived foods (HDF's). Although the baboons in the north are rapidly losing access to pine products as the burnt plantations are progressively removed, they still have many pines left to feed on, as well as produce (barley) from the wine farms. In addition, burnt fynbos is highly nutritious during its first year of regrowth, so the baboons are now benefitting from the spring flush on the mountain.

TROOP	Total Dec 2012	Total Dec 2013	Total Dec 2014	Sep Births	Sep 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	3	30
Groot Olifantsbos	19	13	17			0	1	16
Misty Cliffs	18	16	14	1		5	8	11
Slangkop	33	32	36			5	2	39
SUB TOTAL	175	157	162	1	1	23	20	165
Zwaanswyk	25	26	28	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	4	0	22	28	212
TOTAL	354	355	380	5	1	45	48	377

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

The distribution of baboon deaths is recorded in Table 2. It is evident here that while there was an average of 16.5 management euthanasias per year in 2012 and 2013, this figure has approximately halved in the last two years (currently at seven per year). Human induced deaths has remained low over the past four years, although it has increased slightly over the last two years. Electrocutions on powerlines out of town have been responsible for approximately half these deaths during 2014 and 2015. Ultimately these powerlines should be installed underground, but for the moment HWS has started applying waterproof grease to poles and stays on lines that have been responsible for electrocutions.

Numbers of natural deaths fluctuate hugely from year to year. There is no obvious explanation for this, although certain events like the fire earlier this year, can account for a high number of mortalities. One regular cause of mortalities is that of infanticide, where alpha males, that have recently moved into a troop, try to kill all babies and young juveniles in order to get their mothers to come back into oestrus sooner. This year there has been quite extensive movements of adult males between the troops in the north, accounting for a relatively high number of infanticides.

Deaths	2012*	2013	2014	September 2015	2015 to Date
Management	16 (6)	17	7	1	7
Human Induced	3	5	10	0	6
Natural	6 (1)	33	19	0	35
TOTAL	25	55	36	1	48

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

There were relatively few hotline calls this month, with only 42 being made as a result of raids within managed areas. Most of these calls were made in either Scarborough, Simonstown or Constantia. In all three of these cases, most or all of these calls made in response to a few individuals raiding town. In Simonstown the raids were mainly by RH2 with WFF4, and the recently relocated TK19 exploring his new surroundings. In Scarborough the raids were mainly in response to GOB7 following Misty Cliffs females in oestrus into town, and some sub-adult Da Gama males leading a small raiding party into town. The Constantia calls were all related to a few adult males raiding town in the Price Drive area.

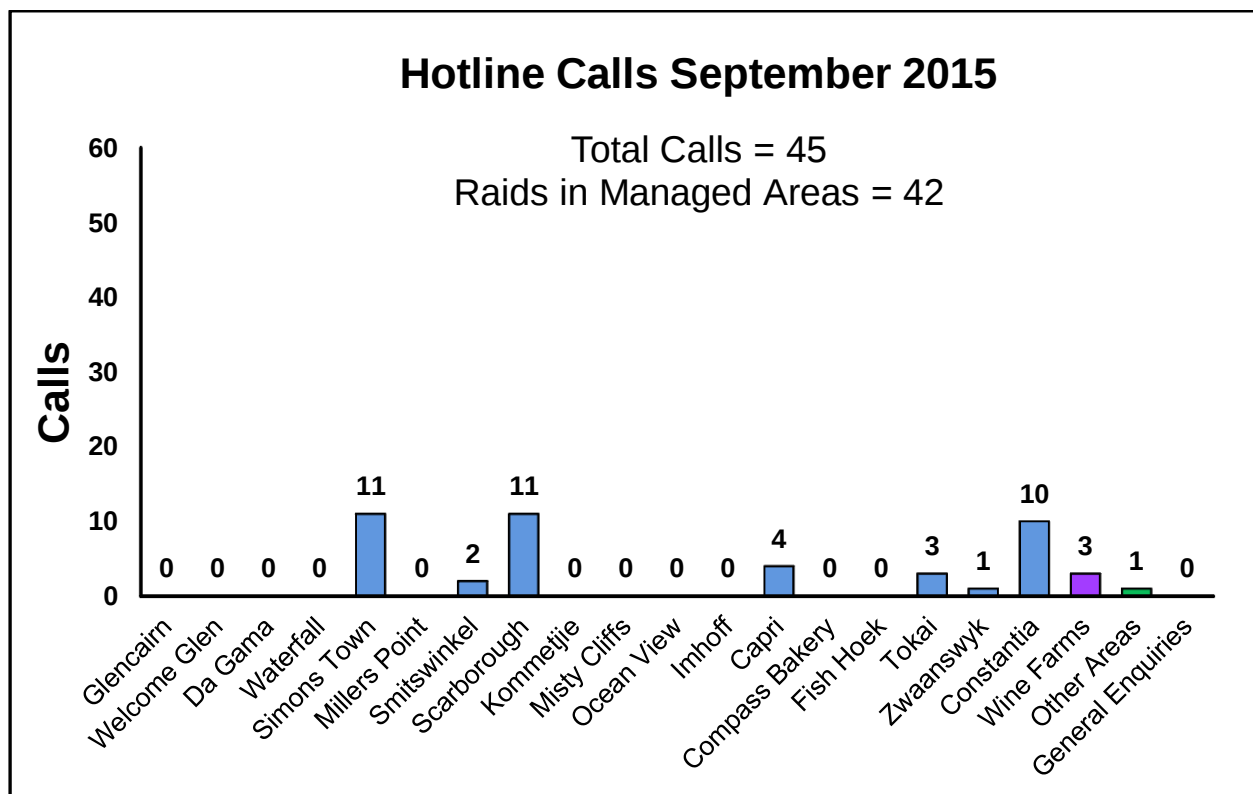


Figure 21: Hotline calls summary per urban area

It is pleasing to note that over 86% of all hotline calls were simply reporting baboons in town. A further 6% of calls were reporting bin raids and another 6% (3 calls) reporting raids on occupied houses.

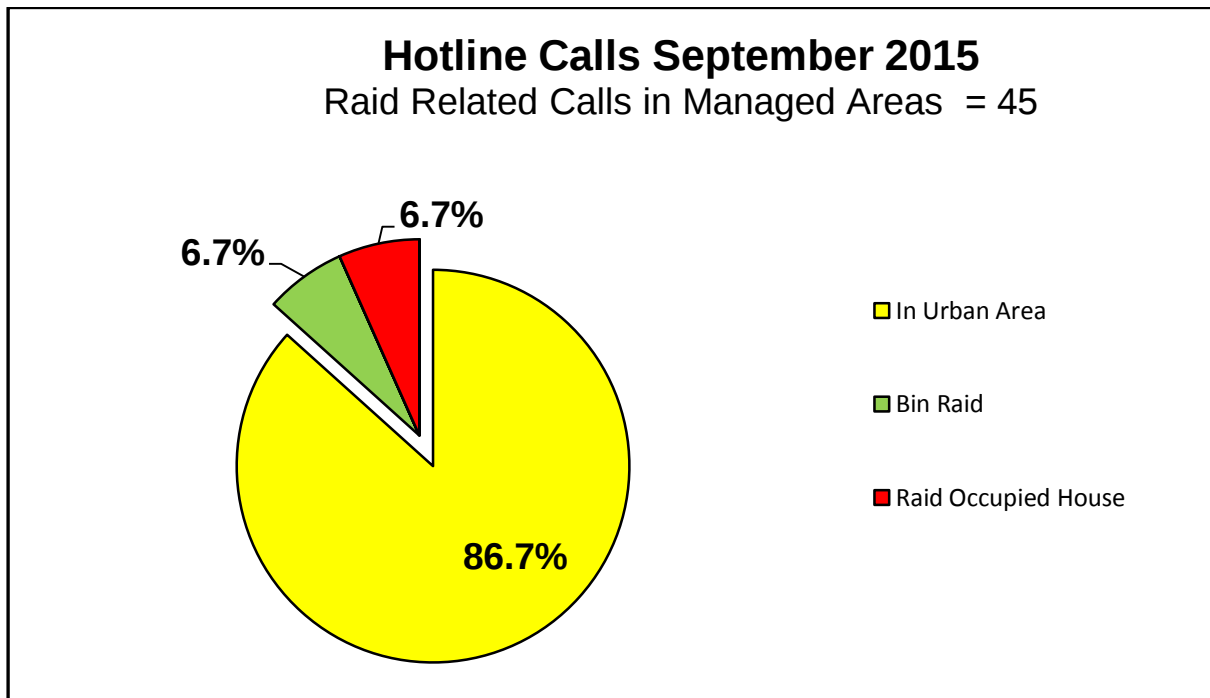


Figure 22: Composition of raid-related hotline calls

Percentage Time out of Town

The data this month for the percentage time the troops spent out of town, equals our previous record from last year (troops 99.8% of time out of town). Therefore virtually every troop was out of town for 100% of the time, with the Misty Cliffs Troop having the worst data and spending 0.9% of their time in town.

The individual data (97.6%) is also much better than the average over the past winter, but is still far from the HWS record of 99.1%. Although the Da Gama Troop did not spend any time in town, the raiding individuals from this troop were the worst for all troops, spending about 9% of their time in town. In this they were followed by individuals from Constantia and Waterfall. Individuals from all the remaining troops spent over 99% of their time out of town.

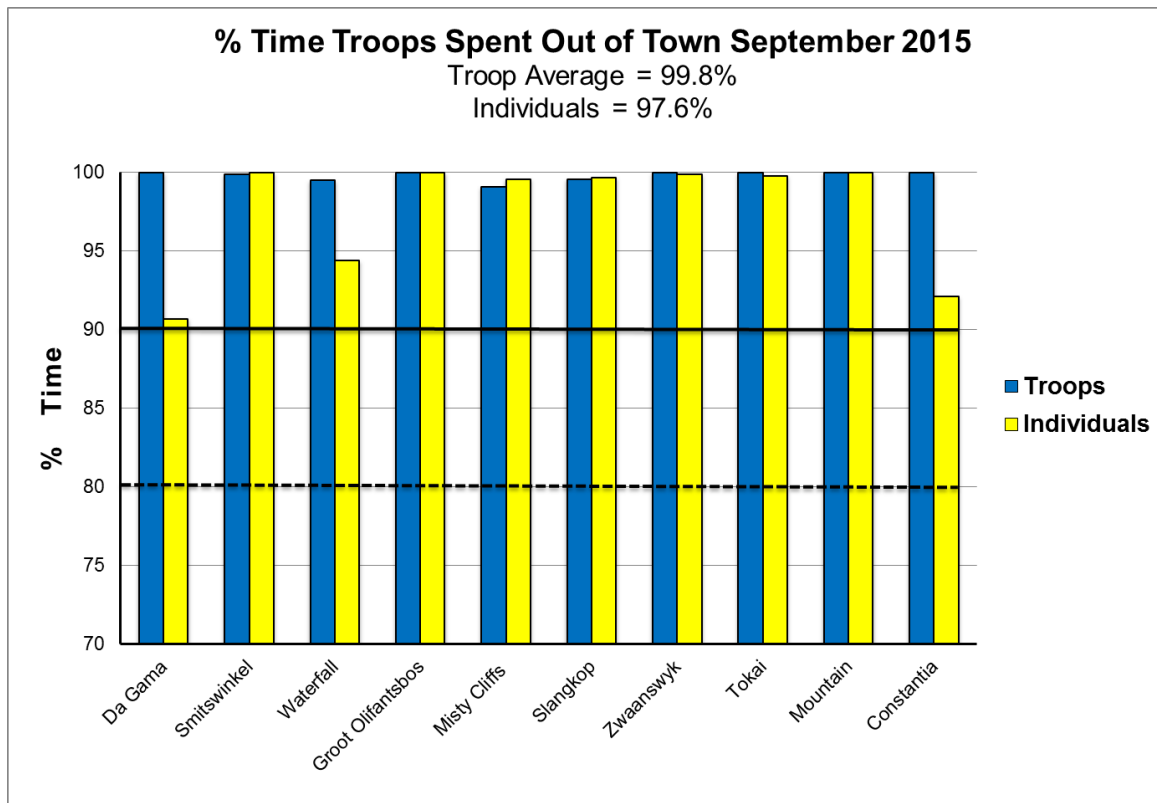


Figure 23: Percentage time troops spent out of town, solid line indicates the CoCT's 2014 contract requirement and the broken line indicates the 2012 contract requirement.

Conclusion

Although the rains came late this year, and it was not considered a wet winter, with the arrival of spring the fynbos has really erupted and is currently providing a great deal of nutritious food to all the troops. This is reflected in the percentage time out of town data, with troops averaging 99.8% of time out of town, and no troop being in town even 1% of the time. This pattern is also reflected in the data for individuals. Although some individuals from three troops did spend over 5% of their time in town, for all the remaining troops, individuals were out of town over 99% of the time.

After the fire, the burnt fynbos in the north is now looking very good and seemingly very nutritious for the baboons. It is a bit worrying that the regeneration in the cleared areas, where the pines were burnt, are recovering very slowly and may require artificial seeding to get new fynbos growing. Thus, at present there is relatively little forage on the lower slopes of the mountain, so the baboons are mostly moving high up to forage in Silvermine or on Vlakkenberg.

Another worrying feature of this September report, is the relatively high degree of raiding by the small group of Da Gama sub adult males, and the some of the old Constantia males. Constantia has over 10 adult and sub adult males, and if there is insufficient forage they soon return to the habit of raiding the

Price Drive area in summer. An electric fence separating the urban area from the SANParks area would be of great value here.

Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions