



Monthly Report
For May 2013



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A. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

This month's report covers the five week period from 20 April to 24 May 2013.

With the onset of the winter rains and water becoming available in rock pools all over the mountain, the section on "water point data" will no longer be included in the monthly report. When summer returns and access to drinking water again becomes a feature of baboon life and affect where and when it forages and possibly raids, this section will again be reported in the monthly reports. All drinking data will, nevertheless, continue to be collected.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Manager Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

May was a particularly difficult month as we unfortunately lost SWB3, who was the troop's alpha male. Since the introduction of senior supervisors to Smitswinkel the situation with SWB3 had improved dramatically as the team had been proactively tracking SWB3 all day and thereby preventing raiding. SWB3 was considered a success story for rehabilitation as raiding behaviour had decreased dramatically.

On 29 April, it was reported to Ziggy Rode that the battery in SWB3's collar was flat and needed to be replaced because, without the ability to track SWB3, managing the baboon had become virtually impossible.

It was decided that that re-collaring needed to be undertaken urgently as incidences of raiding had risen sharply due to the lack of an effective collar and hence the difficulty in pre-empting SWB3's movements. On Saturday, 4 May, he was darted and the collar replaced with a new one. The animal was then kept under observation but unfortunately did not come around and was confirmed dead late on Saturday afternoon. The death of SWB3 was a great loss to the troop and the management team as the change and improvement in the baboon's behaviour over the past few months was considered a success story.

During May, SWB4 became extremely difficult to manage. Over the last few months there had been a lot of hostility between SWB4 and SWB3 which often resulted in the troop splitting up. The majority of the animals always went with SWB3 while a few low ranking animals would go with SWB4. At other times SWB4 would split off and raid alone.

SWB4 regularly split off and raided at Rockland's Centre, Miller's Caravan Park and frequently in Murdoch Valley. Once SWB4 was in Murdoch Valley, it was extremely difficult to herd the baboon back to the troop and SWB4 would sleep alone in the mountain behind Murdoch Valley. From mid-May onwards, SWB4 was in Murdoch Valley on a daily basis. In order to manage this situation effectively, three rangers were required to herd SWB4 out of the urban area, which left only one or two rangers remaining with the Smitswinkel troop.

SWB4 had also displayed aggressive/threatening behavior towards rangers as well as members of the public. On one occasion SWB4 entered three separate, occupied houses and was threatening toward one of the home-owners. The HWS Supervisor arrived and tried to herd him out of the house but SWB4 charged at him for quite a distance. To aggravate the situation, the battery in SWB4's radio collar also went flat so it then became almost impossible to manage. As a result, SWB4 was euthanised on 23 May. SWB6 subsequently took over the role of alpha male and there has been no more splitting of the troop. The situation is being monitored closely, but it looks very positive so far.

SWB1 is getting very old but still appears to be doing well in the troop. On one occasion SWB1 entered a vehicle where the driver had left the doors open, and once inside, stood on the car keys and the car doors locked. SWB1 was trapped inside the car and as a result the owner of the vehicle smashed a car window to free the baboon.



Fig.1. (a) SWB1 and (b) SWB6, now the alpha male of the Smitswinkel troop

| HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---|----|-------------------|----|------------|----|-----------------|----|------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|----|-----|----|-------|----|-------|---|
| SECTOR | | CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SE | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BABOON TROOP: | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MONTH: May 2013 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BABOON ID | Sex | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL | |
| SWB3 | M | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 6 | 6 | | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| SWB1 | M | | | | | | | | 5 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| SWB4 | M | 1 | 1 | | | | 6 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 6 | | | | 6 | 2 | | 2,6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6,6,7 | 6 | 1 | | 2 | x | | 22 | |
| SWB6 | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Troop | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | |
| UnID Fem | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HRS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Troop | 0.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 | |
| Males | 17.00 | 75 | 10 | | | | 25 | 20 | 5 | | 120 | 15 | 15 | | | | | 70 | | | | 15 | 30 | 10 | 80 | 480 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 125 | 45 | 50 | 480 | | 42.83 | | | |
| Roost: | AM | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | | |
| Roost: | PM | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | | |
| Roost Sites | | 1 Smits Caves | | 2 Partridge Point | | 3 Bluegums | | 4 Millers Point | | 5 Rocklands Farm | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ID Features of Baboons | | SWB3: collar, SWB4: Collar+ double white tag, SWB1: Collar+blue & white tag, SWB5 = Red/Blue tags | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General remarks | | Town/Urban area = Millers Point boat launching area, caravan park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock Houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Fig.2. Raid Sheet for the Smitswinkel Troop



2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall troop has continued to raid in the early mornings and occasionally after rangers have left the area in the evenings although this is becoming less frequent due to sunset being earlier and it getting quite dark by the time the rangers leave.

Unfortunately it will be very difficult to modify this raiding behaviour with the poor waste management at the waterfall barracks. This issue needs to be addressed if there is to be any hope of stopping raiding at the barracks.

The two sub-adult males from the Waterfall troop are also particularly defiant as they have learnt to intimidate women. In particular, a house in Cardiff Street gets raided where the baboons have learnt how to open the sliding door. Once inside the house, they have attempted to jump at the woman who resides there, and have displayed threatening behaviour. With the Smitswinkel troop under control, the senior supervisor will be spending more time at Waterfall to train the team in the effective use of telemetry with the aim of curbing the raiding behaviour of the troop.

| HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|-----|----|----|----------------------|------------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------|----|----|----|--|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-------|
| SECTOR | | CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SE | | 1 In urban area | | | | | | | | | | 4 Attacking pets | | | | | | | 7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BABOON TROOP: Waterfall | | 2 Raid bins | | | | | | | | | | 5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle | | | | | | | 8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MONTH: May | | 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 Non malicious damage | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | Raid occupied house or vehicle | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BABOON ID | Sex | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL |
| WF2 | M | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 2,6 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | 23 |
| WF1 | M | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 6* | 1 | | 2 | 15 |
| UnID Females | F | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2,5 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 2,5 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 28 |
| TROOP | | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 12 |
| RH2 | M | | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 6 | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Juveniles | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 13 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HRS | | | | | | | | | |
| Troop | 5.5 | 125 | | | | | 25 | | | | | 70 | 45 | | | | 45 | 70 | | 45 | | | | | 20 | | 75 | | | | 60 | 45 | 15 | 70 | 120 | 13.83 | |
| Females | 8.9 | 45 | | 10 | 70 | 10 | 30 | 40 | | | 20 | 25 | 70 | 45 | 20 | 15 | | 45 | 190 | | 45 | 10 | 15 | 120 | 20 | | 75 | 60 | | | 120 | 45 | 15 | 70 | 120 | 22.50 | |
| Males | 9.2 | 35 | 175 | | | 15 | 5 | 20 | | | | 25 | 70 | 45 | 20 | 15 | | 80 | 70 | 60 | 85 | 15 | 15 | 60 | 70 | 75 | 75 | 60 | | 5 | 120 | 45 | 35 | 70 | 25 | 23.17 | |
| Roost: | AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roost: | PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roost Sites | 1 Waterfall Cliff | | 2 Happy Valley Mnt | | | | 3 Signal School | | | | 4 Waterfall Barracks | | | | 5 Mountain Residents side | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 Admiral footpath | | 7 Not found | | | | 8 Happy Valley Home | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ID Features of Baboons | WF2 - red&blue tags + collar, WF1 - yellow&blue tag, RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General remarks | 6* - Woman reported that it was the third time that WF1 entered her house, he had made several attempts to jump at her when he was inside. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Fig.3. Raid sheet for the Waterfall troop

Da Gama – Big Troop (BT)

The Da Gama BT spent most of its time around Witsand and Ocean View. The biggest problem currently is that there is a small raiding party that enters Ocean View almost on a daily basis. Most of the raids into Ocean View are instigated by three sub-adult males.

Once in Ocean View they split off and raid individually. The adult males, DG1 and SK4, also enter Ocean View but not as frequently as the sub-adults. SK4 moved across from the Slangkop troop



on 27 April and, on arrival at the BT, started chasing the females. Within one day he had started on an infanticidal spree, killing infant baboons. Infanticide is part of baboons' natural behaviour when dominant male moves into a new troop and the HWS team therefore did not interfere in this situation. The presumed reason for infanticide is that it brings the females into breeding condition much quicker than if they were left to raise the offspring and to complete their breeding cycle undisturbed. This therefore increases the new male's genetic input into the next generation. By the 24th of May SK4 had killed five infants that were less than 6 months old, however he also continued to pursue females with suckling juveniles.

Another concerning feature of SK4, is that while he was a member of the Slangkop troop he never entered Ocean View to raid. However, since joining the Da Gama BT, SK4 started following the sub adults on raids and now goes just as far into Ocean View as the sub-adults do.

DGF7 continued to enter Ocean View on a regular basis together with DGF8. These two females had also started sleeping close to the Ocean View graveyard and spent a considerable amount of time away from the troop. DGF3 used to be a bad raider but after giving birth the raiding behaviour tended to stop. However, since SK4 killed the infant, DGF3 soon started raiding once again.

On 30 April, DGF8 was seen at the Soetwater Educational Centre (which was far away from the troop) where the animal attempted to raid bins and scavenge on human food that was left lying around. DGF8 was subsequently caught and assessed, and due to her extremely poor condition and no prospect of improving due to advanced age, the baboon was euthanized.

On 3 May, DGF7 entered Ocean View and went far into the urban area and was last seen in the vicinity of a block of flats where attempts were made to herd the animal out. Unfortunately the rangers lost visual contact with DGF7. The baboon has not been seen since then and is presumed dead.

On 7 May, after daily raids and/or attempts to raid, as well as leading a few raids, DGF3 was euthanized.

Raiding still continues in Ocean View which has become more attractive as a "feeding spot" than the natural vegetation. There are a number of contributing factors to this situation:

- baboons gain easy access to waste as there is no baboon proof waste management in the area;
- houses are not baboon proofed which enables baboons to enter the houses easily;
- a dense stand of alien vegetation behind Ocean View gives baboons cover to evade rangers and then enter the urban area; and
- the baboons have discovered several fruiting trees and vegetable patches within the urban area.



| HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|----|----|----|------------------------------------|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-------|-----------------|----|---|---|----|-------|-----|----|----------------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----------------------|-------|----|-------|
| SECTOR | | CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SOUTH EAST | | 1 In urban area | | | | 4 Attacking pets | | | | 7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BABOON TROOP: DA GAMA ST | | 2 Raid bins | | | | 5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle | | | | 8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MONTH: May YEAR: 2013 | | 3 Non malicious damage | | | | 6 Raid occupied house or vehicle | | | | 9 Nocturnal Raiding | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BABOON ID | Sex | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL |
| Small Troop | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 2,2,2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | |
| DGF1 | F | 5 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 2,2,2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | |
| DGF2 | F | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 2,2,2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | | |
| UnID Female | F | 1 | | 2 | | | | 5 | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2,6 | 2 | 2,2,2 | 1 | 2 | | | | 2 | 2,2 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 22 | | |
| UnID sub-adult | M | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2,6 | 2 | 2,6 | 1 | 2 | | | | 2,6,6 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20 | | |
| UnID Juvs | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 5 | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 2,6 | 2 | 2,6 | 1 | 2 | | | | 2,6,6 | 2 | | | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 24 | | |
| SK3 | M | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 2,6 | 2 | 2,2,2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 5 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 2,8 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 25 | |
| | | TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HRS | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Troop | % | 3.3 | 10 | 45 | | | | | | 60 | | | | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 120 | 90 | | | | | 5 | | | | | | 20 | 15 | 90 | 10 | | 10.75 | | |
| Juveniles | % | 5.9 | 10 | 45 | | | 30 | | | 60 | | | 10 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 120 | 90 | | | | 180 | 10 | 15 | 60 | | 45 | 20 | 20 | 120 | 10 | 45 | 10 | 19.00 | | |
| Males | % | 5.1 | 30 | 60 | 45 | | | | | 60 | | | | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 120 | 90 | | | | | 5 | 15 | | | 45 | 20 | 60 | 120 | 10 | 60 | 10 | 16.50 | | |
| Roost: (Small) | AM | 5 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Roost: (Small) | PM | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 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 | Misty Cliff | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ID Features of Baboons | DGF1 - Female with collar + blue/white tags DGF2 - Female with crooked hand | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General remarks | 04/05 - Injury noted on 1 sub-adult male, possibly inflicted by SK3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Fig.5. Da Gama – Small Troop Raid Sheet

Births and Deaths

One new birth was recorded in the Smitswinkel troop.

30 April, DGF8 was euthanized due to poor condition.

3 May, DGF7 was last seen at a block of flats in Ocean View and has been presumed dead.

4 May, SWB3 did not come around after tranquilisation.

7 May, DGF3 was euthanized.

23 May, SWB4 was euthanized.

From 27 April, when SK4 joined the Da Gama BT, 5 infants were killed by SK4. Infanticide often occurs where there is a male takeover in a troop. During lactation females undergo a period of lactational amenorrhoea whereby they do not ovulate while an infant is nursing at a high rate. Thus, the death of a young infant will terminate the amenorrhoea and females will start ovulating sooner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As per previous reports, the alien vegetation behind Ocean View needs to be cleared urgently (see map below). The blue arrows indicate the routes the baboons take to get to Ocean View. Both these areas are densely covered with alien vegetation and once in there, the baboons are able to get within 5m from Ocean View before being detected by field rangers, and it is virtually impossible to defend a buffer zone of 5m or less. The alien vegetation extends up to the Ocean View Cemetery and another major concern is that the

baboons will start sleeping in the pines at the Cemetery as some of the females have, on occasion, slept there. If the entire troop starts to sleep at the Cemetery raiding and conflict in Ocean View will increase dramatically.

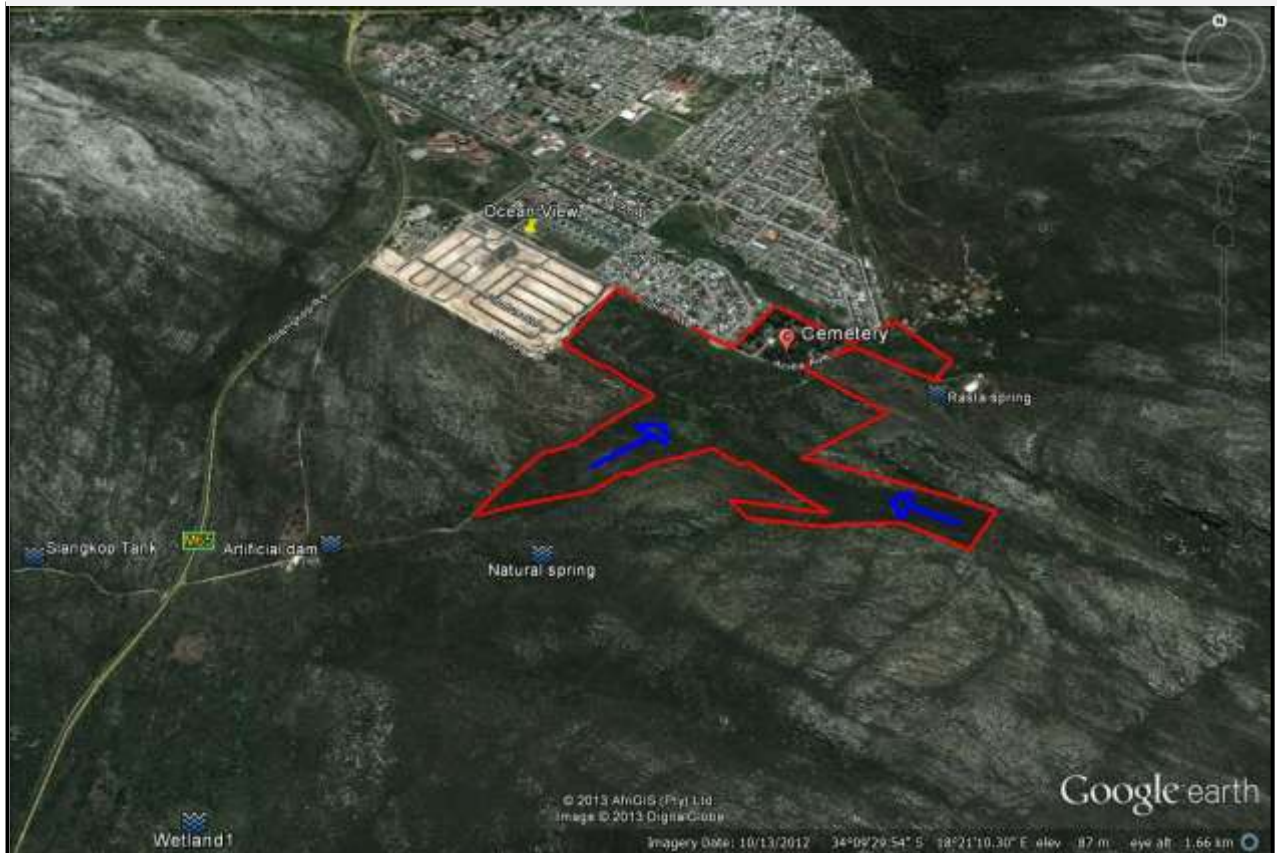


Fig 6: Alien vegetation that needs to be cleared behind Ocean View.

2. Waste management at the Waterfall Barracks needs to be addressed.
3. Increased education and awareness is needed in Ocean View.
4. More education and awareness as well as Baboon proof bins are needed in Ocean View.

South Western Region – Manager Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

The GOB troop has been in the Cape of Good Hope Reserve for the period 20th April to 24th May. The troop has moved between the areas of Olifantsbos and the cliff site on the Bonteberg ridge (C2). From the 20th to 25th April the troop was in the Bonteberg area. From the 25th April to the 24th May the troop has been in the Olifantsbos area. At no time during this period did the troop enter Scarborough.

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

From the 20th to 25th April the troop was at the Misty Cliffs (C1) roost site. On the 26th April the rangers pushed the troop into the CoGH Reserve where they remained until the 9th May when the troop managed to break out of the Reserve and back to the Misty Cliffs roost site.



Figure 7: Misty Cliffs Troop Roost Sites for May 2013

May Raids:

On the 24th April GOB5 attacked a dog at a house in Daisy Rd, Scarborough.

On the 15th May GOB5 raided an occupied house in Old Camp Rd, Misty Cliffs by gaining access through an open door.

On the 21st May GOB5 raided a house in Old Camp Rd by breaking open a sliding door.

On the 22nd May GOB5 broke into a house by damaging a sliding door at 509 Egret Rd.

Comments and Observations

The challenges faced in the last month were days of heavy mist and several fruiting trees attracting the troop into Scarborough.

Very thick fog on the 9th May reduced visibility from Scarborough into the CoGH Reserve and allowed the troop to move unseen along the beach and into Scarborough. Similarly, thick mist on numerous days towards the end of May made it difficult to follow the movements of the troop on the mountain side above Scarborough, especially when the troop split up. This resulted in the troop entering Scarborough.

There are a number of citrus and guava trees at 4 Iris Rd which have been a major attractant to the troop. This has caused the neighbouring houses to experience frequent visits by the troop throughout May.



The young male MC1 continues to break away from the troop regularly to spend a lot of time in Scarborough on his own or with one to three females. When the troop was in the Reserve MC1 and a female in estrus would break away from the troop to enter Scarborough. The alpha, GOB5 would then follow these two, leaving the rest of the troop in the Reserve. This makes keeping the rest of the troop in the Reserve very difficult.

| 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: May YEAR: 2013 | | 2 | Raid bins | 5 | Raid unoccupied house or vehicle | 8 | Breaking & Entering/Damaging property | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 3 | Non malicious damage | 6 | Raid occupied house or vehicle | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BABOON ID | Sex | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL | | |
| GOB5 | M | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 20 | | |
| MC1 | M | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 19 | | |
| Female with baby | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 8 | | |
| Unidentified female | F | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16 | | |
| Unidentified female | F | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 11 | | |
| Troop | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 9 | | |
| | % | TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HRS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Troop | 8.8 | | | | | 85 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 80 | | 420 | | | | | | 420 | 420 | 240 | 20 | 300 | 15 | 240 | 37h20 | | |
| Males & Females | 15.4 | 180 | | | 60 | | | | | | | | 50 | 90 | | | | | | | 180 | 240 | 80 | 30 | 420 | 240 | 60 | 20 | 360 | 160 | 420 | 60 | 420 | 240 | 20 | 300 | 15 | 240 | 64h45 |
| Roost: | AM | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 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 | |
| Roost: | PM | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 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 MC1 is young adult male. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General remarks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 8: Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop May 2013

3. Slangkop Troop

From the 20th April to 25th May the troop moved back and forth between the C2 and C3 roost sites. For the majority of the month the troop was at the C3 roost site.

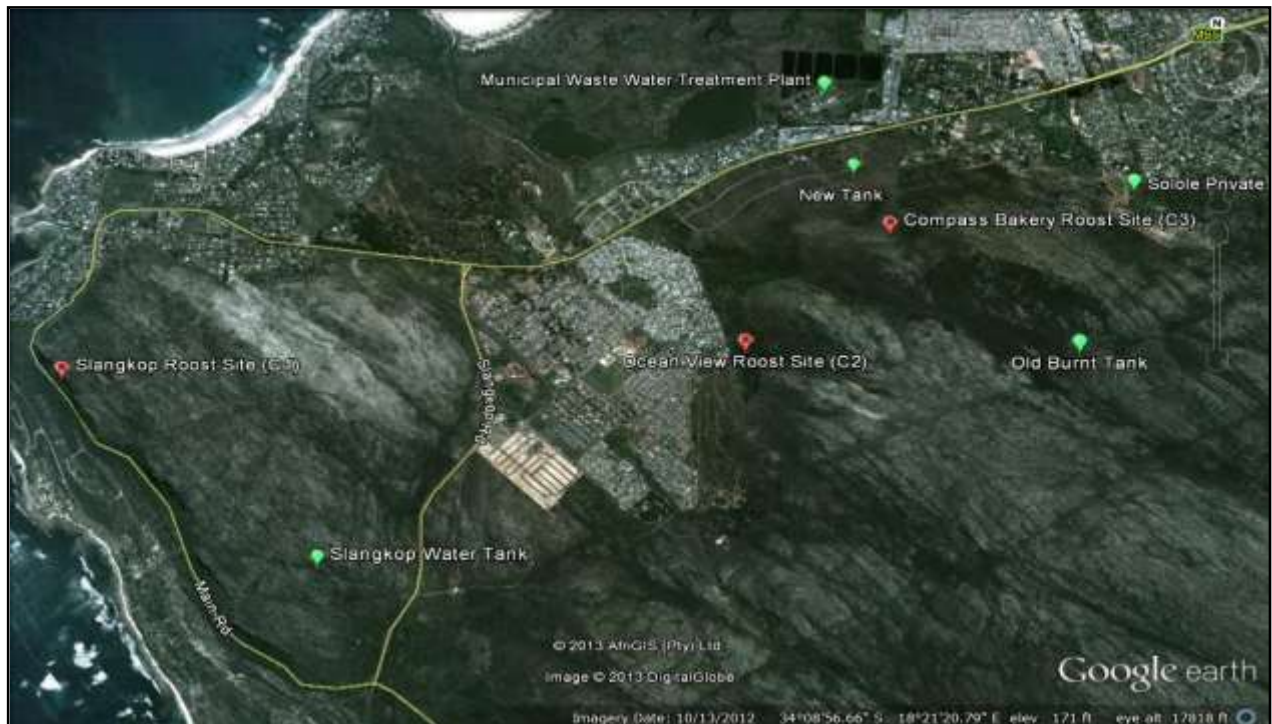


Figure 9: Slangkop Troop Roost Sites and Water Points May 2013



May Raids:

On the 20th April SK4, SK5 and three females raided an unoccupied house in ‘small’ Capri.

On the 22nd April SK4, SK5 and one female raided an occupied house in ‘small’ Capri.

On the 3rd May DG6 and SK5 raided an occupied house in ‘small’ Capri.

On the 20th May an unknown female raided an unoccupied house in Capri.

| SECTOR | | CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------|----|----|------------------------------------|------------------|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|------|-------|----|
| BABOON TROOP: Slangkop | | 1 In urban area | | | | 4 Attacking pets | | | | 7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MONTH: May | | 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 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | TOTAL | |
| DG6 | M | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 14 |
| SK4 | M | 5 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| SK5 | M | 5 | | 6 | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | | 2 | 19 |
| Unidentified Female | F | 5 | | 6 | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 5 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 19 | |
| Unidentified Female | F | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 15 | |
| Unidentified Female | F | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | 2 | | 2 | 12 | |
| Troop | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | | 7 | |
| | | TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HRS | | | | | | | | |
| Troop | 0.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | | 15 | 10 | 20 | | 25 | | 120 | | 3h50 | | |
| Males + Females | 4.2 | 180 | 25 | 75 | | | | | | | 15 | | 20 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 75 | | | 30 | | 15 | 20 | | 75 | 120 | 60 | 15 | 10 | 20 | | 25 | | 120 | 30 | 60 | 17h35 | |
| Roost: | AM | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| Roost: | PM | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| Roost Sites | 1 Slangkop | | 2 Ocean View | | | | 3 Compass Bakery | | | | 4 | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | | 7 | | | | 8 | | | | 9 | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ID Features of Baboons | DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General remarks | SK4 moved to DG big troop on the 27th April. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 10: Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – May 2013

Comments and Observations

For most of the month the troop was prevented from entering the urban areas. There were a number of raids by the troop in the second half of May as a result of poor visibility on the mountain caused by thick mist and the inability of the rangers to track the movements of the troop on the mountain above Capri.

On the 27th April SK4 moved across from Ocean View to the Da Gama big troop where he seems to be asserting himself as the new alpha male.

Since SK4 moved over to the Da Gama troop the raiding of Imhoff’s Gift and ‘small’ Capri has reduced. This is because SK4 and SK5 were recently the only two that would break away from the troop to raid these areas. For the first week after SK4’s disappearance from the troop SK5 stopped raiding. He would break away from the troop and when none of the other baboons followed him he would return. After a week however he began breaking away on his own to raid Imhoff’s Gift. He is sometimes accompanied by a single female.

The supervisor has reported that on three occasions in the last two weeks SK5 and three or four females have slept in the trees above Ocean View while the rest of the troop was at the Compass Bakery roost site. This means that the management team has to be split up to manage these two separate areas, thus making the management of the main troop more challenging.



The water tank at the base of the C3 roost site has been empty for most of May. The troop is managing to access water collected in rocks on the mountain above the roost site and it is most likely that the troop will not need an artificial water point until summer.

Births and Deaths

There were no births or deaths recorded for the above troops this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop over the next month will be to return them to the Reserve and prevent them from entering Scarborough and returning to the Misty Cliffs roost site. It is not possible to effectively manage this troop at the C1 roost site. The long term goal is to condition the troop to thinking of the C2 cliff site in the Reserve as their preferred roost site. As it is difficult to keep the troop in the Reserve for extended periods of time further measures must be looked into that will help to keep the troop in the Reserve permanently.

The recommendation for the Slangkop troop in 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. In particular, attention must be paid to the times when SK5 and the few females are sleeping far away from the rest of the troop.

North Region – Manager Stefan Theron

1. Tokai Main Troop

This troop has been ranging extensively this past month and alternating for a number of days between the higher levels on SANParks land and the low lying Chrysalis/Porter area. With the full onset of winter, wind will be a major factor negating the troop's summer preference for the upper level sleep sites and foraging areas. The low lying plantation and surrounding areas offer much better refuge from the elements. This could result in the troop shifting their primary roosting site back to the plantation next to the Cape research centre (CRC) which was their sole sleeping area during the 2012 winter.

This is a non-preferred sleeping site for managing the troop as it neighbours the large refuse skip, the "bosdorp" staff houses, SANParks picnic area and is also relatively close to Zwaanswyk Road and the Forest Glade urban edge. Feeding from the refuse skip by the troop has, so far, been well managed due to its replacement with a refurbished skip and cooperation by its users. The troop has been quite passive over the past couple of months, but increased baboon-human conflict seems inevitable as the ranges of the baboons move back into the areas where people live and work on a regular basis. These areas included two stable yards, the Chrysalis Academy, The Range, the Porter Fresh Produce market, Porter Estate, the SANParks infrastructure including the picnic site and tea garden, and the Fire fighting services. Conflict has been minimised so far due to the presence of rangers in the vicinity, and raiding that has occurred has been predominantly by three individual males and only on a few occasions. It should be kept in mind that although all the raiding mentioned above occurred in areas of human habitation or activity (SANParks, Chrysalis etc.), none of it actually occurred within what is defined as the urban space.

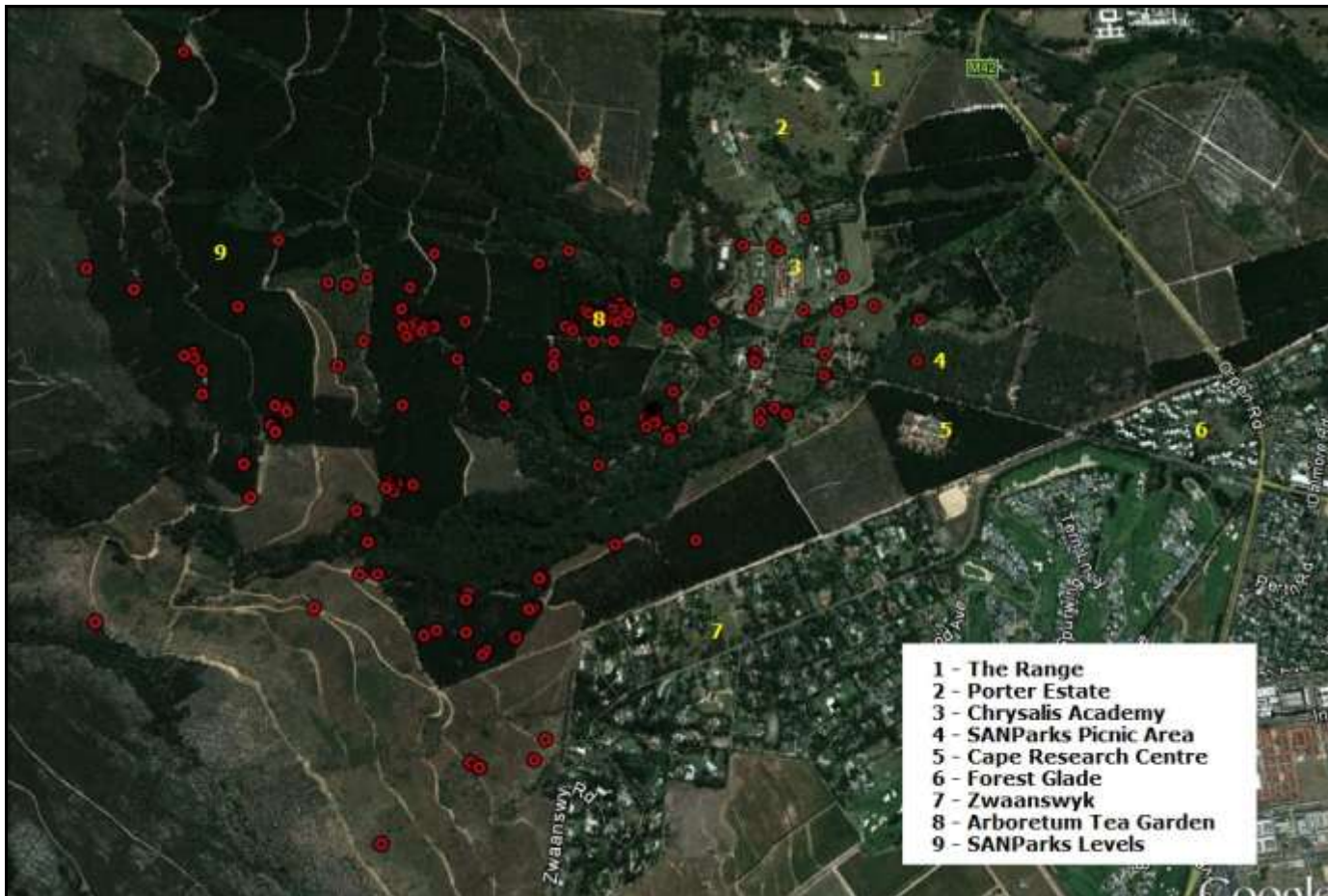


Figure 11: The spatial ranging of the Tokai Main troop from 20 April to 24 May 2013, illustrated by GPS collar data.

On Saturday, 4th May TK28 (tagged Blue/Green) and TK24 (tagged White/White) left the troop between level one and two to investigate the commotion of visitors on a busy Saturday. This took place at the teagarden shop and the arboretum hiking and cycling access points to levels on the SANParks mountainside. TK28 stole a muffin at the coffee shop table whereafter TK24 stole a piece from as they ran away.

On Monday, 6th May the troop was foraging high up on level five when TK28 grabbed a half loaf from a bread bag that forestry workers had left next to them while they were having a break – this while the troop was in close proximity.

On Saturday, 11th May an unidentified sub- adult male stole a loaf of bread from one of the Porter Fresh Produce market stands.

On Tuesday, 21st May TK24 was observed tearing open a full bag of rice which he had stolen from an unknown location in the vicinity of the Tokai Manor House. TK28 grabbed a rubbish bag from behind the back of a worker fixing the lockable refuse drum which the baboons had tipped over – this was next to the SANParks Wild Card offices.

An unidentified sub-adult male climbed through an open window into a contractor's bakkie where they were erecting log fencing for the horse paddocks. The vehicle was parked in sight of and amongst the troop of baboons.



Figure 12: Certain individuals of varying ages in the Tokai main troop are familiar with investigating vehicles for potential food.

2. Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop

This troop's primary roosting site remains within the large trees behind the Arboretum Tea Garden. The Cape Research Centre roosting site has been utilised twice this month by the small Zwaanswyk splinter troop but it is

uncertain if this was due to climate preference or to avoid conflict with the Tokai main troop as the two troops have, for the past few months, been roosting in close proximity to each other (approximately 300 meters) for about 70% of the time.

The Zwaanswyk splinter troop and the Tokai main troop effectively have the same home range, with the Zwaanswyk splinter troop's movements being dictated by their avoidance of the Tokai main troop. The troops spent most days in close proximity to each other and were only very occasionally at opposite ends of the home range.

The troop alpha, TK35 (tagged Red/Yellow), is still a young male bordering on adulthood. He had followed raiding males into the urban edge on a handful of occasions a couple of months back but has subsequently stopped any inclination to raid and has been very well behaved, prioritizing his duties as alpha by guarding and leading the troop.



On Monday, 29th of April, a new born with an unusual bald patch on its head was observed. It has subsequently been monitored and it appears that the hair was still receding and falling out as time progresses. There are a multitude of factors that can lead to alopecia (hair loss) in baboons which is similar to a human hair loss condition. For instance, hypothyroidism, iron deficiency or fungal infection could each be a reason for this condition. Other than this, the infant seems quite normal, healthy and active.

Figure 13: Balding infant born in the Zwaanswyk splinter troop on 29th April 2013.

3. Constantia Troop

Since the conclusion of the grape harvesting season for the Constantia Valley farms, the constant herding of the troop by farm monitors has been reduced significantly. Only Klein Constantia still employs two monitors where the main objective is to keep the troop off Klein Constantia's property. Unfortunately this often results in the troop spilling over onto the neighbouring farms. Overall, despite the harvesting season being over, the baboons are still spending at least 80% of their time on the farms, although much of this time is in the thick riverine forest in the valleys on the Groot / Klein Constantia boundary.

The trees in the only upper level sleeping site of the Constantia troop were logged down a month ago. This has removed a large portion of the only plantation left in their home range. The troop now primarily sleeps on the boundary of Klein and Groot Constantia in two Eucalyptus tree stands on the farms. Although the troop sleeps on both sides of the boundary, it spends most of its foraging time on Groot

Constantia. HWS is assisting Groot Constantia in minimizing raiding by adult males at their key infrastructure sites such as Jonkershuis and Simon's Restaurants.



A potential problem with the troop ranging on Groot Constantia is that it brings them in close proximity to the Price Drive urban area. HWS is currently working non-stop in preventing raiding males from entering Price Drive. The main reason for preventing this is because, as observed in the past, once the males have entered the urban edge and found food, they would be inclined to target this area on a daily basis.

Figure 14: TK13 – Tagged Green/Orange Constantia troop alpha male.

When the troop reaches the castle on Groot Constantia, they usually forage on raisins and winery waste that has been dumped by farm workers. There are loads of raisins dumped and one can argue that this is a very significant reason why the baboons prefer being at the castle on a daily basis. Furthermore, they tend to spend time at the reservoir close to Simon's Restaurant and at times tend to move towards the residential areas on the northern side of the farm. This means that HWS is required to hold a line and herd them back onto the vineyards towards the mountain. The fact that this troop now numbers over 60 individuals makes it a difficult troop to manage with limited man power.



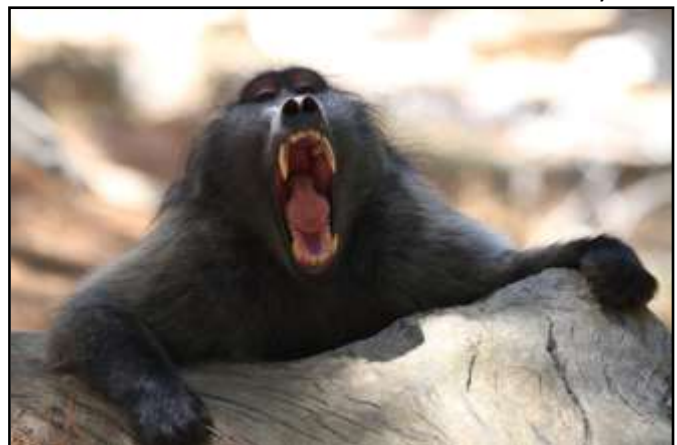
Figure 15: TK 30 – Slashed lip/nose Constantia troop beta male.

4. Mountain / Ghost Troop

This month the troop spent only a short time attempting to enter the Buitenverwachting and Uitsig vineyards. The troop gains access primarily via the old Eucalyptus plantation on the steep kloof which is adjacent to the two farms boundary and at the south western corner of the fence. They have occasionally moved high up in the levels to within a hundred meters of Elephant's Eye or in line with Vlakkenberg.

Compared to the other Northern troops, this troop doesn't range far from its primary roosting site which is at the old Eucalyptus plantation. This month they spent the majority of their time foraging in the level plantations.

Fig 16: TK36 – Untagged Mountain troop alpha male





Births and Deaths

Over the past month there was a baby born to each troop, except for the Constantia troop which had 3 births. One of the Constantia troop's newborn babies (born 2 May) was found dead on 9 May. The previous day there had been a big altercation between the males, so this death can most probably be attributed to infanticide.

Figure 17: TK3 – Tagged White/Blue Mountain troop beta male.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The clearing of the upper plantations has had a noticeable impact on the habitat and movements of all the Northern troops. This is reducing sleep sites as well as a very reliable food source - pine nuts. The current and future effects of this need to be assessed because one may well find in the near future that there is a sudden and radical change in baboon behaviour as a result of these changes. This may cause a sharp increase in conflict between the Constantia valley wine farmers and the troops as they become overly reliant on the farms for sustenance.
- Significant signage needs to be erected at the corner of Zwaanswyk & Tokai Road, Chrysalis Academy, the Arboretum Tea Garden parking area and the Tokai picnic area warning visitors not to have food and drinks exposed. People also need to be warned to keep their vehicles locked and that baboons can cause damage to parked vehicles. On average, one vehicle a week gets damaged. This ranges from broken off side-mirrors, windscreen wipers, antennae, cracked windshields and having door and window rubbers removed. It's essential to lock doors and close windows if the troops are in the vicinity but a large proportion of the general public that comes to the area is oblivious of this.
- In the Price Drive area refuse bins need to be baboon proofed. With the grape harvesting finished and the food sources depleting on the farms, certain raiding baboons have already started to focus their attention on the urban areas and the vineyards' restaurants again.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

| Population Data for the Eleven Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| TROOP | Dec 2012 | Jan 2013 | Feb 2013 | Mar 2013 | Apr 2013 | May 2013 | | TOTAL |
| | Total | Total | Total | Total | Total | Births | Deaths | |
| Da Gama Main | 42 | 42 | 43 | 46 | 45 | | 8 | 37 |
| Da Gama Small | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | | | 11 |
| Smitswinkel Bay | 23 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 21 |
| Waterfall | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | | | 28 |
| Groot Olifantsbos | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 20 | | | 20 |
| Misty Cliffs Splinter | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 17 | | | 17 |
| Slangkop | 33 | 34 | 35 | 37 | 36 | | | 36 |
| SUB TOTAL | 175 | 176 | 177 | 182 | 179 | 1 | 10 | 170 |
| Zwaanswyk Splinter | 25 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 27 | 1 | | 28 |
| Tokai | 61 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 1 | | 63 |
| Mountain | 33 | 35 | 36 | 39 | 40 | 1 | | 41 |
| Constantia | 60 | 61 | 62 | 64 | 66 | 3 | 1 | 68 |
| SUB TOTAL | 179 | 186 | 188 | 192 | 195 | 6 | 1 | 200 |
| TOTAL | 354 | 362 | 365 | 374 | 374 | 7 | 11 | 370 |

Fig 18: Population data for the eleven managed troops of the Cape Peninsula

Last month there were two very noticeable trends in the baboon population data:

- i) Since the onset of autumn there seemed to be a decrease in birth rates when compared to those for the preceding summer months.
- ii) The average birth rate in the northern troops seems to be much higher than in the southern managed troops.

This month the trend for a winter decrease in birth rate is very prominent in the southern troops with only one birth being recorded, whereas there were six births recorded in the northern troops whose population size is only marginally larger than that of the southern troops. This point illustrates the second trend noted above, namely that the baboons in the north have a much higher breeding rate than those in the south. As mentioned last month, this trend almost certainly reflects the very different diets that these two populations are eating. In the south they feed mainly on fynbos and some human derived food (especially in Scarborough, Da Gama and Ocean View). In the north the baboons feed to a large extent on pine nuts in the plantations and on grapes, raisins, grain plants, flowers and farming waste on the farms. At present the three biggest troops are all in the north (two numbering over 60 baboons each), and the only small troop (28 individuals) is the Zwaanswyk Splinter troop.

Over the past five months the population of the southern managed troops has actually decreased by 2.8% whereas the northern population has increased by 11.7%. No doubt the northern population has increased so dramatically because of the good food it has access to. It is interesting to note that apart



from their differences in breeding rates, the troops in the north and south have experienced quite similar mortality patterns. Since the beginning of 2013, there have been 3 baboons euthanised according to the raiding protocol in the north, vs. 7 in the south. The corresponding figures for human induced deaths are 2 each for north and south, and natural mortalities are 3 and 6 for the north and south respectively.

Although all sources of mortality are slightly higher in the South, these differences cannot account for the major differences in the positive and negative growth rates evident in these two sub populations (11.7% vs -2.8%), which would largely appear to be as a result of their major differences in the breeding rates. In the south the managed troops' only access to human derived foods are the urban areas. With management keeping the baboons out of town on average over 95% of the time, no doubt these baboons' access to human derived food has been dramatically reduced, and hence lowering their breeding rate closer to what would normally be seen in wild populations. In natural populations most baboon females give birth once every two years, whereas in most of the peninsula troops the females have been giving birth once a year.

Baboon deaths as a result of management euthanasias cannot be a significant factor in terms of numbers, but may be very significant in terms of effect. In both the northern and southern troops management removals have helped dramatically to reduce the raiding rates of baboons. However, while this still left plenty of unnatural food available for the northern troops to feed on (from farms and pine forests), it has most probably had a significant effect on the amount of human derived food available to be eaten by the southern baboons.

Hotline Data

The total number (54) of hotline calls this month (Figure 19) shows the expected trend, namely that with the full arrival of the rains there has been a decrease in the number of hotline calls as reflected in both the 2012 and 2013 data.

In Figure 20 one can see that Scarborough continues to be the most raided area by a long margin. The main culprits here are again GOB5 and MC1. MC1 and some lone females have taken to raiding very quietly on their own as they sneak through the more wooded areas of Scarborough. GOB5 has become increasingly aggressive in his breaking into houses through sliding doors. At this stage there seems to be no sliding door that he cannot open unless it is protected by Trellidors. This breaking and entering by GOB5 is seen in the details of raids illustrated in Figure 21.

GOB5 along with SWB4, WF1 and WF2 have been the prime culprits responsible for the relatively high incidence of raiding occupied houses over the past month. SWB4 was the worst offender and has since been euthanised according to the raiding protocol. Hopefully with the onset of winter and more flowers becoming available again in the veld, there will be a decrease in the incidence of these aggressive raids. It is nevertheless still pleasing to note that almost 75% of all hotline calls continue to be calls only reporting baboons in town and not actually raids on houses or bins.

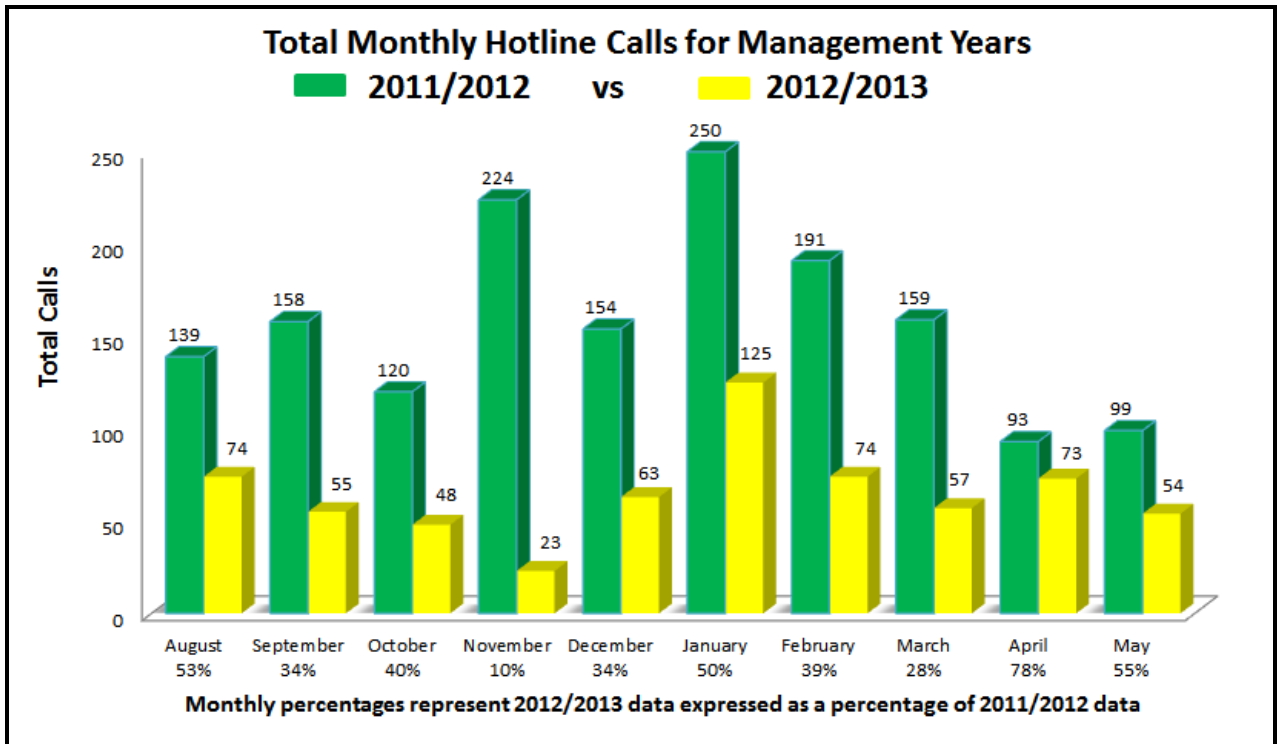


Fig 19. Total monthly hotline calls for management years.

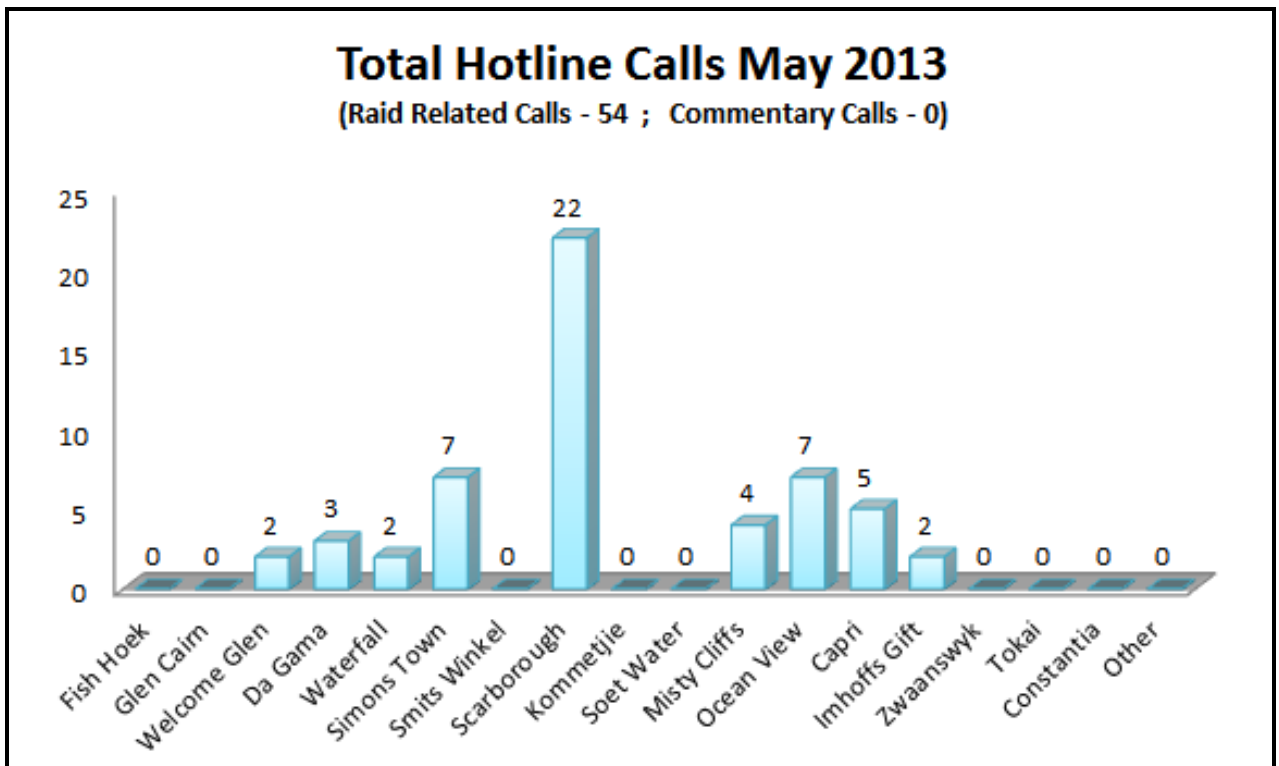


Fig 20 : Hotline call report per area.

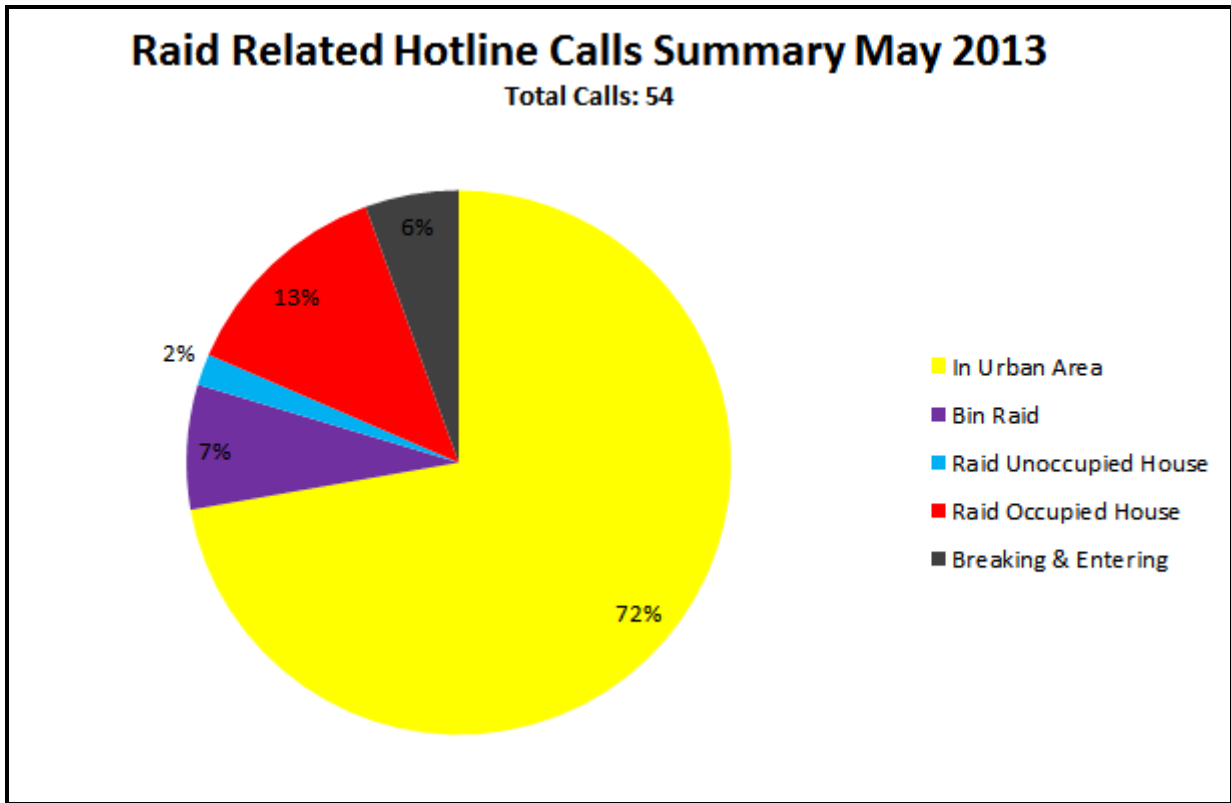


Fig 21: Hotline calls summary

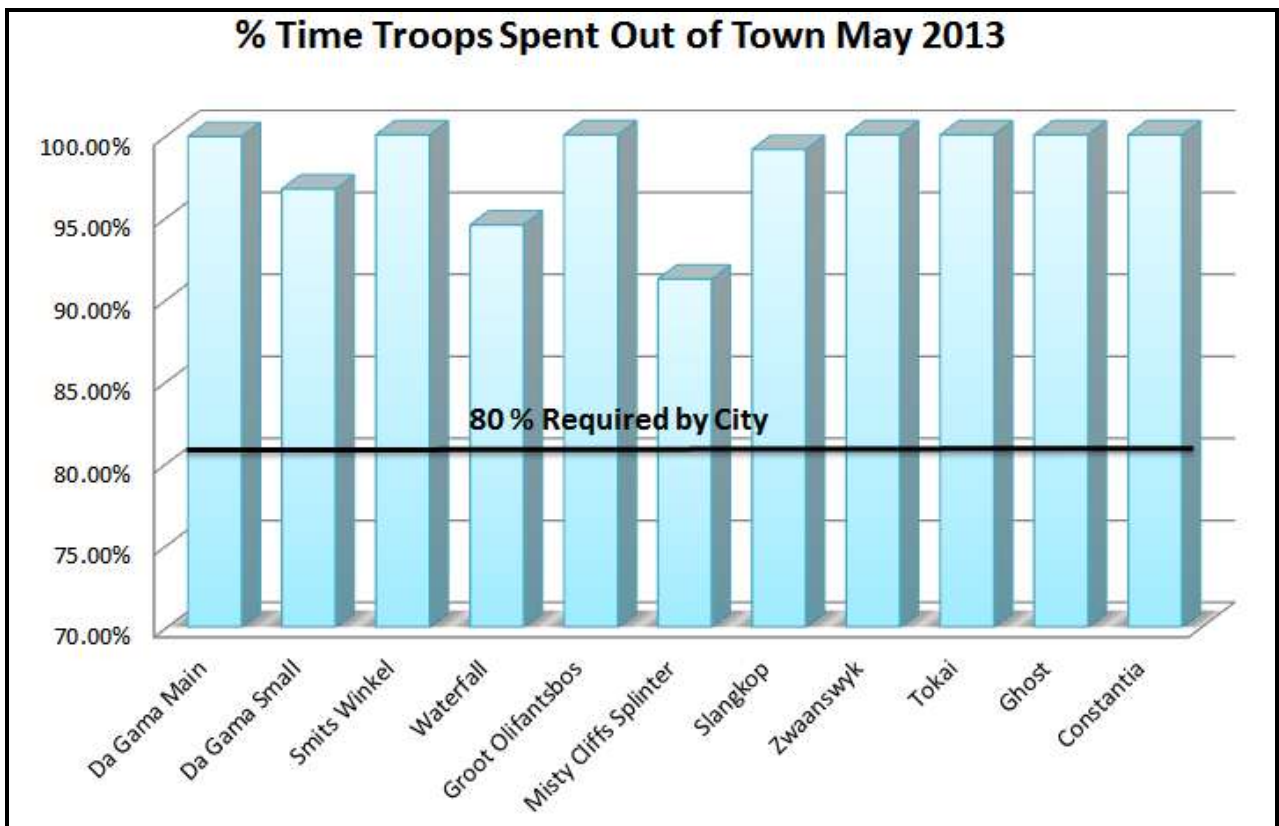


Fig 22: Percentage time troops spent out of town



The tendency noted over the past few months for the splinter troops to be worst raiders is seen again this month in Figure 22, which shows the percentage time each troop spent out of town. Misty Cliffs, Waterfall and the Da Gama ST stand out as spending much more time in town than all the other troops. Zwaanswyk is the only other splinter troop, but it is significantly now kept out of Zwaanswyk by a very effective electric fence. No doubt poor waste management is a prime factor involved in encouraging the Waterfall troop into town. Nevertheless the origin of splinter troops presumably is a major factor affecting their subsequent behaviour. Most probably the fact that splinter troops are created from a position of weakness (deposed male with low ranking females) rather than strength, is why they split up so easily and become so much more difficult to control than a normal more cohesive troop.

General Summary

The most notable trend in the management data this month is the huge difference in the breeding success between the northern and southern managed troops. This is almost certainly due to the difference in the food supplies available to these troops. It will be interesting to see if this trend is recorded later in the breeding rates of females and if the southern troops return to a more natural rate of breeding once every two years. If this is the case it will suggest that the numbers of these troops are settling down to being closer to their carrying capacity, and so will hopefully fluctuate around these numbers in a stable way.

What is disturbing however, is that the northern troops seem to be breeding at an unnaturally high rate, although this may soon come to an end. The Constantia farmers are busy electrifying their fences, and will no doubt with time become much more effective at keeping the baboons off the farms. At the same time the pine forests are being progressively removed, thereby removing favoured sleep sites and, more importantly, a vital food source for them. Over the next few years the northern troops are likely to experience a dramatic decrease in their favoured food supplies and although this will presumably lead to a drop in reproductive rates over time, in the short term these baboons will suffer huge shortages of food. This will presumably lead to corresponding increases in efforts to raid urban areas, and will also most probably lead to some troops seeking greener pastures - either towards Hout Bay or Silvermine. A move towards Hout Bay is unlikely to be desired. However, there are large stretches of uninhabited natural fynbos on the Silvermine side of Ou Kaapse Weg, so a move in this direction may well be a desirable result.

Dr. Philip Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions