



Human Wildlife Solutions
Monthly Report
March 2014

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A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report covers the four week period from 22 February to 21 March 2014. The pressure of the late summer season, when natural food is most difficult to find, is starting to take its toll and a few troops are pushing hard to break back into town to supplement their feeding. This is most obvious in the Misty Cliffs, Da Gama and Slangkop Troops. This seasonal push to raid is understandable, however it is worrying that at least one individual, GOB8, has started breaking windows in order to get into houses.

On a more positive note, HWS has just started a more detailed analysis of raid data collected over the past 20 months in order to highlight trends and fine tune management strategies. One very positive trend is that when considering the raiding behaviour of whole troops, there has been a progressive and significant 66% decline in all types of troop raiding behaviour over time. The relevance of this achievement is highlighted when one considers that the starting point for these data is when HWS was already keeping the troops out of town 97% of the time.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manger: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

With hot and dry conditions prevailing throughout the reporting period, it has become evident that the older baboons, as well as others that carry old injuries, have been struggling. This has been the case in all of the troops in the South East, and reflects a trend similar to the same period last year. These individuals seem to find it more difficult to keep up with their troop and also seem to forage less on natural vegetation, turning to raiding as an easier means of foraging.

In the Smitswinkel troop, SWB1 has been struggling the most during this period. Up to the end of January, SWB1 had not raided but during the first week of February, when environmental conditions were becoming tougher, he started raiding. During the last month it has also been evident that, when the troop heads up the mountain towards the sleep site, SWB1 needs to take a longer route as he struggles to climb up some of the steep sections.

Management of this specific individual will therefore need to be adjusted and re-collaring him has been planned so that he can be monitored more closely. The rest of the troop is doing well and only spent a maximum of 5 minutes of time, on 12 March, within the urban area at Castle Rock. The troop did not raid.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
SE		1 In urban area										4 Attacking pets					7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food														
BABOON TROOP: Smitswinkel		2 Raid bins					5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																			
MONTH: March 2014		3 Non malicious damage					6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
BABOON ID	Sex	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL	
SWB1	M			5					5			6								6			6						5		
SWB6	M																			1									1		
Troop																				1									1		
UnID Fem	F			1																									1		
SWBF8	F			1																									1		
Juveniles																													0		
UNID Male	M																												0		
SWB7	M			1																									1		
	%																										HRS				
Troop	0.03																			5									0.08		
Individuals	0.13			15																5									0.33		
Males	0.30			15					15			1								5			10						0.77		
Roost:	AM	5	3	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	4	5	5	2	2	1	6	2	
Roost:	PM	3	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	4	5	2	2	1	6	2	2		
Roost Sites	1	Smits Caves			2	Partridge Point			3	Bluegums			4	Millers Point			5	Rocklands Farm													
	6	Castle Rock			7	SANParks																									
ID Features of Baboons	SWB1: Collar + blue & white tag, SWB6 = Red/Blue tags + collar																														
General remarks	Town/Urban area = Millers Point boat launching area, caravan park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock Houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses																														

Figure 1. Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

2. Waterfall Troop

For the fourth consecutive month, the troop spent 100% of the time out of town. Although this is a fantastic achievement, the tide is turning and we are seeing the first glimpses of an entirely new problem.

On 9 March, WF2 and two juveniles joined RH2 on one of his excursions into the South African Navy Ammunition Depot (SANAD). It required two rangers to herd the raiding party out. Again on 19 March, a female joined RH2 and they raided bins inside the depot. Although only two incidents have taken place, it is very alarming that more baboons appear to be confident about entering the depot.

In early March, a meeting was held with the Navy in order to resolve some of the issues that attract baboons into the depot. It was agreed that the bins that are currently used in the kitchen area would be replaced with baboon-proof bins, and the door to the mess would either be baboon-proofed or a security gate erected. It was also agreed that several of the fruit trees on the premises would be cut down.



Figure 2. (a) Pear tree and (b) bin at SANAD which will be replaced with baboon-proof bins.

It is vital that these issues are resolved as soon as possible to prevent increased habitual raiding by either individuals or the entire troop, and the small changes would also make a significant difference in terms of the wellbeing of the baboons.

During previous months, only RH2 attempted to raid, and the fact that others are joining him may point to the fact that environmental conditions are tough and more baboons are tempted to raid in order to get nutritious food.

In addition to our attempts to curb the raiding behaviour, it is also expected that if there is some rainfall, the resulting green flush would contribute to minimizing the desire to raid.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
		1 In urban area												4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food												
SE		2 Raid bins												5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property												
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall		3 Non malicious damage												6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																
MONTH: March		2014																												
BABOON ID	Sex	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
WF2	M																1													1
UnID Females	F																										2			1
TROOP																														0
RH2	M			6	6				1	1	1	1			2	1	1	2		2,2					1		2			14
UnID Juveniles																	1													1
UnID Male	M																													0
WFF1	F																													0
UnID Individuals																														0
	%																									HRS				
Troop	0.0																									0.00				
Females/Individuals	0.2																									0.50				
Males	1.3			15	15				10	15	20	15			10	5	20	15		30					10		20			3.33
Roost:	AM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
Roost:	PM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
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				9	Red Hill				10	SANDF								
	11	Mountain CoGHN				12	Gate 3 - Plateau Road				13	Rocklands farm																		
ID Features of Baboons	WF2 - yellow&blue tag. RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																													
	WFF1 - three legs																													
General remarks																														

Figure 3. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet.

3. Da Gama Troops

Throughout the reporting period the troop, as a whole, spent very little time in town. However there were several raiding parties of individuals and groups that entered town. Incidents of raiding were higher during this period than in previous months. This could be attributed to the hot and dry conditions. Raiding parties were predominantly led by either DG1 or DG10. DG11 also made numerous attempts to break the line.

On three occasions DG10 has slept with a few other individuals in a large pine tree in 3rd Avenue, Da Gama Park. This is a new development as the troop has not used that specific pine tree as a sleep site since August 2012. The tree is located within a resident’s garden and, on 14 March, a hotline call was received at 18h00 reporting that several baboons, including DG10, were already in the tree attempting to settle down for the night. Rangers responded and managed to move them back to the fire break by 19h00.

Throughout the reporting period, DG1's behaviour has been symptomatic of an old animal that is finding current environmental conditions tough and is therefore opting to raid more rather than spend time foraging on natural vegetation. The rangers spent a significant amount of time observing DG1 to check if tooth decay could be a factor contributing to him not foraging on fynbos. However, it became apparent that his teeth are not the issue as he was seen feeding on pine cones, using his teeth to open them.

On 2 March at 14h00, two female baboons broke the line and ran to Da Gama Park. Rangers followed them but were too high up the mountain to prevent the baboons from raiding. The two females entered an occupied house and raided the kitchen. When the resident tried to chase them out, they jumped at and through a window, breaking it. The two raiding female baboons sustained no injuries from this incident.



Figure 4 (a) and (b). Window broken by two female baboons that raided a Da Gama Park house.

At approximately 19h40 on 10 March, a woman parked her vehicle beside some baboons and got out of her car with a shopping bag. DG1 approached, grabbed the bag from her and ate chips and bread from the shopping. The rangers were off duty however the Field Manager returned and chased DG1 away, returning the bag of shopping to the woman.

On 19 March, two individuals from the troop were missing, but the rangers were unable to locate them and no hotline calls were received. However, at approximately 17h00, rangers found two females in the pine trees in 2nd Avenue and it is apparent that the two females spent the day in and around the area foraging on pine cones, but did not raid.

During the same period in 2013, the Big Troop spent time around Ocean View and there was a similar pattern of raiding parties breaking away to raid. At that time, the overall time spent in town was less than the time currently spent by baboons in the urban areas. This could be ascribed to the fact that the troop is more familiar with Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen than they were to Ocean View.

On one occasion on 7 March, DG1 attempted to lure the troop back to Ocean View and they slept in the pines at the edge of the urban area. They were pushed back into the mountain first thing the following morning and were therefore prevented from entering the urban area.



Figure 5. Tracking data for the Da Gama Troop during March.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SOUTH EAST		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL							
BABOON TROOP:	Da Gama	1 In urban area	2 Raid bins	3 Non malicious damage	4 Attacking pets	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle	7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	9 Nocturnal Raiding																				
MONTH:	March 2014																													
BABOON ID	Sex	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
Troop													2									1			1					3
SK3	M																												0	
DG1	M	6	6		6			1		6			2					9,7	1	6	2					1	2	6	1	15
DG10	M		1	1	1					1		1	2					1	1								2	1	10	
DG11	M																												2	
DGF1	F																												0	
DGF2	F																												0	
UnID Females	F									6,8		1						1	1		2					2	1		1	7
UnID Female	F			1					1																				6	
UnID Male	M																												0	
UnID Juvs			1	1				1		1		1						1	1							2		1	1	10
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS			
Troop	2.6																										8.50			
Individuals	12.0			95	40	90			375	60	60	120						10	10		70	25		200		120	660	50	340	38.75
Males	10.5	10	95	40	61			375	160	60	240							10	60	120	70	190		200		30	90	123	100	33.90
Roost:	AM	1	1,4	1,2,4	1,25	1,2	2	1,2,3	1	1,2,25	1,2	1,2	4	1	1	15	1	1,25	1,25	1	1,10	1	1	1	1,2	1	1,2	1,2	1,3	
Roost:	PM	1,4	1,2,4	1,25	1	1	1	1	1,2,25	1,2	1,2	4	1	1	15	1	1	1,25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,2	1,3	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	Witsand				12	Slangkop				13	Platkop				14	Rasta Camp				15	Ocean View								
	16	KL sleep site				17	Maylands				18	Elsies River Valley				19	Red Hill/Windford Pines				20	Grootkop								
	21	16th Avenue, DG				22	Lewis Gay Dam				23	Pinehaven				24	Kleinplaas dam				25	3rd Avenue, Da Gama								
	26					27					28					29					30									
ID Features of Baboons		DG1: Collar + blue & yellow tags; DG10: Collar + white tags SK3: Collar + green & yellow tags, DGF1: collar + blue & white tags																												
General remarks		# 2 Females were found late afternoon sitting on roof of house in Glenalpine. They did not raid but must have spent the majority of the day between 2nd ave pines and Welcome Glen																												

Figure 6. Da Gama Park Troop Raid Sheet

Recent comments from our rangers include the following:

“When I started as a ranger, the baboons were always in the residential areas. Our training has taught us a lot of things about baboon behaviour. We now know the baboon troop well and we make sure that they spend most of their time in the nature reserve". Simphiwe Alveni, Da Gama Park Ranger.

"I enjoy my job. I have learnt so much about baboons. I love watching the baboons during quiet times when the troop is not on the move and the juveniles are playing around." Mfuneko Qekele, Da Gama Park Ranger.

Births and Deaths

28 February: One adult female from the Waterfall troop was euthanased for humane reasons.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Baboon-proof bins and ongoing education is needed at the South African Navy Ammunition Depot (SANAD) site to prevent raiding.

Baboon-proofing of the mess entrance also needs to be implemented at SANAD.

Fruit trees need to be removed from the SANAD grounds as well as certain gardens in Da Gama Park.

Ongoing education and law enforcement is desperately needed in Da Gama Park as well as along the tourist routes.

Waste Management needs urgent attention, particularly at the Da Gama Park flats, and a new waste disposal system needs to be developed for the flats.

Transformer boxes and electric cables around the flats need to be checked to insure that they are safe and to prevent electrocution in the area.

South Western Region – Area Manager: Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

During the month of March, the GOB Troop has spent an increasing amount of time at the Bonteberg Roost Site. The GPS collar data points on the map below clearly show a reduction in the area utilised by the troop compared with previous months.

On 13 March, the troop crossed the CoGH Reserve fence and slept at the Red Hill Roost Site. On 14 March, the troop slept on the mountain to the south of the roost site, and the following day the ranger team was able to encourage the troop to cross the fence back into the Reserve.

On 19 March, a sub-adult male and a single female crossed the CoGH Reserve fence and entered Scarborough. The female raided a house in Duiker St while the sub-adult male sat on the roof calling to the troop. The alpha male and the remainder of the troop were still in the Reserve when the rangers arrived to push the two individuals out of Scarborough and back across the fence. It is only this quick reaction that prevented more of the troop from entering the urban area.

It was stated in the previous month's report that this would be the time of year that would determine whether or not individuals from this previously raiding troop would revert back to

raiding during the last few months of summer when naturally available forage is scarcest. Evidently there are still individuals that are prepared to leave the troop to seek food in the urban area. Thankfully it is not the non-raiding alpha that led the raid into town, but a sub-adult male and single female.

This demonstration of raiding behaviour by these individuals could also explain why the troop has spent significantly more time at the Bonteberg Roost Site which is located closest to the urban edge.



Figure 7. Roost sites and GPS points for the GOB troop - March 2014

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs Troop has spent the entire month at the Misty Cliffs Roost Site. This has provided the troop with many more raiding opportunities compared with previous months when they were contained in the CoGH Reserve.

The challenge this month has been to keep the troop together and prevent individuals from breaking away to enter Scarborough. MCF2 and MCF3 have been particularly problematic and attempt to leave the troop on a daily basis.

February Raids:

On 24 February, GOB8 and MCF2 broke into a house in Beach Rd, Scarborough. The neighbour reported seeing these two physically break the window in order to gain access to the house.



Figure 8. Window broken by GOB8 to gain access to house.

On 17 March, GOB8 broke a window to gain access to a house in Hilltop Rd, Scarborough. In the picture above, it is evident that the resident has fitted a locking device on the inside of the window to ensure baboons cannot enter through the window. Unfortunately this did not help as GOB8 broke the glass to gain access through the window. This is similar to the damage done to the house in Beach Rd.

SECTOR		HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																													
BABOON TROOP: Misty Cliffs		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
MONTH: March YEAR: 2014		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21									
		In urban area			Attacking pets			Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food			Raid bins			Raid unoccupied house or vehicle			Breaking & Entering/Damaging property			Non malicious damage			Raid occupied house or vehicle								
BABOON ID	Sex	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
GOB8	M		2	8,5				2	6	2	2		2,6			2	2								8,5	5,6			16		
MCF2	F	2	8,5	1	1			2	2			2	6	2,6	1	1	2	2	5	2	1	2	1		2	5,6			23		
MCF3	F		2	5				2	6	2			2,6			2	2	5	2		2				5	6			14		
MCF4 + baby	F		2	2				2	2	2			2,6			2	2	5	2		2				5	6			14		
Troop			2	2				2	2				2,6			2	2								2	6			9		
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																					HRS								
Troop		8.5	50	300				300	120				75			280	240								260	90			28h35		
Males & Females		16.4	50	300	420	180		300	120	60	150	60	75	85	80	280	240	50	90	180	180	45			260	90			54h00		
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			
		1 Misty Cliffs			2 CoGH Reserve			3			4			5			6			7			8			9			10		
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 9. Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop - March 2014

Comments and Observations

The challenge this month has been to keep the troop together and prevent individuals from breaking away to enter Scarborough. MCF2 and MCF3 have been particularly problematic and attempt to leave the troop on a daily basis.

In recent months, MCF2 has spent a significant amount of time alone in Scarborough, even when the rest of the troop was held in the Reserve. This trend has continued for this month. Now that the troop is at the Misty Cliffs Roost Site, a second female, MCF3, regularly follows MCF2 into town.

These two individuals, together with GOB8, have recently been very challenging to manage and have been responsible for most of the break-away raids into town. There is the added concern that these three have been responsible for breaking windows in order to enter residences in Scarborough.

On 21 March, the ranger team managed to return the troop to the Reserve. However, when the team returned the following day, the troop was found back at the Misty Cliffs Roost Site. This means that the troop moved out of the Reserve after dark. GOB8 is the only individual with a history of moving into town after dark so it is logical to assume that he led the troop out the Reserve at that time. Since joining this troop it has been noted that GOB8 has frequently entered the urban area of Scarborough after dark, a strategy the raiding GOB troop used to employ.

Moving after dark is a major challenge to managing troops and it is a concern that GOB8 might teach the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop to do the same.

3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop spent the first half of this month at the C1 Roost Site on Slangkop, and the rest of the month at the C3 Roost Site above Compass Bakery.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1 In urban area				4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																				
MONTH: March		2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
YEAR: 2014		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
BABOON ID	Sex	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
DG6	M		2	2				6		2		7	2,6				2	2	2	2	5	1	2		2		2	2	2	18
SKF1	F	2	6					2		2		2	2,6				2	2	2	2	2				2				2	14
SKF2 + baby	F	2	6					2		2		2	2		2		2	2	2	2	2		2						2	15
SKF3 + new born	F	2	6					2		2		2	2		2			2	2	2	2				2				2	13
Troop				2				2		2		2														2				5
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																					HRS							
Troop	1.6			15				80		120		90															20			05h25
Males + Females	4.7		20	15				80		120		90	120		70		75	65	50	20	90	10	25		20	20	15	20	15	15h40
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,3	1,3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,3	1,3	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 Witsand				5												
		6				7				8				9				10												
ID Features of Baboons		DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag																												
General remarks		One birth recorded on the 22nd March																												

Figure 10. Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – March 2014

March Raids:

There were four house raids recorded this month. Three of the four were raids of houses in Kommetjie.

On 13 March, DG6 raided an unoccupied house in Ocean View, entering through a broken sliding door.

Comments and Observations

Slangkop Peak provides many management challenges. The close proximity to Kommetjie, the topography of the steep cliffs, and the alien vegetation on the mountain make management of the troop in this area very difficult. The numerous fruiting trees and grape vines at residences up against the mountain add to the challenge of keeping the troop out of town.

For all of the above reasons, the troop was eventually able to enter Kommetjie. Almost all of the raids were confined to areas around Mountain and De Villiers Roads, and to houses in close proximity to fruiting trees and vines, which were the primary attractants.

The two weeks that the troop spent on Slangkop highlighted the continued split within the troop. On numerous occasions the three females from the original TK5 split, and a number of juveniles, slept on the cliffs closer to Kommetjie while the rest of the troop was located further down the Slangkop range. These individuals would be the first to run to Kommetjie in the

morning to raid. The ranger team was forced to manage two separate troops for much of the time the troop was on Slangkop. This experience, as well as raiding data from previous months, seems to indicate that the split in the troop is driven by the need to raid by certain individuals.

On 6 March, the majority of the troop, including the alpha male, returned to the C3 Roost Site above Compass Bakery. The split troop however remained behind and continued to raid Kommetjie. After a couple of days, extra rangers were brought in to force these individuals back to join the rest of the troop.

Births and Deaths

There was one birth recorded for the Slangkop Troop. No deaths were recorded for any of the troops this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The movements of the GOB troop must be monitored through regular checking of the GPS collar coordinates and the troop must be prevented from crossing Plateau Rd and the Cape of Good Hope Reserve fence that runs along the southern boundary of Scarborough. Special attention must be paid to the raiding party of the single sub adult male and female that entered Scarborough on their own. It will be necessary to position more rangers on this troop to prevent possible escalation in attempts to raid Scarborough.

The strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop will be to return them to the Cape of Good Hope Reserve where they can be managed more effectively. The challenge to this, however, will be the potential movement of the troop after dark.

After many months the Slangkop Troop is still not a cohesive troop and the split in the troop is still very evident, especially when these individuals break away to raid. Initially, it was only a group of three females that would raid, but recently a number of juvenile baboons have been joining these individuals on their raids. This is concerning and it will be necessary to monitor the growth in numbers of this raiding split, and as far as possible, prevent any more baboons in the troop from being negatively influenced.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury

It has been a pleasantly quiet month for the Northern Region in general. All baboons in the North spent 100% of their time outside of urban areas during this reporting period. Hence, no urban raids took place by either the troop or single individuals from the troop. Only one hotline call was received for the North during this reporting period, and the offending baboon was intercepted before crossing into urban space.

1. Tokai Main Troop

The Tokai Main Troop spent a significant amount of time near the upper section of Buitenverwagting. The Buitenverwagting electric fence has been on and off erratically in the past

few weeks. As a result, the Tokai Main Troop has taken advantage of this, and has spent some time in the Buitenverwagting vineyards enjoying the ripening grapes. The Buitenverwagting rangers have tried to chase them off the farm and back in to the adjacent nature reserve, however with the electric fence proving ineffective, this is very difficult.

Although no urban raids have taken place during this reporting period, the baboon rangers have reported one non-urban raiding incident, where TK40 raided an unoccupied house at Porter Stables and stole a pack of biscuits.

In addition, several attempts to push down into the urban areas have occurred, yet our baboon rangers have intercepted these raiding parties at all times. On 25 and 27 February, TK40 attempted to push past The Range and cross Orpen Road, but on both occasions he was stopped before he reached the urban area.

On 26 February, TK24 and about half the troop tried the same route, but were again intercepted at the range and pushed back to the main troop. Baboon ranger, Odwa Bhokisi, stated that the rangers "...are doing our best to bring them [the baboons] back as much as we can". Their efforts seem to be paying off, as seen in this month's raid sheets.

There has been some social unrest within the Tokai Main Troop this month as a Mountain Troop male is attempting to join the troop. This has resulted in some fighting within the troop, leading to minor injuries amongst the Tokai Main Troop. Dispersal and fighting is a natural process of baboon social systems and, ultimately, new members joining the troop help strengthen it. Hence, baboon rangers do not interfere when fighting of this nature occurs. Injured individuals are however, closely monitored. A dead juvenile was reported on 7 March, possibly as a result of infanticide by this new Mountain Troop male.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
SOUTH EAST		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing from person	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding												
BABOON TROOP:	Tokai Trp																														
MONTH:	Feb - March																														
YEAR:	2014																														
BABOON ID	Sex	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total	
TK 39 (G-R)	M								2*																					1	
TK 40 (P-Y)	M															5*														1	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS					
Tokai Troop		0.0																												0.00	
Individuals		0.0																												0.00	
Males		0.0																												0.00	
Roost:	AM	6	1	6	6	11	6	11	11	11	6	6	11	11	11	11	6	7	11	11	11	11	3	3	3	11	6	6	6		
Roost:	PM	1	6	6	11	6	11	11	11	6	6	11	11	11	11	6	7	11	11	11	11	3	3	3	11	6	6	6	11		
Roost Sites		1	Tea Garden	2	Upper Tea Garden	3	Level 1 Tokai Clearing	4	Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums	5	Level 2 Stream	6	Lower Guest House	7	Upper Guest House	8	Level 3 Pines	9	Level 4 Pines	10	Level 2 Pines	11	Level 1a Quarry Gums	12	Other	13		14		15	
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks		An infant death was reported 07/03. A young male joined the TKT from the MT.																													

Figure 11. March raid sheet for the Tokai Main Troop. *indicates raiding behaviour occurred in non-urban areas.



Figure 12. Tracking data from rangers following Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops. Thicker lines indicate more time has been spent in that area.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The only raids that have occurred from the Zwaanswyk Troop have been in the non-urban area. The Zwaanswyk Troop has been spending more of its time lower down in the Tokai Plantation than the Tokai Main Troop. They were often around the Tea Garden, Manor House and Boot Camp during this reporting period which gave them more opportunity to raid people in the area.

TK38, the alpha male of this troop, was the main offender this month however, in previous months, other individuals have been recorded doing similar things.

This month, TK38's offences included:

- Stealing a slice of toast and some cake from an occupied table at Lister's Tea Room.
- Stealing cake from an unoccupied car at Lister's Tea Room car park.
- Attempting to steal cake from a girl's hand at Lister's Tea Room. HWS Baboon Ranger, Grant Peterson, prevented him from doing this.
- Stealing food from three male hikers who were hiking with visible food in the levels of the Tokai Plantation.
- Stealing a muffin from an unoccupied table at Lister's Tea Room.
- Stealing hot chips and some cake from an unoccupied table at Lister's Tea Room.

In previous months, Lister’s Tea Room has been raided many times by various individuals. This month, 83% of TK38’s raids occurred there. It appears that, due to the high volume of food in the area, Lister’s Tea Room and surrounds has become a hot spot for baboon raiding.

These raids are of high concern as the baboons are stealing food directly from people, indicating they have lost all fear of humans. It is also possible that this behaviour will be passed on to juveniles, and the problem will continue to escalate. HWS Rangers try to stop these raids wherever they can, yet rangers are often busy monitoring the troop, and are unable to chase single individuals.



On 16 March, the Zwaanswyk Troop slept at the Tokai Picnic Site, and raided bins there. This was a non-urban raid, yet this behaviour is of high concern nonetheless. The bins at the picnic site were originally designed to be baboon proof, yet the baboons can get into them (Figure 13). Additionally, many of the bins no longer have lids, and are very easily accessed by raiders.

Figure 13. Alleged baboon proof lid which, although heavy to lift up, is not a deterrent for a raiding baboon.

When asked what the hardest part of his job was, HWS Baboon Ranger, Ben Bongani Mncube, stated that: “The challenge is stopping old baboons teaching juveniles raiding tricks, or getting used to human food.”

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SOUTH EAST		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing from person																							
BABOON TROOP:	ZWK Trp	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH:Feb - March	YEAR: 2014	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total
Zwaanswyk Troop																								2*						1
TK38 (Sing,R, Collar)	M		7*					5*		5*7*											5*5*									6
Untagged juvenile																								2*						2
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Tokai Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	0.0																													0.00
Males	0.0																													0.00
Roost:	AM	8	2	1	8	8	1	8	1	1	2	2	8	1	8	9	9	2	2	8	8	8	2	2	11	11	11	1	2	
Roost:	PM	2	1	8	8	1	8	1	1	2	2	8	1	8	9	9	2	2	8	8	8	2	2	11	11	11	1	2	2	
Roost Sites	1	Tea Garden			2	Upper Tea Garden			3	Level 1 Tokai Clearing			4	Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums			5	Level 2 Stream												
	6	Lower Guest House			7	Upper Guest House			8	Manor House			9	Tokai bridge bluw gums			10	Level 2 Pines												
	11	Other																												
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 14. March raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Troop. *indicates raids that took place in the non-urban areas.

3. Constantia

No raiding of any kind (urban or non-urban) took place in Constantia during this reporting period. The Constantia Troop slept at the upper blue gums at the top of Klein and Groot Constantia for the first half of this reporting period.

For the second half, they moved to the bike trail blue gums 1km west of the Groot Constantia estate. Both of these sleeping sites are far away from the urban edge which resulted in a quiet month for the Constantia Troop.

Infanticide attempts continue by CON5 and MT1 as they are both aiming for alpha status. As a result, two dead juveniles from the Constantia Troop were found this month. Other than those mortalities however, no injuries were reported.



Figure 15. Tracking data from rangers following the Constantia Troop. (Note, the tracks through the farms from the lower right show the paths followed by rangers walking to the troops).

4. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop has spent much of its time at the top of the Buitenverwagting property, and on this farm. Buitenverwagting rangers have attempted to chase them off on many occasions, but the ripe grapes are too much of a temptation, and this troop continues to push back into the vineyards. HWS Rangers are monitoring the situation and ensuring the troop does not push down into the urban areas through the Buitenverwagting vineyards.

A young adult male from the Mountain Troop has migrated to the Tokai Main Troop and is attempting to join this troop. Three new-borns were spotted in the Mountain troop during this reporting period.

Births and Deaths

Three juveniles were reported dead during this month, most likely killed due to infanticide by dispersing males from other troops that encroached on the traditional territory of the Mountain Troop. Two were from the Constantia Troop and one from the Tokai Main Troop.

On 23 February, three new-borns were spotted on 23 February in the Mountain Troop.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

Population Data for the Ten Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula							
TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	Total End Dec 2013	March Births	March Deaths	Total Births 2014	Total Deaths 2014	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	44			1	0	45
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21			2	1	22
Waterfall	28	30		1	0	1	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17			0	0	17
Slangkop	33	40	1		1	0	41
SUB TOTAL	175	171	1	1	4	2	173
Zwaanswyk	25	30			1	0	31
Tokai	61	70		1	4	3	71
Mountain	33	44	3		3	0	47
Constantia	60	72		2	1	4	69
SUB TOTAL	179	216	3	3	9	7	218
TOTAL	354	387	4	4	13	9	391

Figure 16. Population data for the ten managed troops on the Cape Peninsula.

The size of the managed baboon population remained unchanged this month because the number of births matched the number of deaths. What is interesting however, is that over the first three months of this year there were only 13 births, whereas for the same period last year 28 births were recorded.

This apparent drop in birth rates may not be a significant trend, but if it is, it could be as a result of a drop in Human Derived Foods (HDF's) now being available to troops. Most baboon females attempt to breed once every two years, but it has been noted that with elevated access to food, some females may breed once year. This would have a dramatic affect on the population growth and is probably the main factor contributing towards the rapid population growth in the Tokai and Constantia troops over the last few years.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that for the period October 2012 to February 2013, a total of 231 troop raids were recorded, whereas for the corresponding period the following year, only 80 raids (approximately 1/3) were recorded.

The data for all raids by troops since HWS starting recording this information are given in Figure 17. Raids by troops are analysed here in terms of being in town, raiding bins or raiding people or their houses. All three types of raids showed statistically significant declines over the 18 months analysed to date.

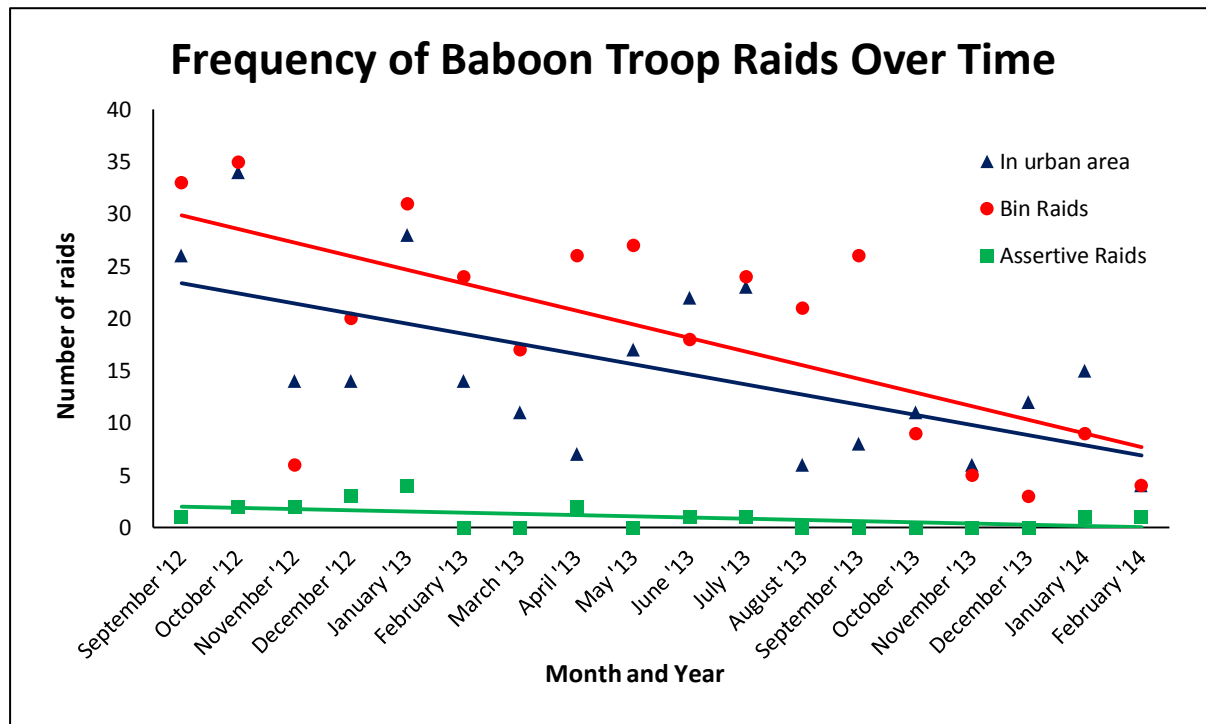


Figure 17. Decrease in all types of raiding activity by all troops since September 2012 (Note: Assertive raids include all raids on houses, people or their cars).

In previous reports it has been noted that those troops that have greater access to HDF's, i.e. the troops in the northern sector, tend to have higher birth rates than the troops in the south. If this is a valid correlation, then one would expect all the troops to experience declines in birth rates as access to HDF's declines.

Over the past 18 months, all troop raids have declined significantly over time, and therefore one would presume their access to HDF's has also declined. The extension of this argument is that one might also expect the birth rates to have declined over time.

It is too early to produce statistics on this data, but for the moment it is interesting to note that the birth rate, for the first three months of 2014, is just under half of that for 2013.

Hotline Data

Although Scarborough continued to dominate the hotline data this month, there are a few other noticeable changes compared to last month. The most noticeable change is that since the removal of TK37 and TK35, the hotline calls from Tokai have dropped from an average of twenty-seven calls per month over the past three months, down to one call this month. In two of the southern troops, the Da Gama and Slangkop Troops, which have been subsisting almost exclusively on fynbos for the past six months, there has been a concerted push to raid in town because of the lack of food towards the end of summer.

This trend will hopefully be reversed when the effects of the recent rain start to be felt. There is generally a brief flush of growth in autumn before the winter cold sets in.

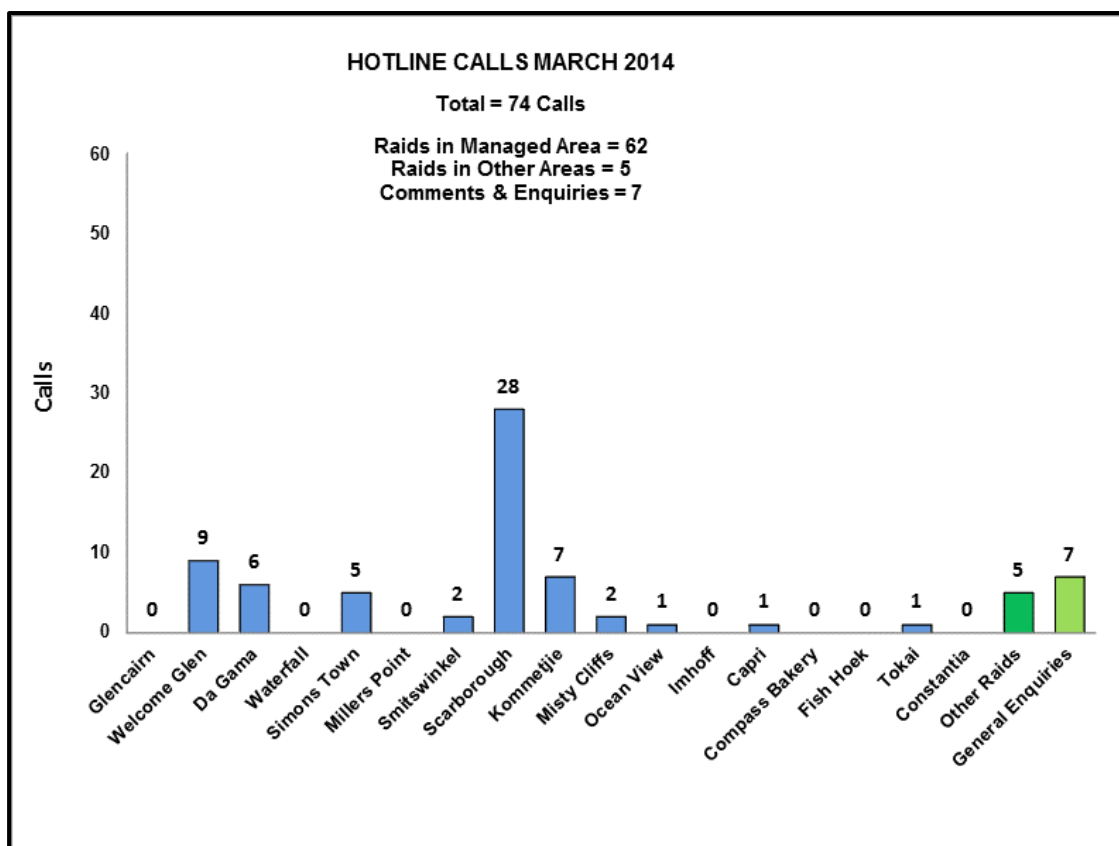


Figure 18. Hotline calls summary per area.

Along with the general increase in raids this month, there has also be a dramatic increase in assertive raids, particularly for raiding unoccupied houses, and breaking and entering.

It is particularly concerning that GOB8 has learned to break windows in order to gain access into houses.

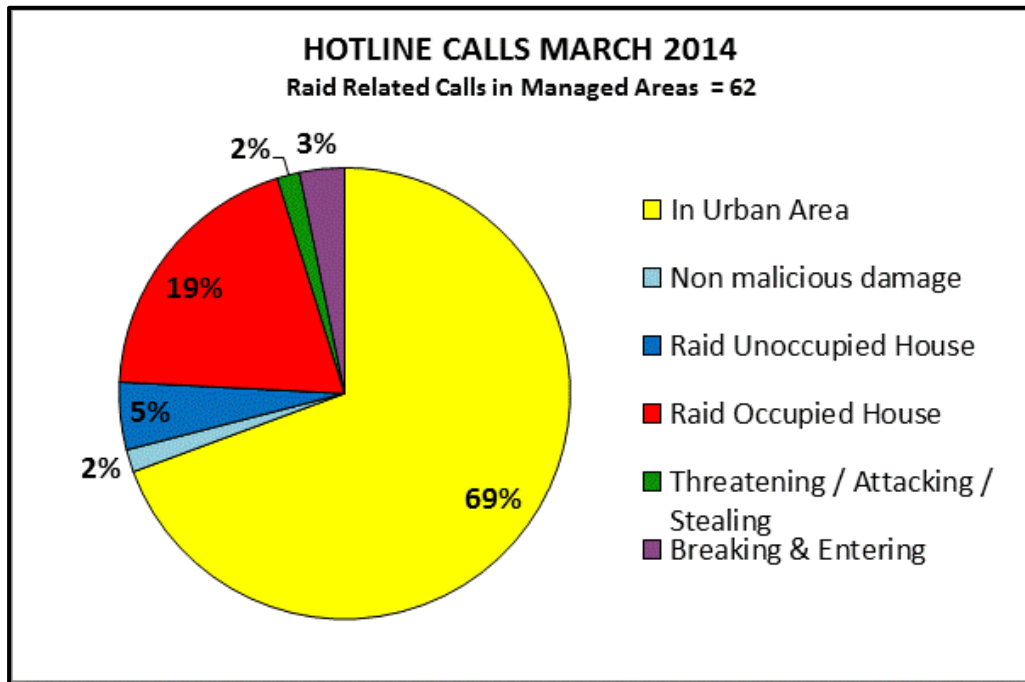


Figure 19. Raid-related hotline calls.

Percentage Time out of Town

This month, for the first time in five, the average time troops were kept out of town dropped below 99%. Most troops, and indeed most individuals in those troops, stayed out of town for 100% of the time.

However, the troops that have traditionally been most difficult to manage, the Misty Cliffs and Da Gama Troops, were again responsible for almost all the raids into town. For the first half month, when the Slangkop Troop was resident on Slangkop, they were also difficult to keep out of Kommetjie, but since they were returned to the Compass Bakery Sleep Site, they have been much easier to control again.

Late summer is the time when the baboons push the hardest to find HDF's because there has been very little growth of fynbos vegetation during the hot dry summer, and by the end of summer most of their edible food has been eaten. The troops with the smallest home ranges, like Misty Cliffs, are therefore most stressed in terms of finding food.

Waterfall Troop used to have the smallest home range, but since they are now living on Klaas Jagersberg, they have access to a much greater area in which to forage. Slangkop Troop would have a much larger area in which to forage if they had full access to the Slangkop Mountain. However, because the terrain makes it so difficult to stop the troop from raiding Kommetjie when they are resident on Slangkop, HWS tries to keep them off that mountain ridge.

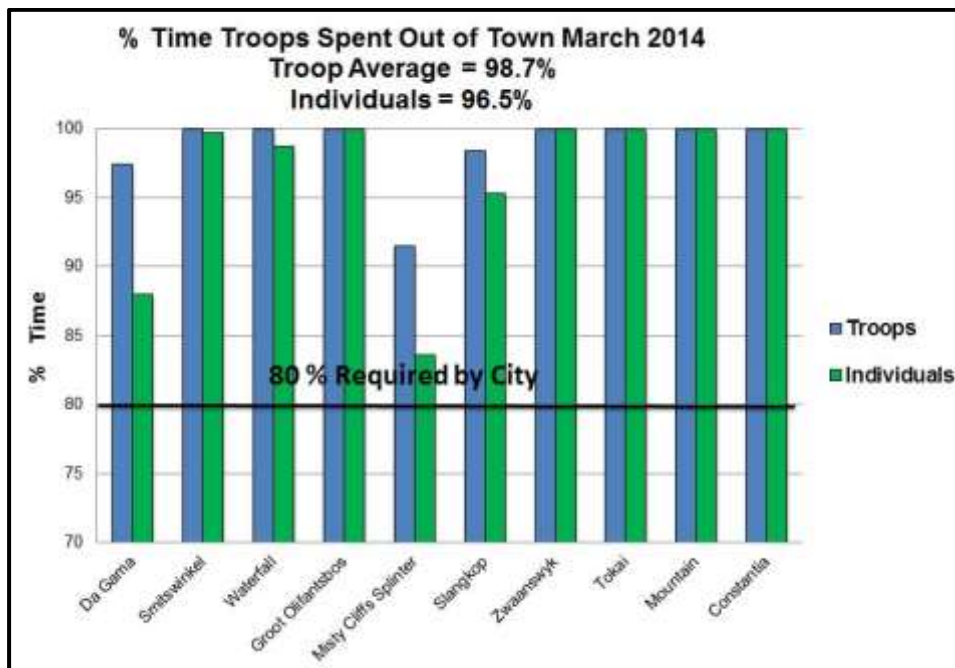


Figure 20. Percentage time troops spent out of town for the reporting period.

The Misty Cliffs Troop also has a limited home range. When they are in the CoGH Reserve they are squeezed between the GOB Troop and Scarborough, and when they are sleeping at Misty Cliffs they are largely kept on the mountain between the Misty Cliffs Village and Scarborough.

The troop is generally reluctant to go up the mountain and further inland because that is the route HWS takes when pushing the troop back to CoGH Reserve. The troop also forages along the coast, but they are a troop that requires constant monitoring and will take every opportunity to break the line to go raiding in town.

General Summary

This past month, the effect of the end of summer season has been evident in the behaviour of many of the baboon troops. In the Misty Cliffs and Da Gama Troops there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of time the troops and individuals spent in town, and there has been an increase across the board in the number and type of assertive raids that have been made.

Despite these trends, a new analysis of HWS data shows that there has been a significant decrease over time in all types of raids undertaken by troops. From September 2012, when the average time all troops were kept out of town was already 97%, until February 2014, HWS has managed to reduce the incidence of raids by troops by approximately 66%.

Dr. Philip Richardson
Human Wildlife Solutions