



Photo: Wian van Zyl

Human Wildlife Solutions

Overstrand Monthly Report

December 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 31 December 2019. Management of the Voëklip Troop in Hermanus and the Pringle Bay Troop in Pringle Bay are discussed. Management for both troops was mainly by using paintball markers as aversive deterrents. Although the Vogelgat and Hamilton Russell Troops are occasionally seen or may raid the urban edges, they are not actively managed because HWS does not have the staff allocation to do so at this stage.

December is one of the peak seasons for holidaymakers in these two seaside towns. These holiday makers bring both an increase in food and waste available to baboons, as well as an increase in the people with little or no awareness of baboons, how to behave towards them, and how not to encourage them into town. As a result, over the holiday season the baboons attempted to increase their time in town, and management of baboons became more challenging.

2 VOËKLIP TROOP

2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- During December 2019 the troop spent 96.3% of its time out of town.
- Time out of town for individuals was 95.8%.
- The troop predominantly slept at the 10th Avenue Kloof (11 nights), Three Dams (nine nights) and 11th Avenue Kloof (five nights) sleep sites. The remaining six nights, the troop slept at Platteklip, Big Titanic and Droë Kloof sleep sites. The troop therefore spent 100% of its time sleeping out of town.
- During December, the Voëklip Troop entered the urban area on 12 occasions, compared to three in November 2019. On all 12 occasions, the troop entered the Voëklip suburb. The troop did not enter Hermanus Heights or the Golf Course during December 2019.

2.2 INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

2.2.1 VKM4 (SUB-ADULT MALE)

- During December, VKM4 was the individual that most often attempted to break the line and enter the urban area.
- VKM4 conducted two occupied house raids and showed aggressive behaviour on one occasion, where he grabbed a bag of crisps from a teenager (29 December 2019).

- VKM4 broke away from the troop on eight occasions. On two occasions he led other individuals into town. On another two occasions, he was observed with another young male/female (one each) in town. They were pushed out of town by the baboon monitors. On three occasions VKM4 was observed with a small splinter group but they were prevented from entering town by the monitors.
- VKM4's raiding behaviour escalated greatly over the course of December and made the management of the troop more difficult, particularly when it split into smaller groups.

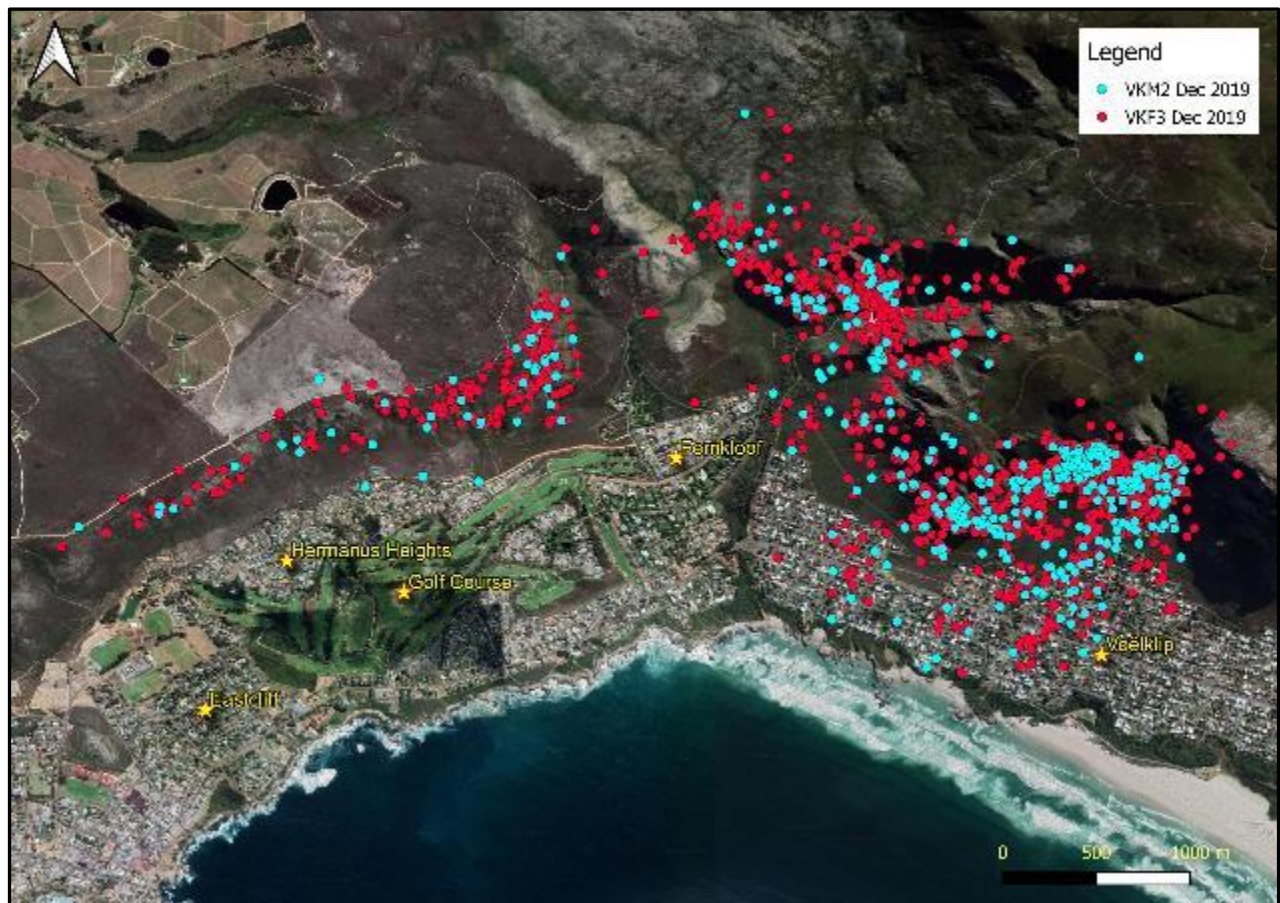


Figure 1: GPS locations of the Voëlklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar data on VKM2 and VKF3 during December 2019.

2.2.2 FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE

- During December, there were many visitors to the three dams in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve. People swam in and picnicked next to the lower dam, often bringing food with them.
- The troop thus had an easy opportunity to grab food from people and the conflict between baboons and humans increased as people tried to chase the baboons away.
- This greatly increased the difficulty of managing the troop and was a major concern since this took place within the reserve where the troop should be allowed to forage naturally.

2.2.3 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- A single female with an infant entered Hermanus Heights on one occasion during December and raided a bin.

2.2.4 VOËLKLIP

- Six bin raids were recorded in Voëlkliip during December.
- Ten occupied house raids and one unoccupied house raid was recorded during December.
- The majority of bins in Voëlkliip are not baboon-proof and many residents often leave open refuse bags on the sidewalk. This is a major attraction for the Voëlkliip Troop and greatly increases the difficulty of managing the troop on waste collection days.
- Waste and recycling collection currently takes place around midday, leaving the waste attractant present for the first half of the day.

2.2.5 TAGGING AND COLLARING

- VKM4, a sub-adult male was tagged (with double, double blue tags) on 18 December 2019.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																	
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
OVERSTRAND		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	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL
BABOON TROOP:		VOËLKLIP		1 In urban area		4 Attacking pets		7 Threatening behaviou/ attacking/ stealing food																									
MONTH: DECEMBER		YEAR: 2019		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																									
Troop			1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1				2											1		1			12
VKM2 ALPHA	M	1		1,6			1	1		1	1		1		1		1			1	1					1	1	6	1				16
VKM4 BLUE TAG	M																										1			6,6,7			4
VKF3 RED TAG	F			1,1			1		1	1				1			1	1								1			1				10
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																																0
UnID Male	M		2,2			2,1		1			1		5,1	1	1		1	6												6,6		1	15
UnID Males	M	1								2					1,8																	4	
UnID Females	F						1	1,1				1	2,1,1				1										1	1,6				11	
UnID Female	F	1	2,2			2								1						2						1		6			1	9	
UnID Individuals					6							6,1																6				4	
UnID Juvs				6														1														2	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														HRS	
Troop	3,7	70	70	67	78		80	60		96	142	82				105													54		87	16,52	
Individuals	4,2	10	28	45		18	25	35		120	51	32	21	21	99		120	210	8	5	5	19					14	92	18	44	54	24	18,63
Roost:	AM	5	8	13	10	12	13	13	12	13	12	12	12	12	12	5	8	12	12	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	12	12	12	5	7	
Roost:	PM	8	13	10	12	13	13	12	13	13	12	12	12	12	5	8	12	12	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	12	12	12	5	7	9	
Roost Sites		1 Golf Course		2 Hermanus Heights		3 Platte Klip		4 Adder Ladder		5 Lower Dam																							
		6 Upper Dam (North)		7 Upper Dam (South)		8 Middle Dam		9 Droë Kloof		10 Big Titanic																							
		11 Small Titanic/ Cave		12 10th Ave Kloof		13 11th Ave Kloof		14 Bos Klip		15																							
		16		17		18		19		20																							
		21		22		23		24		25																							
		26		27		28																											
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks		VKM4 tagged with double blue tags on the left ear on 18/12/2019.																															

Figure 2: The Voëlkliip Troop raid sheet for December 2019.

2.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- There was one birth recorded in the Voëlklip Troop during December 2019.
- There was one death in the Voëlklip Troop, VKM3 (sub-adult male) was euthanised on 9 December 2019 in terms of the Guidelines for Baboon Management for assertive raiding (http://baboons.org.za/images/Protocols/Guidelines_for_Baboon_Management_March_2019.pdf).

2.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings in suburbs affected by baboons. This will reduce the attractant value of the waste to baboons. This is especially important for the area north of the Main Road in Voëlklip suburb which is close to the mountainside.
- All bins used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**. Refuse bags should not be left lying open on the sidewalk, easily available to baboons.
- The **fruit which is visible on fruit trees should be harvested** in baboon-affected areas to remove this attractant for baboons.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon-proofed. Baboon-proofing of all domestic vegetable gardens in baboon-affected areas will reduce baboon incursions into the suburbs.
- There are many **tall pine and bluegum trees** on the Hermanus Golf Course that provide ideal sleep sites for baboons, particularly in winter. If these trees could be removed it would greatly reduce the baboons' incentive to sleep in town during winter.
- The majority of houses leave their **doors and windows open** by day and do not have burglar bars. Residents should be made aware that this attracts baboons into the area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

3 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

3.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 97.4% of time out of town in December. The troop entered town on 18 occasions. On five of these occasions the troop was moving through town either going from the northern side of town to the southern side, or the other way around.
- For individuals, the time out of town was 100%.
- The troop made use of both its northern and southern sleep sites in December, spending 14 nights at its northern sleep site (Rooi Els Mountain) and 17 nights at its southern sleep sites (Professor & Hangklip Valley).

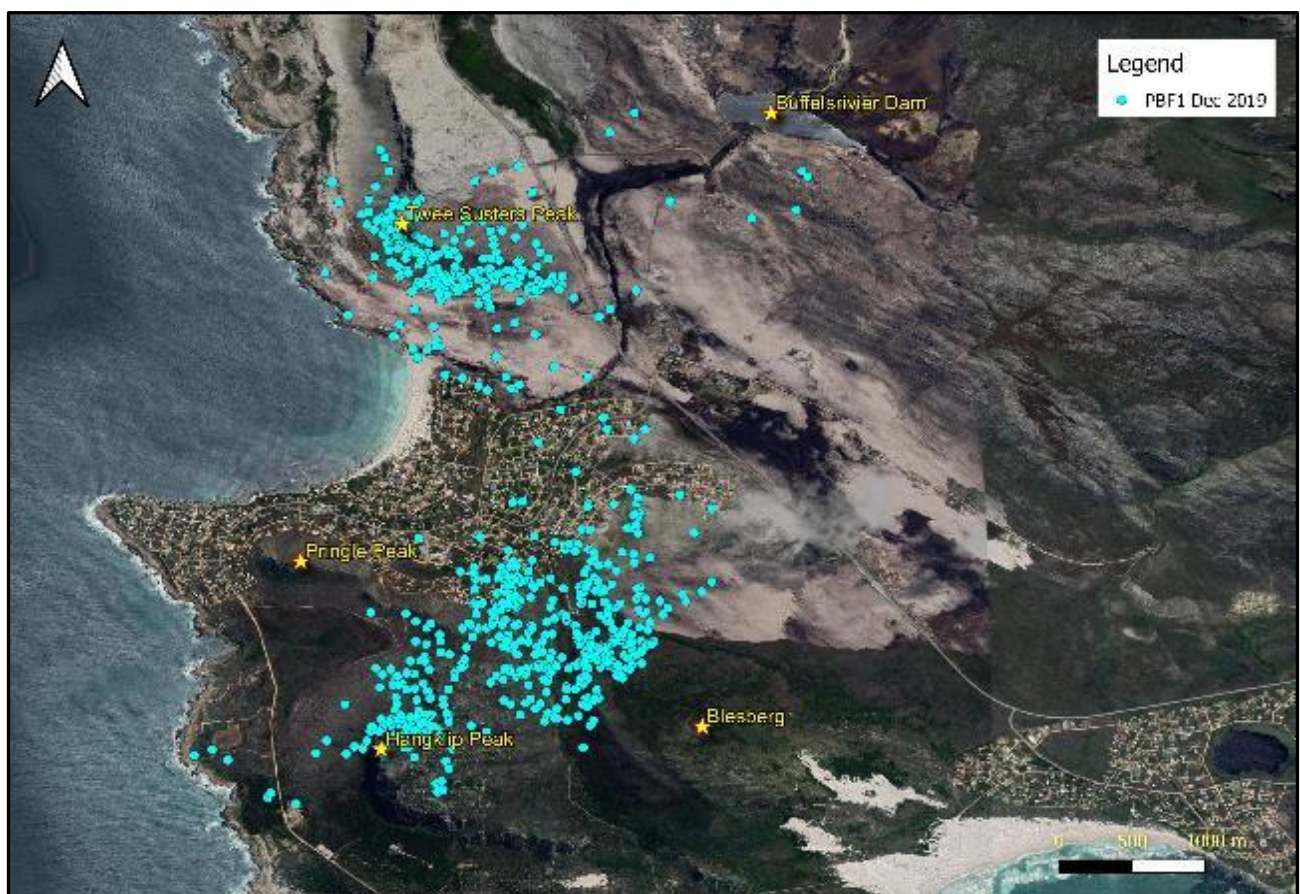


Figure 3: GPS locations of the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar on PBF1 during December 2019.

3.2 INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- Three unoccupied house raids were recorded in Pringle Bay during December 2019. On all occasions the baboons gained entry to the house through an open door or open window.

3.2.1 TAGGING AND COLLARING

- On 9 December 2019, PBF1’s dead collar was removed and replaced with a new collar.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																		
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																
OVERSTRAND		1											4											7										
BABOON TROOP:	PRINGLE BAY	2											5											8										
MONTH: DECEMBER	YEAR: 2019	3											6											9										
BABOON ID	Sex	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	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL	
Troop				1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								1	5		1	1	1	1		1	5	1	18	
UnID Male	M																																0	
UnID Males	M																																0	
UnID Females	F																																0	
UnID Female	F																																0	
UnID Individuals																						5											1	
UnID Juveniles																																	0	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS			
Troop	2.6			70		20	20	30	120		12	39	40	30								60	54		40	28	42	24		20	30	30	11.82	
Individuals	0.0																																0.00	
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	2	1		
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	1		
Roost Sites	1	Professor					2	Hangklip Valley					3	Rooi-Els Mountain					4						5									
	6						7						8						9						10									
ID Features of Baboons																																		
General remarks																																		

Figure 4: The Pringle Bay Troop raid sheet for December 2019.

3.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- There was one death in the Pringle Bay Troop. A sub-female baboon was knocked by a car, and subsequently died.

3.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early morning in Pringle Bay. This will reduce the attractant value and accessibility of the waste to baboons.
- All bins used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**. Refuse bags should not be left lying on the sidewalk and easily available to baboons.

- The **waste collection point (bin cage)** at the entrance to Pringle Bay should be sufficiently secured/enclosed to prevent baboons and other wildlife gaining access to the waste. This should be collected by solid waste collection regularly to prevent the waste becoming unmanageable, particularly during the holiday season. Waste should not be left outside this collection point (bin cage), because it is a major attractant to baboons.
- Residents should ensure all **windows and doors are closed** when baboons are in the Pringle Bay urban area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

4 GENERAL COMMENTS

4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

- The Voëklip Troop size at the end of December 2019 remained 28. The size of the Pringle Bay troop decreased by one, to 17, after a female was hit by a car. The compositions of the two managed troops can be seen in the Table 1 below.

TROOP	OCTOBER 2019 COUNT	DECEMBER 2019			Total observed Births (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Total observed Deaths (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Total Migrations (7 November to 30 June 2020)
		Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëklip	29	1	1	0	1	2	0
Pringle Bay	18	0	1	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	47	1	2	0	0	1	0

Table 1: Population data for the two managed troops in the Overstrand in December 2019. Emigration/Immigration figures show animal movements between troops and are accommodated in the troop population totals.

Deaths	Current Contract 2019/20	DEC 2019	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	1	1	1
Human Induced (HID)	1	1	1
<i>Direct **</i>	1	1	1
<i>Indirect ***</i>			0
Natural	1		1
Unknown			0
TOTAL DEATHS	3	2	3

Table 2: Causes of baboon deaths since October 2019; **Deaths caused directly by humans such as motor vehicle accidents, shooting, poisoning and dogs. ***Deaths caused indirectly by humans such as electrocutions.

4.2 HOTLINE DATA

During December 2019, there was a total of 123 hotline calls, 107 of which were raid-related calls received from managed areas, compared to 28 calls received in November. Hotline calls are for the Hermanus area only, because the Pringle Bay residents operate with another system. The vast majority of calls were from Voëlklip suburb.

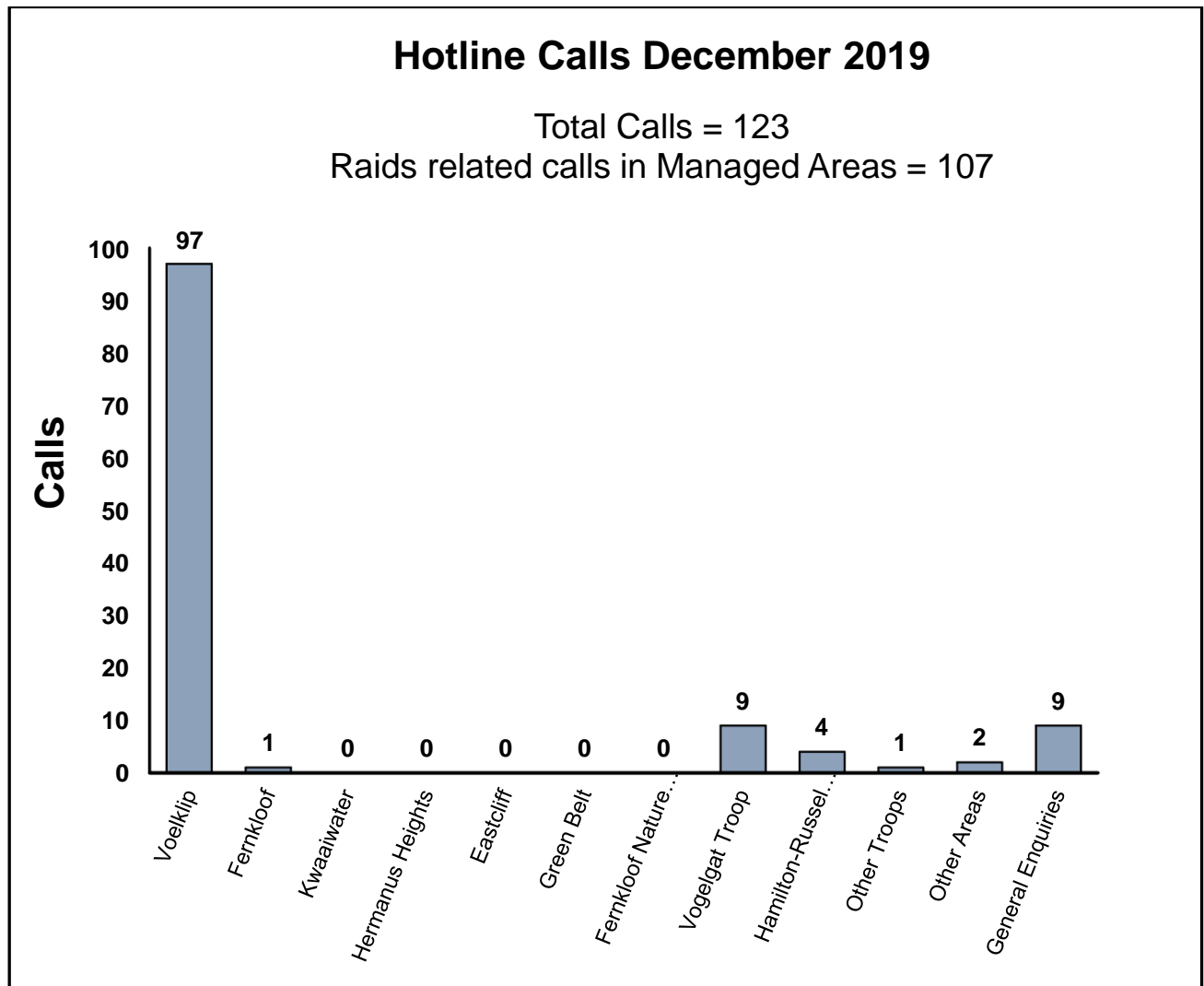


Figure 5: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas of Hermanus for December 2019. Raid-related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas, represent those areas beyond the urban edge or the range of managed baboons.

- The Vogelgat Troop was reported in the Voëlklip suburb on nine occasions during December 2019.
- The Hamilton-Russell Troop was reported on the mountainside just above Hermanus Heights on four occasions during December.
- These two troops are not currently managed by HWS.

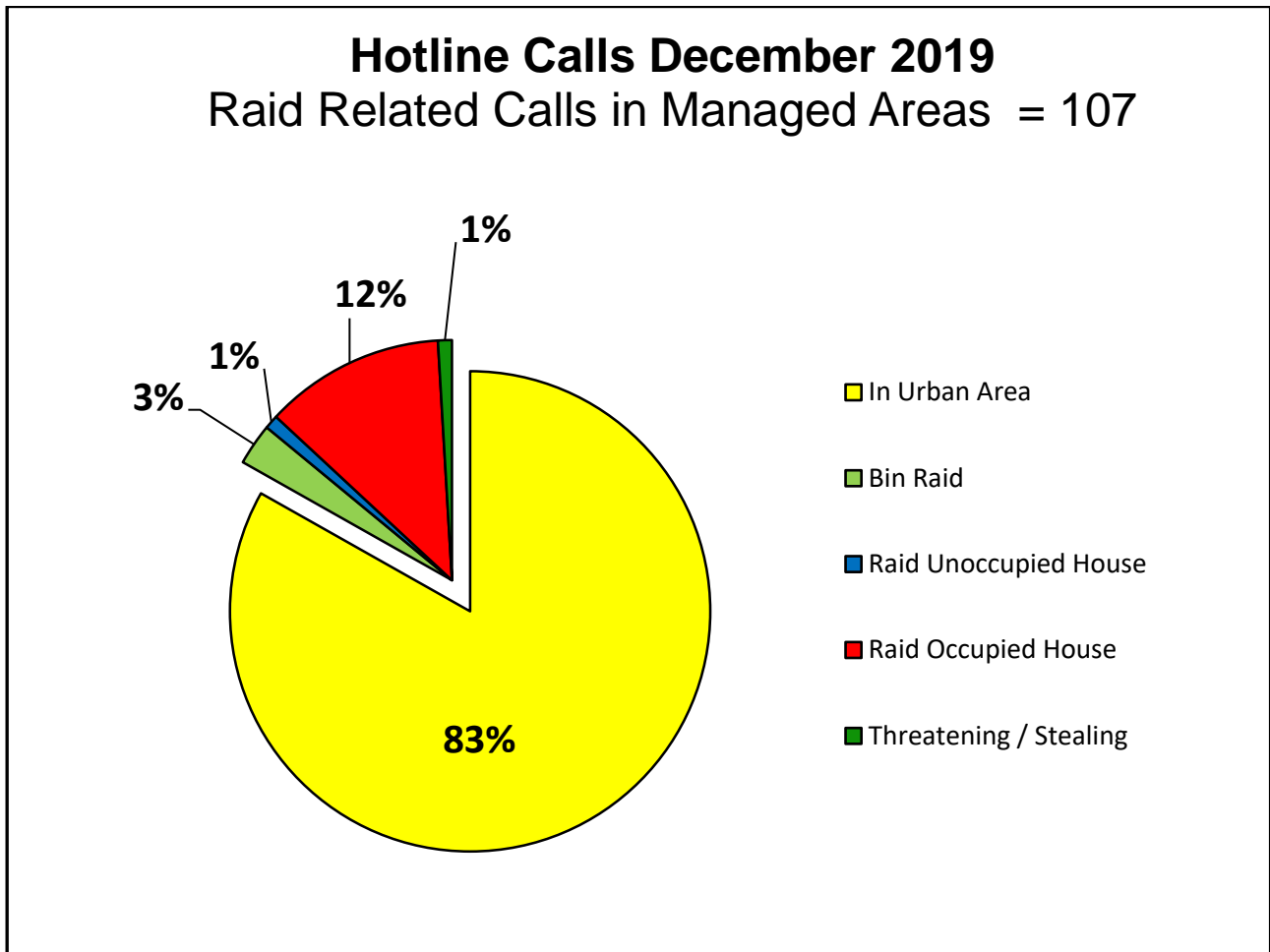


Figure 6: Composition of raid-related hotline calls during December 2019. Note this graph represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of raids by baboons.

One of the most notable features of Figure 6 is that 83% of all raid related calls were simply reporting baboons in the urban. Another key feature was that 12% of calls were reporting occupied house raids. Although this figure is surprisingly high, it must be noted that occupied house raids are, by their nature, over-represented because they are both witnessed and traumatic at the same time.

4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During December 2019, the average time out of town for the troops was 96.8% and 97.9% for individuals. Individual time in town is only counted if individuals or small groups of baboons enter the urban area alone. These data are counted separately from when the whole troop enters the urban area.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN	TROOP	INDIVIDUAL
Voëklip Troop	96,3	95,8
Pringle Bay Troop	97,4	100
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	96,8	97,9

Table 3: Percentage time troops and individuals spent out of town during December 2019.

5 CONCLUSION

December 2019 was the first full month of baboon management in Hermanus, while Pringle Bay continued its second month of management by HWS. Incursions by the Hamilton Russell Troop was reported once, while nine raids by the Vogelgat Troop were reported during December. This month was a significant increase in the number of reports for the Vogelgat Troop which seemed to spend more time in and close to the urban area than during November 2019.

Both the Voëlklip Troop and Pringle Bay Troop spent more time in town during December than they had in November. During the holiday season there was an increase in both the number of people in town indirectly providing food available for baboons, and also the number of people who were not aware and how to manage waste and the need to keep doors and windows closed.

The Three Dams and picnic area in the Fernkloof Reserve, were particularly difficult to manage, with numerous picnickers bringing food into the area and chasing the baboons away from the dams and back into town. Pringle Bay individuals were out of town for 100% of this month. The time the troop spent in town was mostly just when it was moving between its southern and northern sleep sites.

Dr Phil Richardson

HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS