



Baboon Management Cape Town

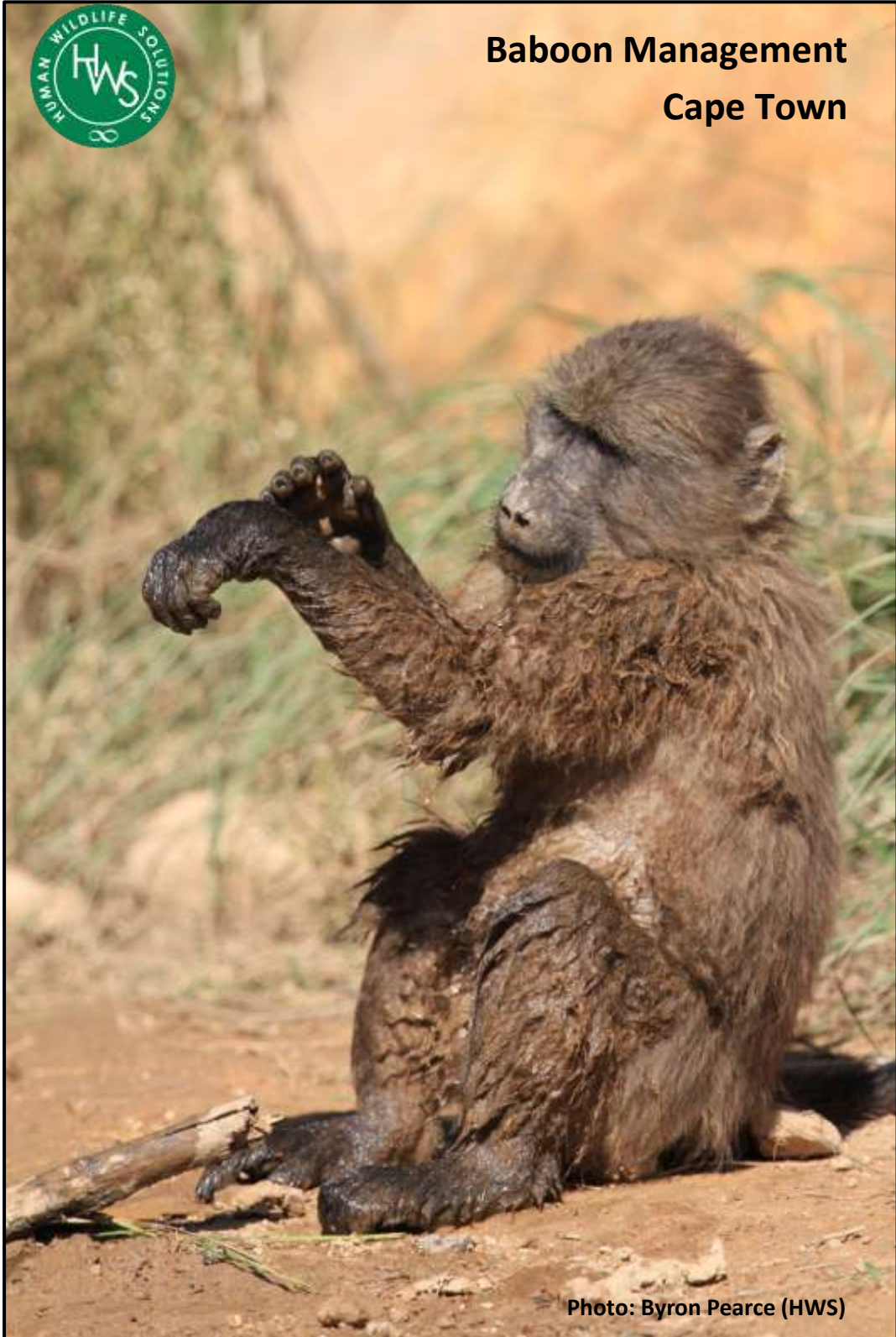


Photo: Byron Pearce (HWS)

Monthly Report

For August 2013



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A. REPORTING PERIOD

This month's report covers the four week period from 27 July until 23 August 2013.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Manager Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Smitswinkel Troop did not raid during the month of August spending several days on the mountain and not making any attempts to come down. They did however make their way down to the coast to forage on mussels on the rocks and usually spent approximately three to four hours before heading back up the mountain. In the Castle Rock area however, the troop has discovered a recently-built swimming pool on a home-owner's deck but there have been no raids at the house although the baboons drink at the pool when they make their way down the mountain. Rangers are not permitted access to the property and the baboons are therefore allowed to drink and then make their way down to the coast.

A horrific incident took place during the late afternoon or evening of the 30 July when a young badly injured female was discovered and appeared to have been electrocuted. The animal had sustained serious injuries all over its body.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1 (a) and (b). Injuries sustained by a young female baboon at Smits. The animal appeared to have been electrocuted.

The extent of the injuries was noted on 31 July after which she moved back up the mountain and was not seen again that day. On 2 August an attempt was made to capture her however it appears that, as she is a low-ranking female in the troop, the other baboons in the troop chased and fought with her to prevent her getting near the capture trap and the attempt to capture was therefore aborted to prevent her being harmed during the operation.

Veterinarians and HWS staff remained on standby for the following week to attempt to dart her for examination but the troop seldom came down into the area. HWS staff finally managed to get a good visual of her in mid-August and it seemed that her wounds were healing and that she was moving around without difficulty. She continues to be monitored closely but miraculously seems to be doing well.

2. Waterfall Troop

The strategy for the previous few months for the this troop remains in place whereby the troop is being pushed to the area behind the signal school and are left to forage on Swartkop. However, when the Groot Olifantsbos Troop raided the armoury during August, the Waterfall Troop would not go up to Swartkop but instead moved towards Red Hill and the Kleinplaas Dam area.

The Waterfall Barracks continue to be an attractant for the baboons due to the ongoing poor waste management and windows and doors being left open which allow the baboons easy access to both waste and food. This problem will persist unless strict measures are put in place to improve waste management.



Residents are persistently negligent by leaving doors and windows open throughout the day even when the flats remain unoccupied. WF1 and WF2 lead most of the raids at the Barracks or en route to the Barracks.

Fig 2. Renovated flats at Waterfall Barracks.

Due to the very steep terrain in this area, once the baboons have broken through the line it is difficult for the HWS rangers to get to the Barracks and the baboons therefore usually get there first. Although the HWS team works extremely hard at keeping the baboons out of the area, the aforementioned issues that persist at the barracks will continue to attract the baboons and they will continue to raid.

However, and despite these hinderences, the troop, as a whole, only entered the urban area on seven occasions during the month which is already a huge improvement.

On another 10 recorded occasions small raiding parties have entered the urban area and on three of these occasions WF2 raided occupied houses. WF2 has recently reached adulthood which means that, under normal circumstances (in the wild), WF2 should be a dispersing male. He is however mostly responsible for raiding parties splitting away from the troop and going into the urban area.



SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SE		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: August	2013	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
WF2	M		2		1		2	2					1			1			6	2		2,6	2,6	2		1	2	2	2	17
WF1	M				1		2	2					1			1			2			2	2		1	2	2	2	12	
UnID Females	F				1							1	1			1						2	2				2	2	8	
TROOP													1						2	2	2	2	2				2	2	7	
RH2	M												1			1			1			1	2				2	2	7	
UnID Juveniles			2		1								1			1			2			2	2		1	2	2	5	11	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS		
Troop		2.3												20							90	60	40	105				30	10	5.92
Females/Individuals		2.9		20		15							10	15		10			10	90	60	40	105		10	20	30	10	7.42	
Males		4.6		20		15		60	40				20			30			15	20	90	60	130	120		10	25	30	10	11.58
Roost:	AM	2	2	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	9	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	
Roost Sites	1	Waterfall Cliff			2	Happy Valley Mnt			3	Signal School/Swartkop			4	Waterfall Barracks			5	Mountain Residents side												
	6	Admiral footpath			7	Not found			8	Happy Valley Home			9	Red Hill Mountain																
ID Features of Baboons	WF2 - red&blue tags + collar, WF1 - yellow&blue tag. RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																													
General remarks																														

Figure 3. Raid sheet for the Waterfall Troop

3. Da Gama Troops

Since 7 July, the Da Gama Big Troop (BT) and Da Gama Small Troop (ST) have remained a cohesive unit sleeping together and spending most of the time together as one troop. SK3, from the ST, is now mating with females from the BT and is also guarding the females from the ST. This is the best outcome we could have hoped for, for both troops although they are still rather difficult to manage as Da Gama Park remains a comfort zone for them and both sub-adults and juveniles feel comfortable enough to raid or attempt to raid on their own.

This problem is significantly exacerbated by the extremely poor and negligent waste management at the Naval flats. Residents continue to dump waste and refuse bags on top of bins instead of placing them inside the bins despite the fact that there are several empty bins available for use.

HWS, Councillor Simon Liell-Cock, Lorraine Holloway from the STCA and staff from the City of Cape Town attended a meeting in Da Gama Park that was held in order to address waste management issues. However, this has had no impact and residents continue to dump waste as before on a weekly basis.



(a)



(b)

Figure 4 (a) and (b) Negligent waste management and dumping at Kroonseil and Bluefin flats despite empty bins being available available for use.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5. (a) Picture taken on 14 August (bin collection day) where three of the above bins were empty with waste dumped on top of them. (b) Refuse bags dumped at the exit of the flats and not in the bins next to it.



(a)



(b)

Figure 6. (a) Baboon-proof bin without a lock in the clips provided and subsequently being raided. (b) A non-baboon proof bin left open and being easily accessible in a garden in Da Gama.

Non-compliance in respect of baboon-proofing and the irresponsible waste management by the residents result in baboons continually entering the urban area to raid and gain access to this readily available food. Despite the on-going and numerous efforts made to educate and advise residents by providing information on waste management, this has had little or no effect and as a result, severely hampers management efforts within Da Gama and Welcome Glen which the baboons still consider 'home'.

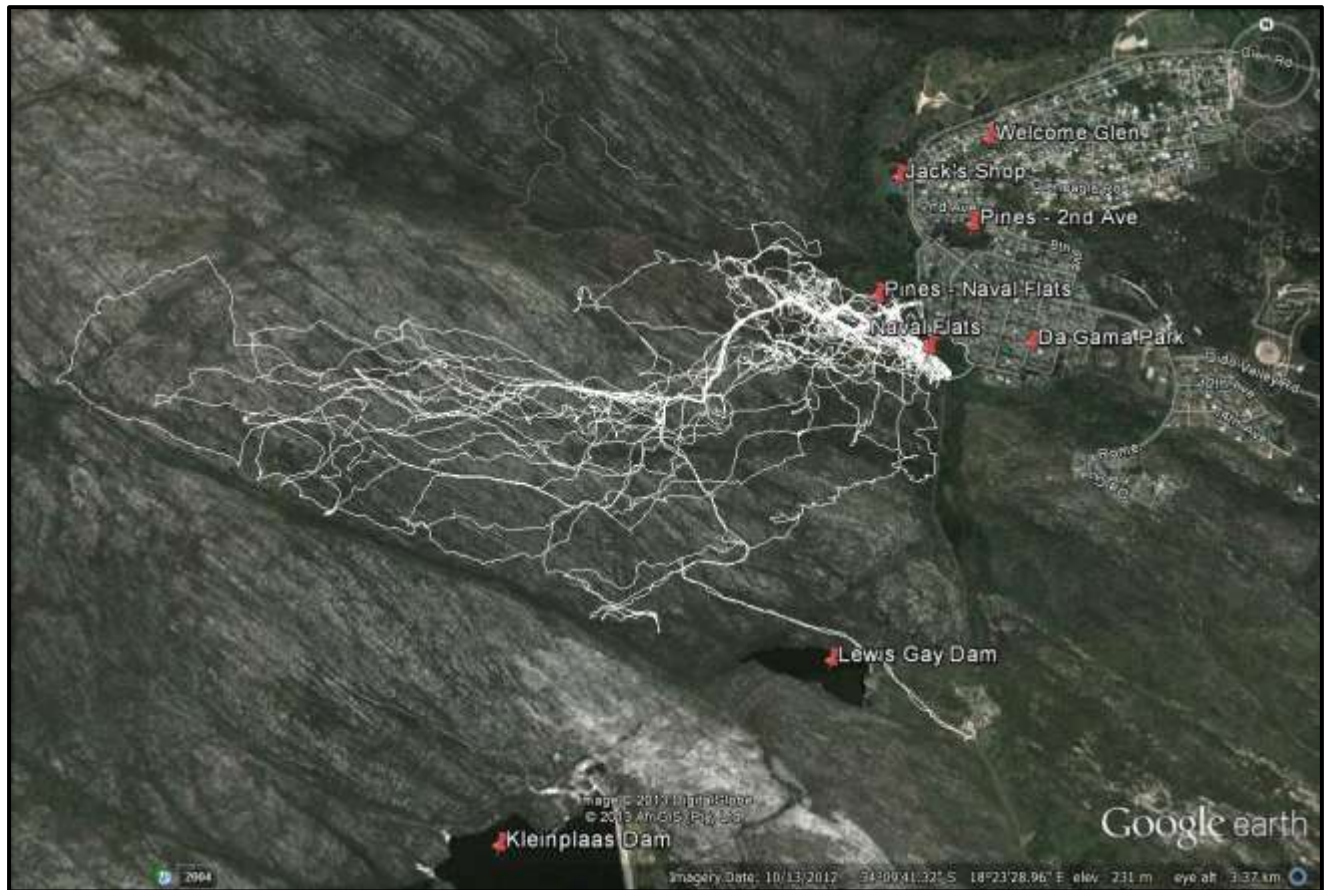


Figure 7. Tracking data for the troop for the reporting month.

DG7 and three sub-adult males were responsible for most of the raids that took place during the past month. When breaking away from the troop to raid, they were followed by between three and four other individuals consisting of juveniles and a few females. DG7 has reached adulthood and is now considered to be a potential dispersing male. There have been several fights between SK3 and DG7 which has led to DG7 sustaining an injury on his back leg (at the beginning of August) and a facial injury on 22 August. DG7 has started to sleep separately from the troop to avoid conflict and on two occasions several other individuals slept with him.

HWS rangers carry data loggers with them on a daily basis in order to record the routes that baboons use and to determine troop movement. Data loggers are switched on when rangers start in the morning and then switched off when the animals go up in the sleep site to roost. This is then overlaid on a Google Earth map and this data gives a good indication of where the majority of the troop spends most of its time.

In Da Gama, a second data logger is used by the ranger responsible for herding the raiding baboons out of the urban area. These raiding animals usually sleep with the troop but, in the morning when the troop is pushed up to the mountain, a few individuals sometimes stay behind and enter the urban area to raid. If this happens, the majority of the rangers remain with the troop while at least two other rangers go into the urban area to push the raiders out. Once the raiding animals have been herded out of the urban area, they re-join the troop. It is clear from the map data collected, that the troop as a whole is not the problem, but that time spent in the urban area can be attributed to a few raiding animals. One can see from the maps that there are certain areas that are more prone to being raided and, although this can be due to a number of factors, it is clear that these areas that are targeted provide easy access to human food.

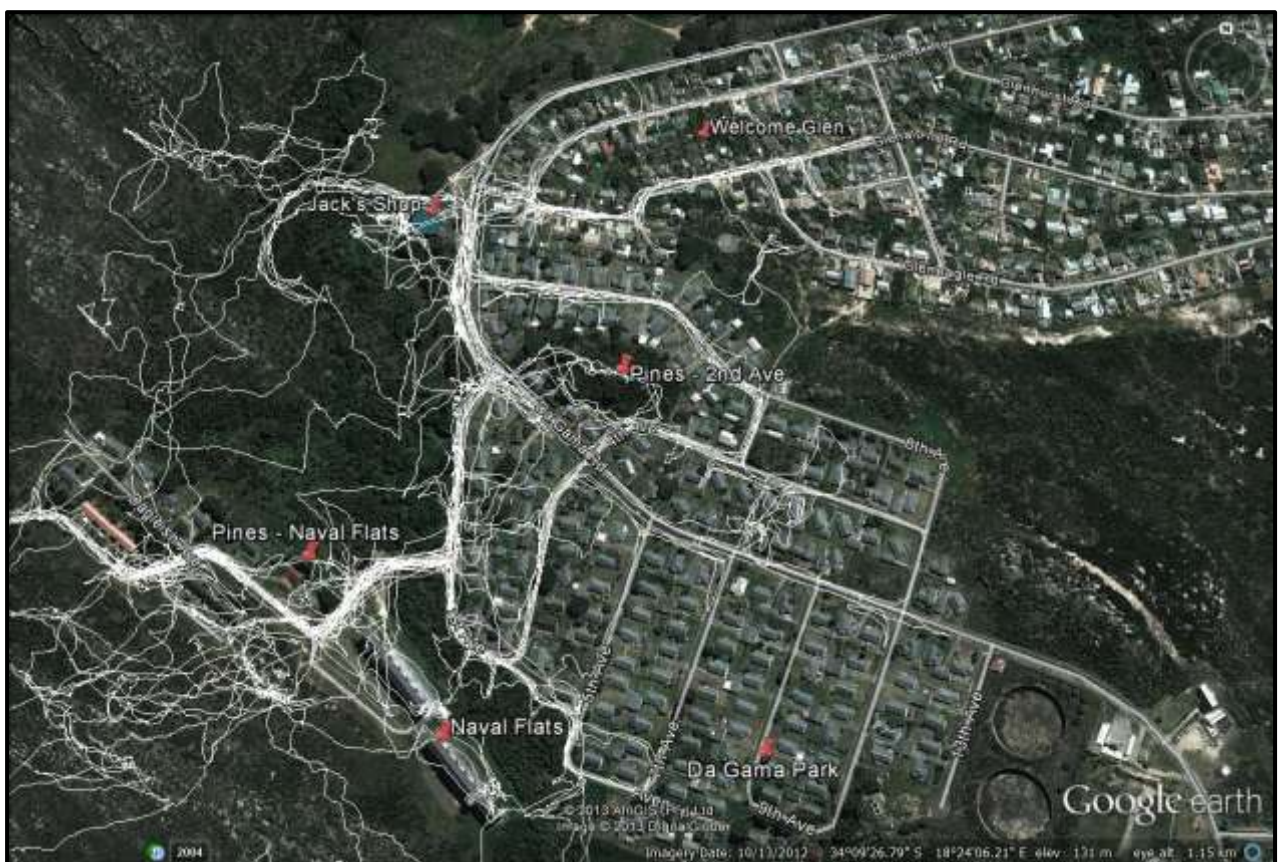


Figure 8. Data from a data logger indicating animals raiding in Da Gama Park.

It is suspected that deliberate feeding of baboons is taking place in both Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen. Baboons are fed in order to lure them into the residential area and this has led to DG7 and other sub-adult males entering the residential area when it is dark and after the rangers have left in the evening.

During a period of two weeks, one house was raided on three separate occasions by male baboons at around 8pm while the residents were in the house, and this specific house is located near a suspected feeding spot. Feeding of baboons not only puts the animals in danger, but it also poses a danger to the community and particularly puts young children at risk of being harassed by and encountering raiding animals. Encountering a raiding baboon in one's own



house at night could easily cause psychologically damage to a young child and result in the child being very fearful of baboons for the rest of his/her life.

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 BT		2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
MONTH: August		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle				9 Nocturnal Raiding																				
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
Big Troop		1				2							2								1								4	
Small Troop		1				2							2								1								4	
DG1	M	1		2		2							2		2		2			2	1	5			2			2,4,5	1	14
3x Sub-ad males	M	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1				2	2,6		2				2	1	1	1	2	2		2	2	1	21
UnID Female	F	1			2	2	1	1					2		2		2			2	1	1		2	2			2	1	15
UnID Juvs BT		1	2			2		1					2		2		2			2	1	1		2	2					11
DGF1	F	1				2							2								1				2					5
DGF2	F	1				2							2								1				2					5
UnID Female	F	1	2			2							2								1	1			2					7
UnID sub-adult ST	M	1			2	2							2			2				2	1	1		2	2		2	2	1	13
UnID Juvs ST		1			2	2							2			2				2	1	1				2	2	1		11
SK3	M	1		2	2	2							2		2		2			2	1	1			2			2	1	12
DG7	M	1	2		2	2	1	1		1			2		2	1	2			2	1	1	1	2	2		2	2	1	20
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Big Troop	1.1	40											60																	3.67
Small Troop	1.1	10				30							60																	3.67
Individuals	12.3	40	45		180	120	60	20					240							150	120	90		480	360		195	240	30	39.50
Males	14.9	50	45	110	180	120	60	20	25	20			240	120	90	20				150	120	90	30	480	450		195	240	30	48.08
Roost:	AM	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2+3	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Roost Sites	1	Flats				2	Pines - Flats				3	Pines - Da Gama				4	Pines - Welcome Glen				5	Sport Fields Stables								
	6	Compass Bakery				7	Pines - Outspan				8	Jacks Shop				9	Elsie's Peak				10	Rotary Camp								
	11	Witsand				12	Slangkop				13	Platkop				14	Rasta Camp				15	Ocean View								
ID Features of Baboons	DG1: Collar + blue & yellow tags; DG7: red cable tie																													
	SK3: Collar + green & yellow tags; DGF1: collar + blue & white tags																													
General remarks																														

Figure 9. Da Gama Troops (BT and ST) combined raid sheets.

Births and Deaths

No births or deaths were recorded over the last month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Law enforcement is needed in the Da Gama Park area to address the incidents of feeding of the baboons. Deliberate feeding of baboons occurs in Da Gama and pulls animals into the urban area putting both residents and baboons at risk.

Law enforcement is also needed along the Smitswinkel and Plateau Road route as there have been incidents of deliberate feeding by tourists and tour operators in the area.

Waste Management, as always, needs urgent attention especially at the Da Gama Park flats and Waterfall Barracks. It is requested that the Navy enforce their eviction policy when residents dump refuse on top of bins and do not adhere to waste management policy.

Electricity transformer boxes need to be checked in all areas, but especially along the Smits route, to determine where the animals are at risk of being electrocuted.



South Western Region – Manager Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

During the month of August, the GOB Troop moved between Olifantsbos in the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) Reserve and the Red Hill area. The troop has spent almost 50% of the time at Red Hill which is a marked increase on previous months. On 22 August GOB7 was captured and fitted with a GPS collar in order to track the movements of the GOB Troop when they are in the Reserve and, most importantly, when they move into the Red Hill area.

On 9, 11, 21 and 22 August the two sub-adult males, together with a few females and juveniles, raided bins at the Klawer Valley Military Base by climbing over the barbed wire perimeter fence. The alpha male, GOB7, was seen on the mountain above the base but did not raid. The troop has also been seen raiding bags of unsecured rubbish at Kogelfontein, the open bins in the SANParks picnic site and the big open containers at the bottom of the Red Hill Settlement where domestic waste is stored.

The most concerning aspect of the troop spending more time in the Red Hill area is that they are regularly gaining access to human-derived food from the above sources. The alpha male, GOB7, is not a habitual raider and is still quite wary of people, but if this troop continues to have easy access to waste food, he will become increasingly habituated to raiding instead of foraging naturally in the Reserve and the troop will lose its only handbrake against raiding. It must be borne in mind that, prior to GOB7 taking over as the alpha male in about July 2012, the GOB Troop was more or less resident in Scarborough. They had already been sleeping in town for several months at that stage and derived most of their food from feeding in town. Scarborough had become to them what Da Gama was to the two Da Gama Troops.

At no time this month did the troop, or any individuals from the troop, enter Scarborough.

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs Troop has been in the CoGH Reserve at the C2 roost site for most of the month of August. On 28 July the troop broke out of the Reserve and moved back to the C1 roost site (Misty Cliffs). The troop was herded to the Reserve on 1 August where they remained until 18 August when they managed to break out of the Reserve once again and back to the Misty Cliffs roost site.

The time the troop was kept in the Reserve during the month of August shows a substantial improvement on the two previous occasions when the team was only able to hold them there for a day. This is partly due to the removal of MC1 (in July) who would break away from the troop in the Reserve with two to three females and head back to the Misty Cliffs roost site. This would make it very difficult to keep the rest of the troop in the Reserve.



On three occasions during the two weeks that the troop was in the Reserve, the alpha GOB5 left the troop to enter Scarborough either on his own or with a single female in oestrus. He would call to the troop for some time before heading back into the Reserve again when the remaining troop was prevented from joining him.

On 17 August, two females and three juveniles split off from the troop in the late afternoon and headed back to the Misty Cliffs roost site on their own. The following morning they raided Scarborough and the ranger team had to split in two, half to keep the rest of the troop in the Reserve and half to return the five individuals in Scarborough to the troop. This inevitably resulted in the whole troop managing to break the line back into Scarborough and to the Misty Cliffs roost site.

August Raids:

On 29 July GOB5 raided an occupied house through an open door in Old Camp Rd.

On 31 July GOB5 raided an occupied building on the corner of Melkhout and Main Rd, Scarborough, gaining access through an open door.

On 16 August GOB5 broke a sliding door in Hilltop Rd and raided the occupied house together with a female.

On 18 August a resident of Egret Rd reported that she was charged by GOB5 whilst in her garden.

On 21 August GOB5, a female and a juvenile raided an unoccupied house in Old Camp Rd.

On 22 August GOB5 broke a sliding door at a house on the corner of Camel Rock and Main Rd, Scarborough. On the same day a juvenile male was observed removing thatch from above a window to gain access to a house near Daisy Rd.

On 23 August GOB5 raided an occupied house in Old Camp Rd by gaining access through an open door.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																										
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																								
BABOON TROOP: Misty Cliffs		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																																			
MONTH: August		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																			
YEAR: 2013		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																																					
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL												
GOB5	M		2	6	1	6																					1			1		8		7	1	1	5	8	6		13	
Female with baby	F		2	1		2																													2		1	5	2		6	
Unidentified female	F		2	1		2												1					6	1	2		1	2	2												9	
Unidentified female	F		2	1		2																	1	2		1	2	2													7	
Unidentified juvenile	M																																					5	8		1	
Troop			2	1		2																													2		1	1		6		
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS															
Troop		6.8	360	60		480																													240		60	180		23h00		
Males & Females		12.1	360	60	35	480												60			90													240	420	240	60	60	180	120	45	40h50
Roost:	AM	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Roost:	PM	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost Sites		1	Misty Cliffs		2	CoGH Reserve		3											4						5																	
		6			7			8											9						10																	
ID Features of Baboons		GOB5 had a double red tag and a VHF collar																																								
General remarks																																										

Figure 10: Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop August 2013

Comments and Observations

The month of August saw a significant reduction in raiding in Scarborough compared with recent months. This is as a result of the troop being in the CoGH Reserve for most of the time. For the relatively few days the troop managed to enter Scarborough the team struggled to get them out due to the splitting up of the troop and individuals that hide from rangers on properties where they cannot be seen.

The biggest challenge the team faced this month was attempting to hold the troop in the Reserve. On 17 August two females and three juveniles were so desperate to get out of the Reserve and back to the Misty Cliffs roost site, a place that allows them to raid the urban areas far more easily than from the Reserve, that they left the troop and the protection of the alpha male late one evening and returned to the Misty Cliffs roost site on their own. The following day these individuals raided Scarborough and forced the team to split up in order to manage them. This is the reason for the troop managing to break out of the Reserve. The fact that this small group of baboons chose to leave the troop and return to the Misty Cliffs roost site demonstrates their refusal to remain in the Reserve where they have no option but to forage naturally. These individuals spend more time trying to evade the rangers than they do foraging and this is compounded by the fact that every time they enter Scarborough they gain access to human derived foods through unsecured houses, bins, compost heaps and people feeding birds and other wildlife.

GOB5 continues to be problematic. After being in the Reserve for most of August he went on a raiding frenzy once the troop broke out. On one occasion an HWS field manager followed GOB5



as he leapt from house to house trying to force every door and window he came across to gain access. Eventually he got into a house by breaking open a sliding door. This was the second sliding door he broke open in a week.

3. Slangkop Troop

From 27 July to 23 August the troop has moved between the Ocean View Roost Site (C2) and the Compass Bakery Roost (C3) sites. The troop has spent an equal amount of time at both roost sites.

August Raids:

The only house raid reported for this month was when SK5 raided and occupied a house in Capri by gaining access through an open window.

All the other raids for the month were baboons raiding bins in Capri and at Compass Bakery.

On a number of occasions SK5 raided Imhoff's Gift on his own or with two to three females, but it was not possible to determine whether he had raided houses there or not.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																							TOTAL					
BABOON TROOP:	Slangkop	1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
MONTH:	August	YEAR:	2013																											
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
DG6	M		2		2	2					2		2		2	2			2		2	2	2							11
SK5	M		2		2	2		2			6		2		2	2	1		2		2	2			2					13
Unidentified Female	F		2		2	2		2			2		2		2	2			2		2	2			2				12	
Unidentified Female	F		2		2	2		2			2		2		2	2			2		2	2			2				12	
Unidentified Female	F		2		2	2		2			2		2		2	2			2		2	2							10	
Troop			2		2	2		2			2				2	2			2		2	2							10	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS					
Troop	2.2	15		60	15						90				40	30			120		40	30							6h40	
Males + Females	3.2	15		60	15		20				90		60				40		120		40	30	30		120				10h40	
Roost:	AM	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2		
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2		
Roost Sites		1	Slangkop	2	Ocean View	3	Compass Bakery	4																	5					
		6		7									8																10	
ID Features of Baboons	DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag																													
General remarks	There was one birth recorded on the 1st August																													

Figure 11: Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – August 2013



Comments and Observations

The month of August has seen the usual pattern of raiding by the Slangkop Troop. Most of the raids have occurred at Compass Bakery and on four occasions this month the troop managed to enter Capri, and here most of the raids were bin raids.

The sub-adult male SK5 continues to break away from the troop when they are high up in the mountain above Ocean View. He runs directly to Imhoff's Gift and is often accompanied by one to three females. These are the same females that were in the original split in the troop along with TK5 and later SK2. SK5 has now taken up this role and because he breaks away when the troop is far away from any residential area, it is difficult for the team to track his movements and record what raiding is done when he enters Imhoff's Gift. A single ranger struggles to remove SK5, and the females that raid with him, from Imhoff's Gift which means that two rangers have to leave the troop in order to go after them. This leaves just one ranger to manage the majority of the troop and therefore allows the troop to take advantage of this situation and raid.

The lack of baboon-proof bins in Capri is giving the troop access to food when raiding and this encourages them to push harder to get through to Capri.

Births and Deaths

There was one birth recorded in the Slangkop Troop on the 1st August.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The GOB Troop has begun spending too much time in the Red Hill area. The poor waste management in this area (**Koegelberg, SANParks picnic site, and Red Hill settlement**) allows the troop easy access to human-derived food. The short term solution here is to prevent the troop from gaining access to these areas, however, the longer term aim is obviously to implement better waste management in the area.

The strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop over the next month will be to return them to the COGH Reserve and prevent them from entering Scarborough and returning to the Misty Cliffs roost site. It is currently not possible to effectively manage this troop at the C1 roost site. The long-term goal is to condition the troop to using the C2 cliff site in the Reserve as their preferred roost site. The aggressive nature of GOB5's raiding and damage to property must be addressed.

The recommendation for the Slangkop Troop during the next month is to closely monitor the behaviour and movements of SK5, now the only male that is breaking away from the troop to raid surrounding areas. Waste management at Compass Bakery needs to be monitored and addressed if the baboons continue to access food from bins on site. It will also be a valuable

exercise to do an audit of baboon-proof bins in Capri to determine how many residents in the area require these bins.

North Region – Manager Stefan Theron

1. Tokai Main Troop

The Tokai Main Troop alternated their daily ranging this month between the low-lying areas around Tokai manor house and the elevated mountainside on SANParks land. The troop spent much more time on the higher levels than the previous month.

The lower lying area comprises SANParks, Chrysalis Academy, various horse stables and Porter Estate. Spatially this area forms a very large part of the Tokai main and Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop's home ranges and is also extensively inhabited and utilized by humans. Currently the main conflict areas within the baboon troops' home ranges are at Chrysalis Academy, SANParks Tokai picnic area and the SANParks Arboretum parking area and tea garden. The interaction between baboons and people in these areas has led to habituation and conflict due to the baboons associating humans with feeding opportunities. The troops gain food from unsecured refuse as well as from vehicles and people. A typical example of baboons having access to waste food is when, on 1 August, TK28, the Tokai Main Troop alpha male, was found feeding on discarded maize porridge ("pap") behind the security hut boom gate at Chrysalis Academy and it appears that TK28 regards this hut as a regular feeding location.

Urban raiding attempts by individuals from this troop were markedly less this month when compared to data for the previous month.

On 1 August, TK24 raided refuse wheelie bins on Parade Crescent, but only left the troop for half an hour and returned before the response team could locate him in the urban area.



Figure 12. TK24, Tokai Troop beta male with juveniles.

On Tuesday 6 August, while the troop was foraging at the horse paddocks at the lower Chrysalis stables, TK38 attempted to enter Forest Glade but was intercepted at the boundary and chased back by the rangers.



On 12 August, TK24 raided the green municipal bins (provided for pedestrians) along Tokai Road and up to the Tribakery coffee shop. On 16 August, TK24 was intercepted at Stuart Close following a hotline raid report and was seen carrying a large brown paper bag with a couple of loaves of bread in it. On 17 August, TK24 once again evaded rangers and raided wheelie bins in Anderson Close. Lastly, on 22 August, TK24 raided the refuse wheelie bins behind the Tribakery shopping centre as the baboon proof bin-enclosure had been left open. TK24 remained in the urban area moving from property to property and only moved out after an hour and a half despite attempts made by the HWS rangers.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house/car	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house/car													
BABOON TROOP: TOKAI MAIN																														
MONTH: AUGUST 2013																														
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
TK24	M						2											2				2	2					2	5	
	%	MINUTES SPENT IN TOWN.																							HRS					
Males	1.25					30												30				30	30					90	3.50	
Troop	0.00																												0.00	
Roost:	AM	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Roost:	PM	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7		
Roost Sites	1	ARBORETUM TEA GARDEN						2	LEVEL 1						3	LEVEL 2														
	5	LEVEL 4						6	LEVEL 5						7	WOODY OWL GUESTHOUSE														
ID Features of Baboons	TK24 Tagged double white, Colarred.																													
	TK28 Tagged Blue/Green, Colarred.																													
	TK37 Untagged sub-adult male.																													
	TK38 Untagged sub-adult limping male, has no use of right back leg.																													
General remarks	TK 24 is an old male with no teeth.																													

Figure 13: Raid sheet for the Tokai Main Troop – August 2013.

2. Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop

As stated in previous monthly reports, the Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop and the Tokai Main Troop are basically sharing the same home range and this leads to both positive and negative interactions between the troops.

During the month only one urban raid was reported on 16 August when TK35, the alpha male, entered Forest Glade and lower Zwaanswyk Road and raided refuse bins, and there was a report of a baboon damaging and raiding a vehicle at the Arboretum tea garden parking area. Conflict in this parking area is inevitable as the troop's primary sleep site is only thirty meters away from the tea garden among the arboretum trees. This troop also raided the Cape Research Centre refuse skip on 8 August when the skip was left open.

On a few occasions over this past month individuals from these two troops have been seen foraging and socialising together and it appears that it is predominantly sub-adults and juveniles that are intermingling.



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 SPLINTER		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house/car	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: AUGUST 2013		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house/car																									
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
TK35	M																					2							1	
	%	MINUTES SPENT IN TOWN.																								HRS				
Males	0.18																						30						0.50	
Troop	0.00																												0.00	
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost Sites	1	ARBORETUM TEA GARDEN				2	LEVEL 1				3	LEVEL 2																		
	5	LEVEL 4				6	LEVEL 5				7	WOODY OWL GUESTHOUSE																		
ID Features of Baboons	TK35 - Tagged Yellow/Red and VHF Collared.																													
General remarks	Only one urban raid reported from individuals of this troop for the month of August 2013.																													

Figure 14: Raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop – August 2013.

3. Constantia Troop

The Constantia Troop, as a whole, has not entered the urban area since HWS began managing it in August 2012. Raiding activity by individual males is, however, still prevalent and following the same pattern as last month with adult males (10 individuals) attempting to raid in the urban area on a daily basis. The raiding males tend to target specific residences within the urban area that have either poor boundary fencing, dense vegetation and / or numerous fruit trees, and Price Drive is a favoured access route. Residences with poor waste management are also prime targets.

Following two months of intensive raiding by the males, and after the last of the grapes and waste has been consumed on the farms, all the adult males in the Constantia Troop have raided in the urban area as well as at restaurants and residences on the wine farms. Observations from the field managers indicate that they raid in groups of two to three, often splitting up once they enter the urban area. This makes it harder for the rangers to chase them back, and during this month, TK13, TK33 and TK34 have been the most persistent raiders. TK13 responds to the rangers but TK33 and TK34 are more determined to stay in the urban area and evade rangers.

Observations suggest that the dominance hierarchy of the males is quite fluid because of the number of males vying for the alpha position however a more detailed study would be required to ascertain whether this is true. At present there are ten large adult males in the Constantia Troop which is a much higher ratio of males than in any other troop on the peninsula. Intense altercations between these males take place on a daily basis, and a large proportion of them suffer battle scars and injuries.

The Constantia Troop's home range covers only a small spatial area when related to wild troops and they rely heavily on the natural and anthropogenic resources in the area. This has resulted in the troop potentially functioning beyond the carrying capacity of its environment and this will increase its dependency on the wine farms and subsequently result in human-baboon conflict in both the Constantia agricultural and urban areas.

Constantia Troop August Raids:

Saturday 27 July: CON1 entered the residential area behind the wine tasting building close to the entrance of Groot Constantia, and raided the bins and a garden and returned to the troop via 15 Ou Wingerd Road.



(a)



(b)

Figure 15: (a) TK16 and CON1 feeding at the refuse skip at Groot Constantia (b) Groot Constantia Restaurants refuse skip cage door showing welded mesh that has been broken open by baboons to gain access.

Sunday 28 July: TK13 and CON1 raided bins at Simon's and Jonkershuis restaurants, and TK16 was intercepted attempting to enter the residential area.

Monday 29 July: TK16 raided bins at Simon's restaurant.

Tuesday 30 July: TK13 and TK34 went to 42 Price Drive.

Wednesday 31 July: TK13 and TK34 raided 12 and 42 Price Drive.

Friday 2 August: TK33 went to Schoenstatt Road.

Sunday 4 August: CON1 raided bins on Klein Constantia Road.

Monday 5 August: TK13 and TK34 entered the residential area through the lower Price Drive parking area and raided bins at 12 Price drive.



Wednesday 7 August: TK 13 and TK 34 entered the urban area. TK 34 raided a bin at Potters Cottage on Constantia Hill Farm on 7 and 8 August, however the new tenant has undertaken to ensure the bin is secured in future.

Thursday 8 August: TK 13 entered an unoccupied unit at 42 Price Drive through an open window and raided (bread and cereal). CON1 entered a garage at 42 Price Drive where gardeners had evidently left food.

Saturday 10 August: TK 13 raided the occupied main residence at 42 Price Drive gaining access through an open sliding door. TK 33 raided the bins at 12 Price Drive where gaining access to the property by rangers presents some difficulty.

Monday 12 August: TK13 raided a house on Klein Constantia farm. TK33 raided bins in Nova Constantia Road, at Simon's restaurant and at 12 Price Drive.

Wednesday 14 August: TK13 raided bins at Jonkershuis restaurant on Groot Constantia farm and was also observed eating fruit from a tree behind Simon's restaurant.

Thursday 15 August: TK33 and CON1 entered the residential area by Ou Wingerd Road and raided bins.

Friday 16 August: CON1 raided a bin at the Groot Constantia wine tasting cellar.

Sunday 18 August: TK 13 entered an occupied house at 24 Price Drive through an open door. TK 34 raided a bin at Potters Cottage on Constantia Hills Farm.

Monday 19 August: TK16 and CON1 raided the refuse skip at Groot Constantia on two separate occasions. TK13, TK34 and CON1 entered the urban area by clearing the Groot Constantia fence and raided the bins at both 12 and 42 Price Drive.

Tuesday 20 August: TK15 and CON1 entered the residential area at the staff compounds on Groot Constantia and raided bins at 3 Rustenburg Avenue.

Wednesday 21 August: TK33 raided the refuse skip at Jonkershuis restaurant. TK16, TK33 and CON1 separately raided bins in the residential area. Most of the troop entered the cellar, Simon's and Jonkershuis restaurants on Groot Constantia.

Thursday 22 August: TK13 raided bins in Belair Road and Price Drive. TK34, TK15 and CON1 entered the urban area via the Price Drive parking area and raided bins at various houses in Price Drive.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
BABOON TROOP: CONSTANTIA		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house/car	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: AUGUST 2013		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house/car																									
BABOON ID	Sex	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	TOTAL
TK13	M		2		2	2					2		2	6		6		5		2				6	2			2		12
TK15	M																									2		2		2
TK16	M																										2			1
TK33	M							2								2		2			2						2			5
TK34	M				2	2					2		2	2										2	2			2		8
CON1	M	2	2							2				5								2	2			2	2	2	2	10
																										38				
		%	MINUTES SPENT IN TOWN.																							HRS				
Males	13.57	30	0		60	60		30		30	60		60	90		60		30		0	30	0		60	90	60	90	120	16.00	
Troop	0.00																													0.00
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost Sites	1	EUCALYPTUS PLANTATION STAND ON KLEIN CONSTANTIA VINYARD, BORDERING GROOT CONSTANTIA BOUNDARY.																												
ID Features of Baboons	TK13 - Tagged Green/Orange, Colarred and alpha male.																													
	TK15 - Tagged Yellow/Orange																													
	TK16 - Tagged single White																													
	TK33 - Tagged Orange/Red																													
	TK34 - Tagged single Orange																													
	CON1 - Untagged up and coming raiding male.																													
General remarks	These males keep breaking away from the troop on a daily basis, sometimes in the company of other males, and actively evade rangers to enter the urban area and to opportunistically raid.																													

Figure 16: Raid sheet for the Constantia Troop – August 2013.

4. Mountain Troop

Due to increased raiding by males from the Constantia Troop, there was limited manpower available to monitor the Mountain Troop effectively. However, the troop continues to primarily roost in the large Eucalyptus plantation on the border of Buitenverwachting.

The Mountain Troop started entering the Buitenverwachting vineyards with the onset of the grape season in 2012 and the farm then appointed some of their staff to act as baboon rangers for the duration of the season. When the grape harvest was over their rangers were redeployed on the farm in other roles. As a result, the four farm houses at Hussies Vlei Farm that are within a radius of 200-300 meters of the troop’s sleep site in the Eucalyptus plantation are now being raided 2 to 3 times per week.

In severe cases, the HWS field manager and a ranger have responded to calls for help. However it takes a long time to reach these houses via the Klein Constantia Wine Farm and it also reduces the HWS manpower needed to manage the other troops. Buitenverwachting have recently arranged to re-employ their own baboon rangers.

Births and Deaths

On 26 July there was a stillborn birth in the Tokai Main Troop.

On 5 August TK29's carcass was found in Donkerbos Kloof Stream on Klein Constantia. However, because of the state of decay and the obvious removal of the soft tissues, an accurate post mortem was not possible. The carcass was about 2 days old.

On 18 August a Constantia Troop female was observed carrying a dead infant, cause of death unknown.



Figure 17: TK29's carcass found on Klein Constantia, reason of death unknown

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clearing and deforestation of the upper plantations has had a significant impact on the movement and habitat of all the Northern troops and the carrying capacity for the area needs to be assessed.

Effective signage needs to be erected at the corner of Zwaanswyk & Tokai Road, the Chrysalis Academy, the Arboretum tea garden parking area and at the Tokai picnic area warning visitors not to have food and drinks exposed, and to keep vehicles locked.

Refuse bins need to be baboon-proofed in the Price Drive, Zwaanswyk, Forest Glade and Tokai Road areas.

Cars often travel in excess of the speed limit on Tokai Road below the SANParks picnic site. In order to prevent baboons or horses being hit by cars, it is recommended that some traffic slowing devices be installed along this section of road. Additional signage is also recommended.

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

Population Data for the Eleven Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula						
TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	August Births	August Deaths	Total Births	Total Deaths	TOTAL CURRENT
Da Gama BT	42			5	17	30
Da Gama ST	12			2	2	12
Smitswinkel Bay	23			1	3	21
Waterfall	28			0	0	28
Groot Olifantsbos	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18			0	1	17
Slangkop	33	1		6	1	38
SUB TOTAL	175	1	0	14	24	165
Zwaanswyk Splinter	25	0	0	4	1	28
Tokai	61	(1)*	(1)*	6	3	64
Mountain / Ghost	33	3	0	11	0	44
Constantia	60	1(1)**	1(1)**	16	6	70
SUB TOTAL	179	6	3	37	10	206
TOTAL	354	7	3	51	34	371

Fig 18. Population Data for the eleven managed troops on the Cape Peninsula from end December 2012 to 23 August 2013 (* a still born infant; ** a newly born dead infant being carried by its mother - potentially also still born).

The population data this month continues to show the same trend as for previous months, namely a much higher birth rate in the northern sub-population compared to that in the south (six births vs one). Interestingly two of the total of seven births were either stillborn, or the infant died shortly after birth. This may relate to the very cold and wet August that the baboons have just experienced. It is notable however, that the number of births recorded in the north has not shown any decline when comparing winter with summer. When a full year's data becomes available in January, a more detailed analysis of this question will be done.

Hotline Data

The hotline data for August show the same trends as for July except the number of calls has reduced by almost half. With the removal of MC1 and the Misty Cliffs Troop being held in the CoGH Reserve for most of the month, the number of hotline calls for Scarborough has remained relatively low (8 vs. an average of 27 calls for the previous 3 months). This, despite the alpha



male still making excursions on his own to raid town for a few hours at a time. The other areas with relatively high call rates are Welcome Glen (13 calls) and Constantia (23 calls). The major problem with baboons in Da Gama and Welcome Glen seems to stem from a few residents intentionally feeding baboons, to the extent that a few individuals like DG7 even leave their roosts at night to go raiding. The data logger data for these breakaway individuals clearly show the most common routes the baboons take from their roost (Pines near the Naval Flats) to go raiding in town (see Fig. 8 on page 8 of this report). These data are only for day time whilst being followed by a ranger.

What is really interesting about these data is that it is only a few individuals (seven or eight), DG7 sub-adult males, females and juveniles that go raiding. The rest of the combined two troops never go into town further than required to go to their favourite roosting site (see Fig. 7, page 7).

This is really promising data because it shows not only that the two troops are continuing to combine as one, but also that the majority of the individuals seem to have been rehabilitated and are not going raiding when the few breakaways go on their own. This is quite remarkable for two troops that spent most of their lives in town just over a year ago.

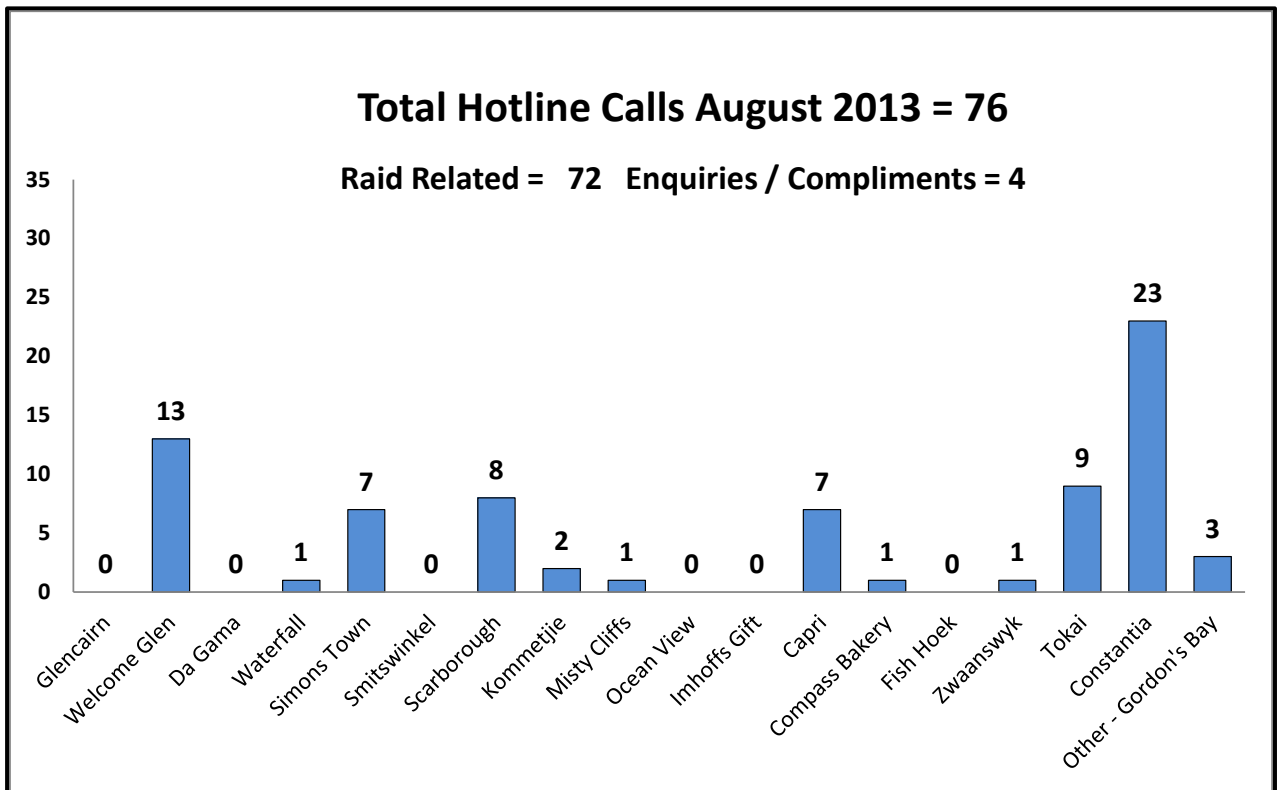


Figure 19. Hotline calls data for August 2013

This month every troop with the exception of Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop spent over 97% of their time out of town. The Misty Cliffs Troop still spent 93% of their time out of town, which is also a considerable improvement over previous months (average 86.6% for the previous 3 months).

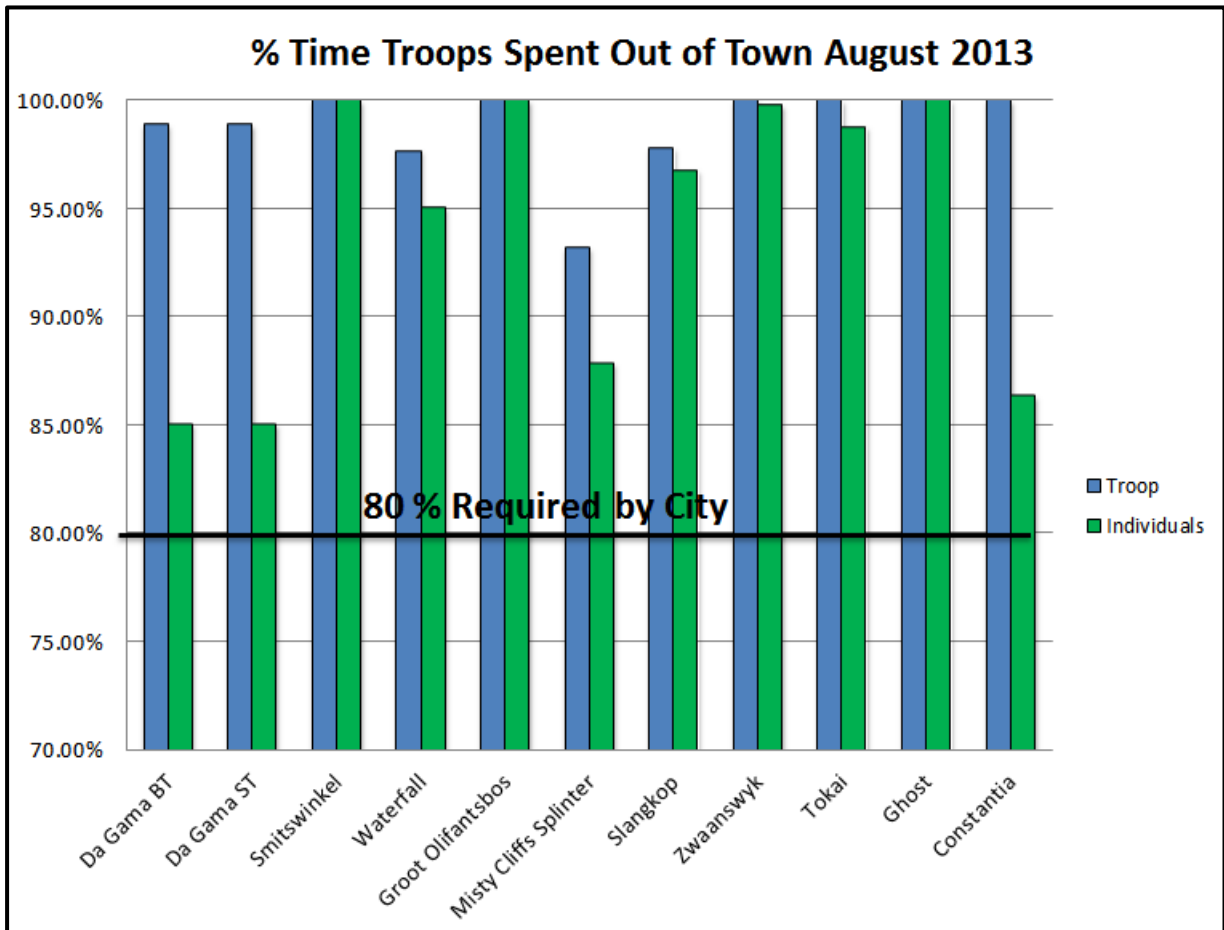


Fig 20. Time spent out of town.

Winter is traditionally the season when the Tokai and Constantia baboons come further down the mountain to raid in town. This year, the HWS rangers have managed to keep all four troops out of town, but the Constantia males in particular have become increasingly persistent in attempting to raid the urban area. With ten males in that troop, it is not surprising that Constantia has the highest call rate for all the urban areas.

This trend is likely to continue until the grape season starts again or until the worst offenders are removed. With the Constantia Troop now numbering 70 individuals and having 10 adult males attempting to raid in groups of 1-3 at various times of the day, it is almost impossible for a team of three people to control both the troop and the raiding males at the same time.

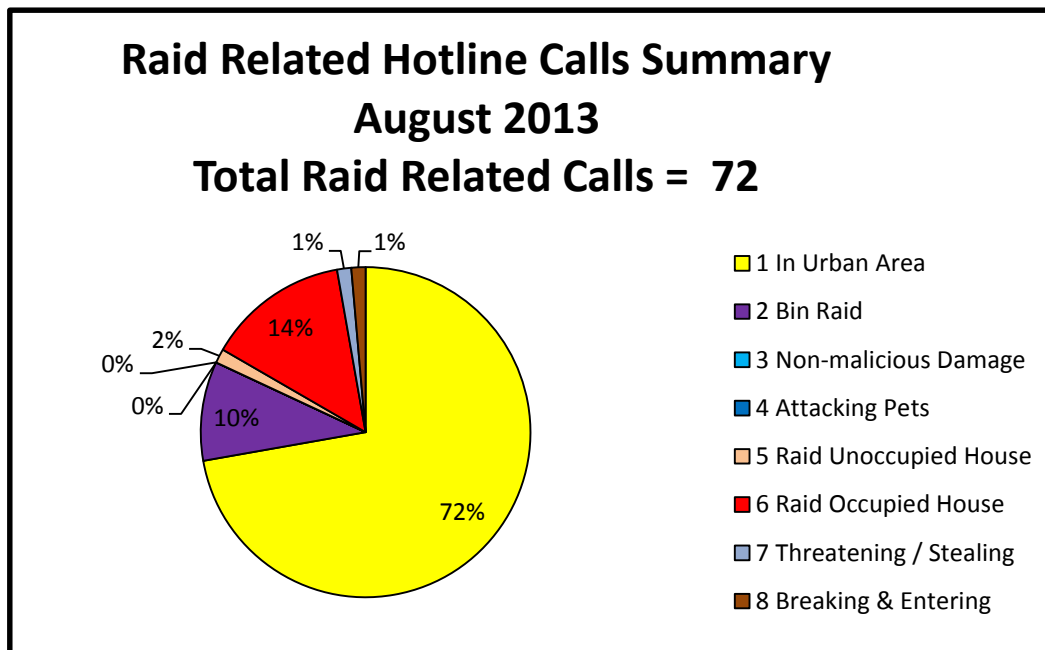


Figure 21. Hotline calls summary

The data this month for the types of raids being recorded during hotline calls is very similar to previous months in that most reported raids are again males raiding occupied houses (14%) and bin raids (10%). The main difference this month is that there were a few other incidents reported like breaking and entering, threatening behaviour, and raiding unoccupied houses, but these were all less than or equal to 2%. Bin raids will continue for as long as baboons still come into town, but raids on occupied houses clearly relate to a few known and habitual raiders which are just continuing with their old bad habits as before. Unless one resorts to more powerful aversion techniques like shock collars it is unlikely that these few individuals will be taught to change their ways.

General Summary

HWS are now into their second year of baboon management. There is still an unacceptably high percentage of hotline calls reporting baboons raiding occupied houses, but when one thinks back to where we were just over a year ago, then one realises that a huge amount has happened over the past year.

Just over a year ago there were two troops of baboons who considered Da Gama and Welcome Glen as home. This was where they slept every night and where they ran to if they felt threatened. It was also where they gained most of their food. Unfortunately these baboons are still sleeping in town, but HWS has managed to control them to the extent that they almost exclusively sleep in the trees adjacent to the Naval Flats, or on top of the flats themselves about twice a month. Sleeping at five different sites in and around Da Gama, Welcome Glen or GlenCairn is now more or less a thing of the past. The baboons have also been persuaded to sleep at another site out of town, namely Witsand, not far from Misty Cliffs. The Da Gama Big Troop slept here for several months, but from there they started raiding Ocean View on an increasingly intensive basis, so it was decided that it would be better if the troop returned to Da



Gama. For several months HWS staff tried to get the ST to sleep at cliff sites out of town, but there just are no suitable trees or cliff sites between Da Gama Park and Witsand, and the baboons refused to sleep anywhere in between. The BT and the ST are now sleeping together and mostly foraging together under the leadership of the new alpha male, SK3. So effectively the splinter troop has been returned to its original troop. HWS are optimistic that this trend will continue into the future.

Just over a year ago, the Scarborough and Misty Cliffs Troops were also spending huge amounts of time foraging and or sleeping in Scarborough itself. This too is a thing of the past. The main GOB Troop has not slept or even raided in town as a troop since HWS took over, and recently the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop has also been spending most of its time in the CoGH reserve. Over this past month ten of the eleven troops that HWS manages spent more than 97% of their time outside the urban area. In fact 6 troops spent 100% of their time outside the urban area.

Therefore, after one year of intense management with the use of paintball markers, HWS feel that they are pretty much in control of the baboon troop situation and it is mainly just a few individual males that are causing most of the raiding problems. In many areas even the raiding male problem is quite well under control (see Fig. 25 on page 27 of the July 2013 report) and HWS feel that they are starting to get on top of the cycle of bad raiders passing their bad habits on to the juveniles following in their footsteps. There are still a few areas, like Misty Cliffs, Da Gama, Waterfall and Constantia, in particular, where there are still some bad habitually raiding males potentially training up new raiders in their troops, but these troops are now definitely in the minority.

Dr. Philip Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions