



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

November 2014

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A. INTRODUCTION

This months report covers the four-week period from 25 October to 21 November 2014. Food remains abundant in the veld, so the troops have been relatively easy to contain in the natural habitat. On average the troops spent 99.8% of their time out of town, and individuals were kept out of town 98.6% of the time. These are definitely the best results HWS have ever achieved.

The number of hotline calls for raids in managed areas was, like last month, just over one call per day, at 37 calls for the month. Also like last month, most of these calls were in response to just one or two males in the Tokai troop. In fact, 62% of all raid related calls, were in response to just two raiding males (TK40 and TK28) and one or two others. Fortunately neither of these males is aggressive, and most raids into town did not result in any food being stolen.

A more worrying problem in the field, is the rapidly decreasing access to water. Baboons are obligate drinkers, so although they can survive for a while on a diminished diet, they have to drink just about every day. Having had a very dry start to summer, which is now getting increasingly hot, HWS are anticipating that water, rather than food, may soon be the limiting factor forcing baboons to start raiding town again.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Troop spent most of this month in the mountains and fynbos above Rocklands farm, Millers Point and Castle Rock. The troop was monitored mainly using telemetry, as it is difficult to follow them through the thick bush. Lines were held along the urban edge by rangers, which prevented the troop pushing into town to raid.

The only time the troop managed to enter the urban area was on 27 October 2014. They entered a residential property on Castle Rock and drank from the pond. No raiding was evident and rangers managed to get the troop back into the natural area within 15 minutes.

The only other note-worthy incident this month was the raiding and behaviour of SWB7, a sub-adult male, with a missing front limb. He was sighted raiding a bin at Rocklands Centre on 13 November 2014 and it was reported by members of the public that he was walking strangely and looked sickly. On 20 November 2014, it was reported that he was raiding an occupied house and displaying aggressive behaviour at Rocklands Centre. His movements were reported as being sluggish and in poor condition. As such, on 21 November 2014, HWS management decided to set the cage to try to trap and assess SWB7. There was no success on the 21st and HWS managers will continue to try to capture the animal in the coming weeks to assess his condition.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																												
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: November 2014		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																						
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
SWB1	M																											0
SWB6	M																							1				1
Troop		1																										1
UnID Fem	F																						1					1
SWBF8	F																											0
SWB9																												0
UNID Male	M																											0
SWB7	M																			2						7		2
	%																									HRS		
Troop	0.10	15																										0.25
Individuals	0.10																						15					0.25
Males	0.73																		45				15		50		1.83	
Roost:	AM	5	4	4	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	6	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	
Roost:	PM	4	4	6	4	5	5	5	4	4	6	2	6	4	3	4	5	4	5	5	5	3	4	4	5	4	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																												
General remarks																												

Figure 1: November raid sheet for the Smitswinkel Troop

2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop has spent most of this reporting period in the natural areas around South African Navy Armaments Depot (SANAD) and above Red Hill. Rangers are kept busy trying to keep the troop away from SANAD, Red Hill and the Cape Farm House, in order to avoid raids. However, this was not always successful and the troop raided bins at the Cape Farm House Restaurant on 30 October 2014 and on 12 November 2014 (Figure 2). Often the troop is difficult to follow in the thick vegetation and the rangers need to rely on the telemetry to locate and anticipate the troop's movements. RH2 and WF2 left the troop to go and raid on SANAD on a few occasions (Figure 2, SANAD raids are in red). The facility is not effectively baboon-proofed and fruit trees, as well as accessible food, act as strong attractants for the baboons.

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: November 2014		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																											
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	TOTAL
Troop						2													2														2
RH2	M									2		2						6									2						4
WF2	M										1	2																			2		3
WFF3	F																																0
WFF4	F																																0
UnID Females	F										1																					1	
UnID Juveniles																																0	
UnID Male	M																															0	
WFF2	F																															0	
UnID Individuals																																0	
	%																									HRS							
Troop	0.3				15													30														0.75	
Females/Individuals	0.2											30																				0.50	
Males	0.7									25	30	20					1										10	25			1.85		
Roost:	AM	10	15	15	9					10	10	10	10					10	10	10							9	10	15	10			
Roost:	PM	15	15	9	10					10	10	10	15					10	10	10							10	15	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 SANAD															
		11 Mountain CoGHN				12 Gate 3 - Plateau Road				13 Rocklands farm				14 North peak				15 Bungalow															
ID Features of Baboons		WF2 - yellow&blue tag, RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																															
		WFF1 - three legs																															
General remarks		Italics - raiding on farms																															
		Naval Ammunition depot area indicated in red																															

Figure 2: November raid sheet for the Waterfall Troop

3. Da Gama Troop

The Da Gama troop spent 98.8% out of town during this reporting period. Individuals and small raiding parties spent an average of 97.5% out of town.

DG11, an adult male, was particularly tough to manage this month as he kept leaving the troop to raid in town. He was pushed back on many occasions, but in some instances, rangers were not able to push him back. When DG11 leaves the troop to raid, he often takes others with him and forms a small raiding party. DGF1, DGF2 and untagged juveniles followed him on several occasions on his raiding trips (Figure 4). The rest of the troop have also tried to follow him but were pushed back by rangers. Although DG11 is a difficult male to control, he acts as a challenger to SK3 (the current alpha), which ensures SK3 stays with his troop to protect his females and offspring, which has a positive effect on the troop as a whole.

The Da Gama Flats continue to have bad waste management, as waste is dumped on top of the baboon proof bins, and not inside (Figure 3). This continues to attract the baboons, keeping them in town and sleeping at the flats, and causing them to start raiding very early in the mornings.



Figure 3: Poor waste management at the Da Gama Park Flats.

The Da Gama Troop still don't have a regular sleep site. They seem to move areas after the rangers leave the troop in the evenings as they are found in a different area (Figure 4) the following morning. The rangers try to keep the troop from sleeping at Grootkop to prevent them running down to Misty Cliffs early the next morning. However due to the long days of summer, pushing the use of a particular sleep site is very difficult.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SOUTH EAST		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attack/stealing food	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding											
BABOON TROOP:	Da Gama																													
MONTH:	November 2014																													
BABOON ID	Sex	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
Troop									1	2																			2	3
SK3	M								1	2																				2
DG1	M																													0
DG10	M																													0
DG11	M				2	1	1		1	2								1				1			2		1	1		10
DGF1	F								1	2																				2
DGF2	F																	1					1							2
UnID Females	F																													0
UnID Female	F				2	1																								2
DG12	M																													0
UnID Juvs						1	1																6							3
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS					
	%																													
Troop	1.2				50	40	40		30	5	15																		45	3.75
Individuals	2.9				50	130	40		30	5	15	5						60										230	9.42	
Males	2.0								30	5	15	5						60										210	6.58	
Roost:	AM			1,2	1,17	26	1,2	1	1,2	11	11	19	1,3	2	17	17	17	17	20	17	19	20	3	19	19	19	1	2	1	
Roost:	PM			1,17	26	1,2	1,2	20	11	11	19	1,3	2	17	17	17	17	20	1	19	20	3	17	20	20	1	1	2	2	
Roost Sites	1	Flats					2	Pines - Flats					3	Pines - Da Gama					4	Pines - Welcome Glen					5	Sport Fields Stables				
	6	Compass Bakery					7	Pines - Outspan					8	Jacks Shop					9	Elsie's Peak					10	Rotary Camp				
	11	Witsand					12	Slangkop					13	Platkop					14	Rasta Camp					15	Ocean View				
	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					26	Scarborough				
ID Features of Baboons	SK3: Collar + green & yellow tags, DGF1: collar + blue & white tags																													
General remarks	26 - means that the Da Gama Troop slept just out of Scarborough																													

Figure 4: November raid sheet for the Da Gama Troop

Births and Deaths

There were two births reported this month in the Da Gama Troop. One on 28 October 2014 and another on 17 November 2014.

A juvenile male baboon from the Da Gama Troop was found dead near the Da Gama Flats on 27 November 2014, cause of death is unknown.

Recommendations

Baboons continue to be attracted to the Naval Barracks in Simonstown and to SANAD. Baboon proofing is recommended at both sites as well as the removal of fruit trees at SANAD. Waste management remains a problem in Da Gama Park, particularly at the flats. Unsecured bins attract the baboons into town which then sleep on the flats and raid again in the morning.

South Western Region – Area Manager: Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB) and Klein Olifantsbos Troop (KOB)

The GOB Troop has remained within the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) for the whole of this reporting period. The troop has been tracked using telemetry throughout their home range, although they have spent the majority of the month in the Olifantsbos area.

At no time, this month, did the troop attempt to enter the urban area. The only issue of concern this month was the draining of the dam close to Olifantsbos in the CoGH Reserve. This is the dam where the GOB and KOB troops drink from in the summer months. This has forced these troops to drink water at 'Die Mond' which is the where the Misty Cliffs Troop also drinks. Three troops now

converge on the same water source increasing conflict between these troops. This is likely to encourage the Misty Cliffs Troop to leave the reserve in search of water.

2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)

The MC troop has spent the month of November in the Bonteberg region of the CoGH Reserve. The troop did manage to return to the Misty Cliffs roost site on 20 November 2014 but were returned back to the reserve soon after.

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	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											
MONTH:	November	YEAR:	2014																											
BABOON ID	Sex	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
MCF2	F																				1							6	2	
MCF3	F																											6	1	
KOB1	M																													
Troop																												1	1	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS				
Troop		0.4																											90	01h30
Males & Females		1.0																			120								90	03h30
Roost:		AM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Roost:		PM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Roost Sites		1	Misty Cliffs		2	CoGH Reserve		3							4							5								
		6			7			8							9							10								
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks		An adult male from the Klien Olifantsbos Troop joined the MC troop on 18/10																												

Figure 5: November raid Sheet for the Misty Cliffs Troop

November Raids

The only raid that was recorded this month was when the troop left the Reserve on 20 November 2014. A number of individuals raided an occupied house in Hilltop Rd.

Comments and Observations

The new male, KOB1, has asserted himself as the alpha male of the troop. When the troop left the Reserve (led by MCF3 and MCF2) on 20 November 2014, he followed them towards Scarborough but did not cross the firebreak into the houses with the troop. He followed the troop once they had been pushed out the houses to the Misty Cliffs roost site and remained there until the whole troop were pushed back to the Reserve. At no time did KOB1 enter the urban area. This is a positive outcome and it seemed to be easier to return the troop to the Reserve as KOB1 was visibly uncomfortable close to the urban edge.

3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop has spent almost all of November at the Compass Bakery roost site. This is their preferred roost site in the summer months.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1	In urban area			4	Attacking pets			7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																			
MONTH: November		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			9	Nocturnal raiding																			
BABOON ID	Sex	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
DG6	M				2	2	2		2			2	2	2						2	2	2	2					2		12
SKF1	F				2	2	2					2	2	2	2					2	2	2	2					2		12
SKF2	F					2	2								2						2	2	2	2				2		8
Troop																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS						
Troop	0.0																													
Males + Females	0.5				5	5	10		10			5	10	10	5					5	10	10	10					10		01h45
Roost:	AM	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost:	PM	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	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 Witsand			5																
ID Features of Baboons		6			7			8			9			10																
General remarks		DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag																												

Figure 6: November raid sheet for the Slangkop Troop

November Raids

This month no house raids were reported for this troop.

All of the raids reported this month were raids of bins in Ocean View.

Comments and Observations

The Slangkop Troop continues to be easily managed and spends most of the day foraging in the mountain between Ocean View and Klienplaas Dam, depending on the movements of the Da Gama troop. The only raids recorded were raids of bins at Ocean View. These raids are brief and opportunistic and usually occur when the troop is moving from the Compass Bakery roost site towards Ocean View in the mornings. The raids are usually by the same two to three females as well as the alpha, DG6. The rangers are usually able to remove them from Ocean View within 10 minutes.

Births and Deaths

There were no births or deaths recorded for any troop this month.

Recommendations

The movements of the GOB Troop must continue to be monitored through telemetry in the absence of a working GPS collar. At this time of year, the troop are left alone and only managed if they approach the Scarborough fence. The movements of the troop to drink water at 'Die Mond' must be monitored as well as the incidences of conflict between the three troops who are now drinking there almost daily.

The Misty Cliffs troop has a new alpha male from the KOB Troop. This male is a non-raiding male and it is imperative that this male is not exposed to raiding of the urban areas. Every effort must be made to hold this troop in the Reserve for as long as possible to ensure that the new alpha has time to assert his dominance over the troop, thereby allowing him to teach the troop how to forage naturally in the Reserve in the dry summer months and lean winter months. There must be a concerted effort made to identify residents that feed this troop in the urban area, as this will be the

quickest way that the non-raiding male will learn to associate the urban space with readily available food.

The Slangkop Troop has proved much easier to manage this past month and the team must continue to hold the line in the mountain above Ocean View to prevent troop raids and individuals from breaking away from the troop to raid bins.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury

1. Tokai Troop

The Tokai Troop have been easy to manage this month, however, as usual the individual adult males have kept HWS rangers very busy preventing raids.

The Tokai Troop spent most of this month in the upper levels of the Tokai Plantation. The Troop is in a state of flux, as there appears to be no clear alpha yet and adult males are in competition for the alpha status. An untagged Mountain Troop male has been attempting to join the troop and seems to be a favourite of several females. If he succeeds in becoming alpha this will likely have a very positive influence on the troop, however we will need more time to see how it plays out.

TK40 has continued his antics this month, attempting to run down to Forest Glade Centre almost daily. HWS rangers are monitoring him closely and have managed to block him on many occasions however he has still managed to enter the urban area 11 times this month. On most occasions he heads to Forest Glade centre and opportunistically steals food from the restaurants or surrounding houses.

TK28 has also managed to get into Zwaanswyk this month. It is suspected that he used trees that have grown over the Steenberg fence, to gain access into Zwaanswyk Road. The Zwaanswyk Residents Association has been incredibly efficient this month, and have employed gardening services to trim the vegetation in order to prevent this. Hopefully this will resolve the situation. TK28's visits are usually very brief, and with a little persuasion always returns over the fence and back to the Tokai Troop.

Other males that have started straying from the troop include TK41, TK42 and TK43. These three males leave the troop together, or occasionally alone, and have been exploring Lister's Tea Garden, Table Mountain National Park and Chrysalis Academy, Porter Estate, Tokai. Here they have found some food rewards, and have raided the kitchens and dining hall at Chrysalis Academy and stolen some food off tables at Lister's Tea Garden. It's quite normal behaviour for young males to leave the troop and explore their surroundings, as this is the start of their dispersal behaviour. It's likely this will continue for several months. During this time HWS will try to prevent as many non-urban raids as possible to avoid them becoming accustomed to human derived foods (HDF's). These males have also been sighted amongst the Mountain and Zwaanswyk Troops, exploring their options and investigating the potential to join either of these troops.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																														
BABOON TROOP: Tokai		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL									
MONTH: November		YEAR: 2014		1 In urban area		4 Attacking pets		7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food		2 Raid bins		5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle		8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property		3 Non malicious damage		6 Raid occupied house or vehicle		9 Nocturnal raiding												
BABOON ID	Sex	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL		
TK28 (B-G) Collar	M									1	6	6	6						1	6	1	1							6			
TK 40 (P-Y) Collar VHF	M	6	2	2	6			1			2	2	2		2	1	2		1	6			6		2		5	1.2	1			
TK 41 (Single Pink)	M																															
TK 42 (Blue Yellow)	M																	6					5	5								
TK 43 (Single White)	M							2	2	6							6		6							7			6			
UnID male	M																															
UnID Sub ad male	M												3																			
UnID Female 1	F				1																											
Troop																																
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS								
Troop	0.0																															
Individuals	0.1				20																											
Males	5.8	120			45			90	10	180		30	150	75				120	30	40	20	10		40	60	90				15		
Roost:	AM	7	7	7	4	3	2	1	2	6	2	4	3	7	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	6	6	1	1			
Roost:	PM	7	7	4	3	2	1	2	6	2	4	3	7	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	6	6	1	6				
Roost Sites	1	Tea Garden			2	Upper Tea Garden			3	Level 1 TK Clearing			4	Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums			5	Level 2 Streams														
	6	Lower Guest House			7	Upper Guest House			8	Level 3 Pines			9	Level 4 Pines			10	Level 2 Pines														
ID Features of Baboons	11	Level 1a Quarry Gums			12	Other			13				14				15															
General remarks																																

Figure 7: November raid sheet for the Tokai Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place inside non-urban areas.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop have been very easy to manage this month. There have been no raids from this troop, urban or non-urban. They have spent all their time up the mountains, mostly in the southern sections of the Tokai Plantation and above Zwaanswyk and Steenberg, and occasionally heading into Silvermine for a few hours at a time. They still move down the mountain in the evenings to their sleep sites in the lower levels of Tokai Plantation around the Guest House.

This troop has undergone a massive change after a Mountain Troop male, MT2, became alpha. This is a great example of how a wild male can have a huge impact on a troop's behaviour, and how important it is to have a wild male as an alpha. Hopefully, the troop will continue this trend into the future.

3. Constantia Troop

The Constantia Troop has continued to spend most of their time above Klein and Groot Constantia foraging in the natural vegetation. The Groot Constantia electric fence is up and running, and has been turned on for the majority of this month.

To date, the fence seems to be very effective at keeping the troop out of Groot Constantia. Unfortunately, however, the fence ends as it reaches the urban area. The lower gums sleep site is very close to the end of the fence on the Klein Constantia side. Ultimately this means that if the baboons really wanted to enter Groot Constantia, they could go around the fence, through the urban area and then back into Groot Constantia.

This scenario materialised on 18 November 2014, when the Constantia Troop left their sleep site and headed towards the urban area. Instead of heading into Groot Constantia however, the baboons spent some time in the urban area of Nova Constantia. HWS rangers were quick to respond and the whole troop were pushed out of the urban area within 45 minutes. No raiding was evident.

In order to prevent a reoccurrence of this situation in the future (if the baboons have slept at the lower gums), HWS have agreed with Klein Constantia, to have both groups of rangers push the troop up the fence line and out over the Klein Constantia fence against the mountain. This will allow the troop to forage on the natural vegetation above the farms. This is an ideal situation for all involved and hopefully it can be implemented effectively in the coming months and throughout the harvest season.

The only recorded raid this month was when CON7 left the troop and raided an occupied house on Price Drive. All other raid attempts, by male baboons, were intercepted successfully by HWS rangers.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
BABOON TROOP: Constantia		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																								
MONTH: November		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	9	Nocturnal raiding																								
BABOON ID	Sex	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL	
TK 33 (R-O)	M																														
TK 15 (Y-O)	M																														
TK 19 (R-W)	M																														
TK 16 (W-W)	M																														
TK 11 (O-W)	M																														
CON 1 (Untagged)	M																														
CON 2 (B-O) Collar V	M																														
CON 3 (G) S.Ad	M																														
CON 4 (B) S.Ad	M																														
CON 5 (G-G)	M																														
CON 6 (O) Collar VHM	M																														
CON 7 (P-G)	M												6																		
MT 1 (G-W)	M																														
Untagged Male	M																														
Un-ID fem / Juv	F																														
Un-ID/Unknown																															
Troop																														1	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS							
Troop	%	0.2																												45	
Individuals	%	0.0																													
Males	%	0.1										15																			
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Roost Sites		1	KC/GC Border - Upp				2	KC Lwr Blue Gums				3	KC/SANpak MTB tra				4	Middle Plantation KC				5	Buiten								
ID Features of Baboons		6	Uitsig BG				7	Mckenzie/Groot				8	Other				9					10									
General remarks																															

Figure 8: November raid sheet for the Constantia Troop

4. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop have been sighted regularly this month by HWS rangers. This is highly unusual, and is a result of the rangers on Buitenverwachting pushing the troop south, towards and into Tokai Plantation, rather than west, which would take them above the farm property. The Mountain Troop were seen as low as Level 1 in the Tokai Plantation. This is very worrying as this area is frequented by many recreational users and this results in the Mountain Troop being exposed to human contact much more than in the past. This situation must clearly be avoided.

The Mountain Troop is the only managed troop on the Peninsula that still has a natural fear of people, and hence does not raid into the urban area. Individuals do however occasionally raid homesteads on Buitenverwachting. HWS rangers have asked the Buitenverwachting rangers only to

push the troop west, up the mountain, and not south into Tokai Plantation. Hopefully this protocol will be followed in future.

Births and Deaths

No births or deaths were reported this month.

Recommendations

Klein Constantia - When the Constantia Troop sleeps at the lower gums sleep site, the Klein Constantia rangers should encourage the troop to move up the farm towards the mountain and not down towards the urban area.

Buitenverwachting rangers should only move the Mountain Troop west, which will take them above the farm, and not south into Tokai Plantation.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

There were only two births and one death this month, so the managed baboon population increased by one. It is now standing at only two more (389) than the total (387) calculated from the HWS births and deaths data for December 2013. These data still need to be ratified by total counts on the ground, but it does look as though the rapid growth that characterised the managed Peninsula baboon troops prior to 2012, has now slowed down considerably and remained stable for the past year. If these data are correct, it would suggest that now that the baboons have, on average, been kept out of town for 98.6% of the time, their access to HDF's has been almost totally removed. As a result, now that females no longer have access to artificially high levels of energy which enabled many of them to breed once a year, they have now been reduced to breeding at a more natural rate of once every two to three years. This would clearly have a profound effect on population growth rate.

Population Data for the Ten Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula

TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	Total End Dec 2013	Nov Births	Nov Deaths	Total Births 2014	Total Deaths 2014	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	44	2	1	7	7	44
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21			5	7	19
Waterfall	28	30			0	1	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17			0	2	15
Slangkop	33	40			6	2	44
SUB TOTAL	175	171	2	1	18	19	170
Zwaanswyk	25	30			2	4	28
Tokai	61	70			11	7	74
Mountain	33	44			3	0	47
Constantia	60	72			4	6	70
SUB TOTAL	179	216	0	0	20	17	219
TOTAL	354	387	2	1	38	36	389

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

Hotline Data

It is pleasing to see this month that there were only two areas (Zwaanswyk and Tokai) from which a significant number of hotline calls were made. Most of these calls were in response to the same two males, TK28 and TK40, that were responsible for most of the hotline calls being made last month. TK28 has been making opportunistic raids into Zwaanswyk, gaining access over weak spots on Steenberg fence, near where it joins the Zwaanswyk fence. TK40 on the other hand, has been running down past the rangers to go raiding in Tokai. At times HWS has devoted up to four rangers just to stop TK40 from raiding and in trying to return him back to his troop up the mountain.

If one discounts the 23 hotline calls made from Tokai and Zwaanswyk, then there were only 14 hotline calls made in response to raids from all the other areas where baboons are managed. This is probably a record, and is certainly for Da Gama and Scarborough, from which only three calls were made although they are traditionally the worst affected areas.

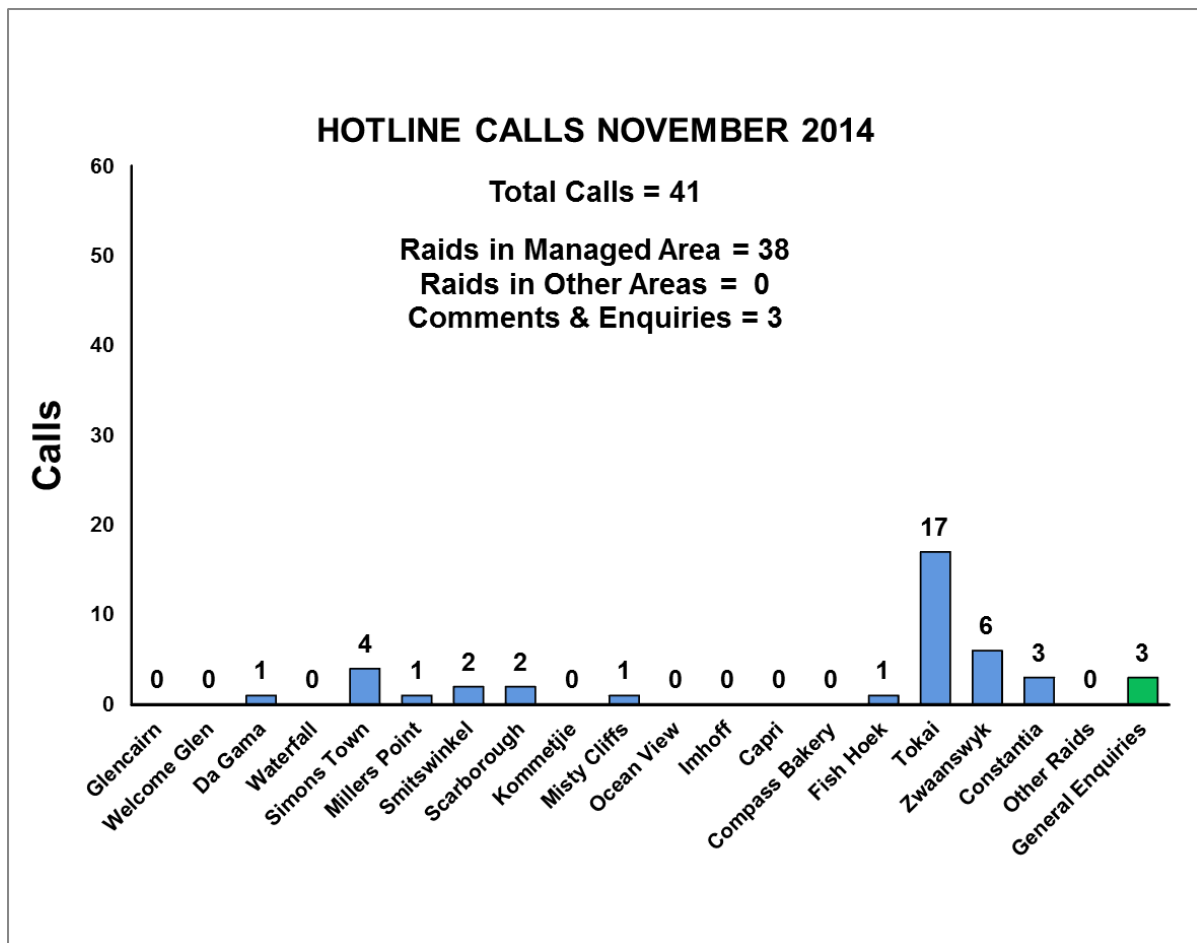


Figure 10. Hotline calls summary per urban area

This month another record was set, because 84.2% of all hotline calls were simply reporting baboons in town. As usual the remaining calls were made in response to house and bin raids.

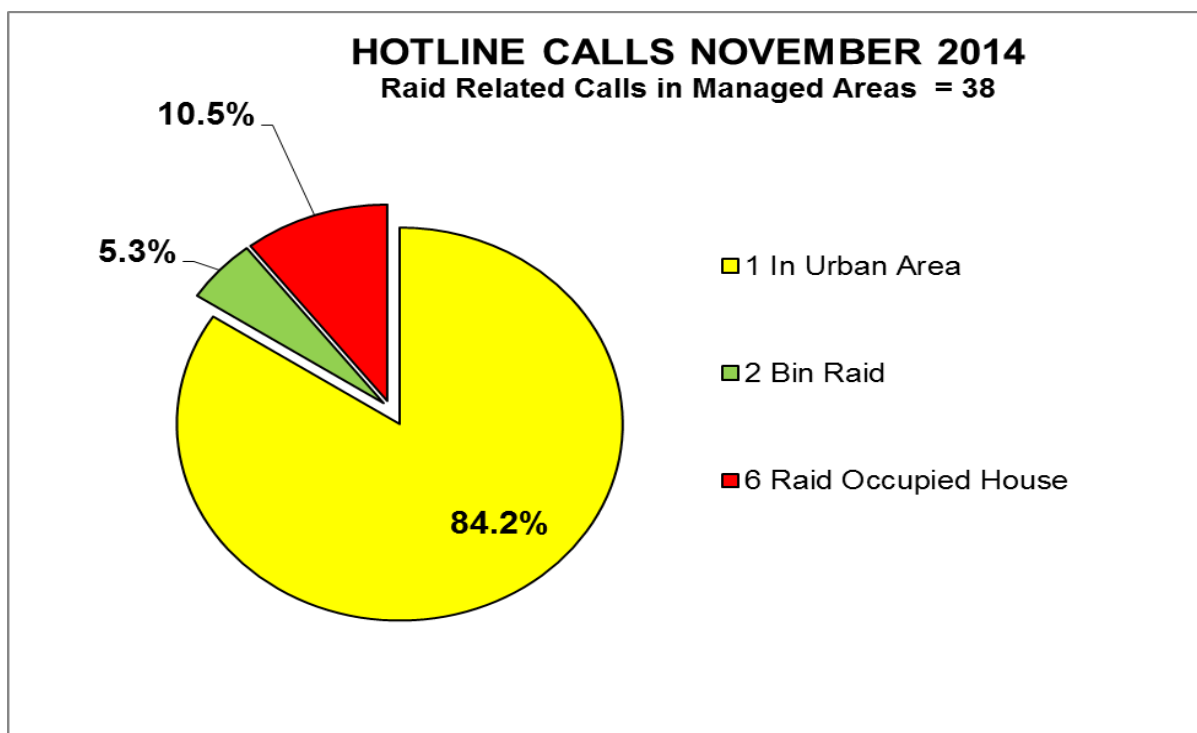


Figure 11. Composition of raid-related hotline calls

Percentage Time out of Town

The good hotline data is also reflected in the data collected for the amount of time the baboons spent out of town. The average time all troops spent out of town was 99.8%. Even Da Gama, traditionally the worst behaved troop, spent 98.8% of its time out of town. Individual raiders in eight of our ten troops were also out of town for over 99% of the time. It was only for individuals in the Da Gama and Zwaanswyk Troops that this average dropped below 99%, and even then they were still out of town for over 94% of the time.

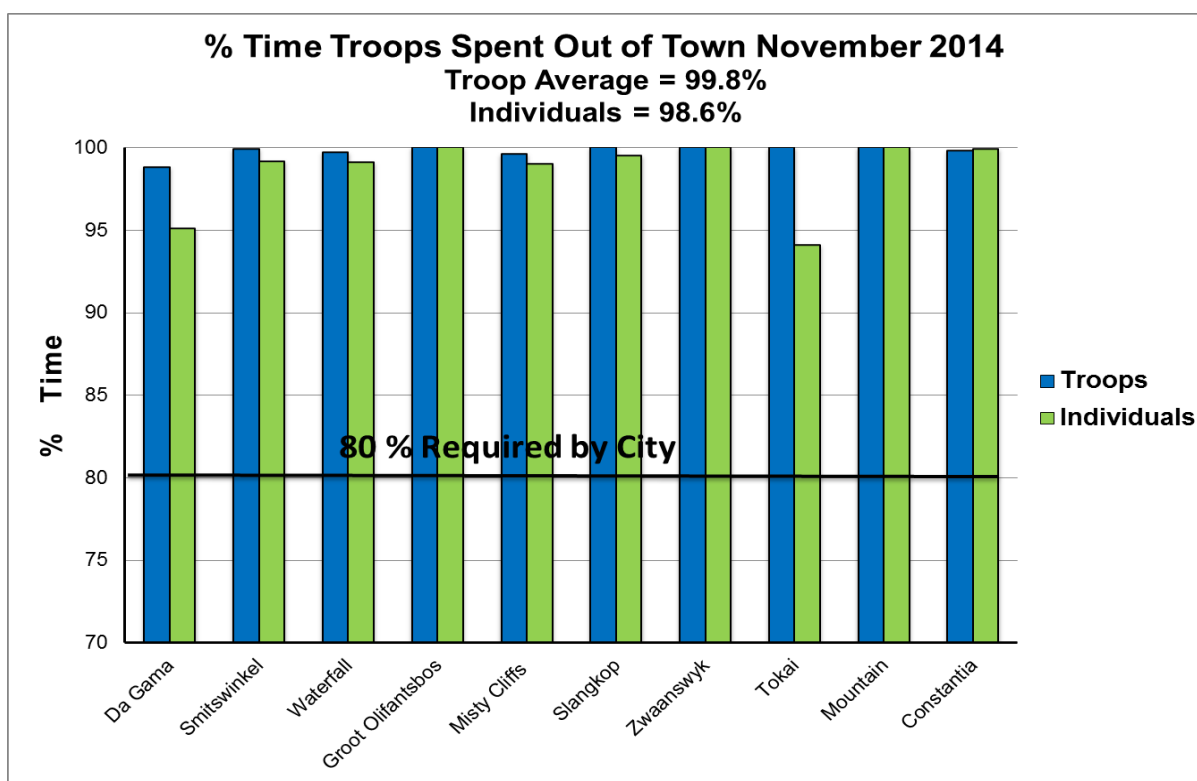


Figure 12. Percentage time troops spent out of town.

Conclusion

The most prominent feature of this month's report is how little time the baboons spent in town (0.2% of time) and how few hotline calls were made (38 raid related calls). This can primarily be ascribed to the warm weather and abundance of natural forage available in the natural areas. A similar pattern was observed in November 2012 and 2013.

One side effect of the warm weather is that the natural water sources on the mountain seem to be drying out, and soon quite a few troops may find themselves without easy access to water. This was not a problem in late 2013, but was definitely a problem for some troops in January and February earlier that year. The troop that was most affected was Slangkop, which regularly used to visit Capri or the municipal sewerage works below Compass Bakery. While on the way to or from going to drink, the troop invariably used to raid for food as well. To alleviate this problem a small 200 liter tank was installed on Kompanjiesuin land just below the Compass Bakery Sleepsite. The tank was filled once a week. The baboons immediately started drinking at that tank, and their raids into town were hugely reduced. This, and other water tanks, may need to be re-instated later this summer in order to prevent water related raids into town.

Having a waterhole for baboons is believed to be very different from a traditional waterhole in the savannas, where many water holes are now being closed because of the overgrazing they cause by concentrating antelope around them. However, in the fynbos, particularly outside the CoGH reserve, there are very few antelope and they are highly selective feeders, so they are most unlikely to have any significant effect on the vegetation. Similarly, in the case of the baboons, their numbers are low and they forage very widely, so they too are unlikely to have a significant effect on the vegetation, particularly if the waterhole is near their sleepsite which they visit everyday.

A very positive development this month is that we now have three relatively wild males as alpha males in their troops. GOB7 has been responsible for keeping the GOB troop out of Scarborough for well over two years now. KOB1 is now the established alpha in the Misty Cliffs Troop, and although he has not totally prevented the troop from raiding Scarborough, he has remained outside while they raid, and it has been relatively easy to get the troop to rejoin him in the CoGH reserve. The male MT2 dispersed quite recently from the Mountain Troop to join the Zwaanswyk Troop. He seems to have become established as the alpha male and is also having a very positive influence on his new troop. He keeps the troop relatively high up the mountain, away from any human habitation and out of harms way for most of the day.

The Mountain Troop is wedged between the Tokai and Constantia troops above the wine farms and therefore has relatively little contact with humans, apart from occasionally raiding Buitenverwachting wine farm. It is definitely much less habituated than any other managed troop on the Peninsula and, as such, a good source for alpha males in the surrounding troops. It is therefore imperative that this troop is not allowed to move lower down into Tokai and get more used to humans. Similarly, all efforts must be made to minimise the contact the three alpha males, mentioned above, have with humans.

Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions