



Photo: Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions

Overstrand

Monthly Report

SEPTEMBER 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 30 September 2020. September is generally considered the start of the spring when temperatures start increasing whilst winter rainfall has not fully passed, leading to a spurt of new vegetation. Accordingly, an increase in time spent out of town by baboons was observed, the three managed troops average time out of town increased to 97.3%, up from 94.6% in August.

Management of the Voëlklip and Pringle Bay Troops continued as before, while the Vogelgat Troop is managed using the virtual fence.

As was the trend in August, the Vogelgat Troop continued to spend much of its time in mountains above Voëlklip suburb, likely due to the absence of the Voëlklip Troop in this area over the last few months. The virtual fence proved again to be very successful as was shown through a further decrease in the number of hotline calls in September.

The Pringle Bay troop made use of the Professor Sleep Site much less this month but made regular use of the Pringle Peak Sleep Site which still offers easy access into the urban area. The troop entered the urban area one occasion before rangers arrived for work. Fourteen house raids were recorded this month, the majority of which were due to poor baboon proofing.

2 VOËLKLIP TROOP

2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- During September, the troop spent 99.2% of its time out of town, an increase from 96.5% in August.
- Time out of town for individuals also increased, from 89.4% in August to 91.1% in September.
- During September, the Voëlklip Troop entered the urban area on a single occasion. The troop entered via the Voëlklip suburb.

2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

2.2.1 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- Two house raids were reported for Hermanus Heights, one on Selkirk Street and one on Waboom Street.

- Four bin raids were recorded for Hermanus Heights. These bin raids occurred on Fernkloof Drive, Fynbos Street, Francolin Close and Klipspringer Street.
- A single bin raid was reported for the golf course at Hillside Village.
- Individuals managed to enter the golf course on 26 and 28 September.

2.2.2 VOËLKLIIP & FERNKLOOF

- No house raids were reported for Voëlklip. A single bin raid on 9th Street was reported.

2.2.3 GENERAL

- An unidentified bird of prey attempted to capture a juvenile while the baboons were in the mountain above Hermanus Heights. The juvenile managed to escape.

2.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded during September 2020.

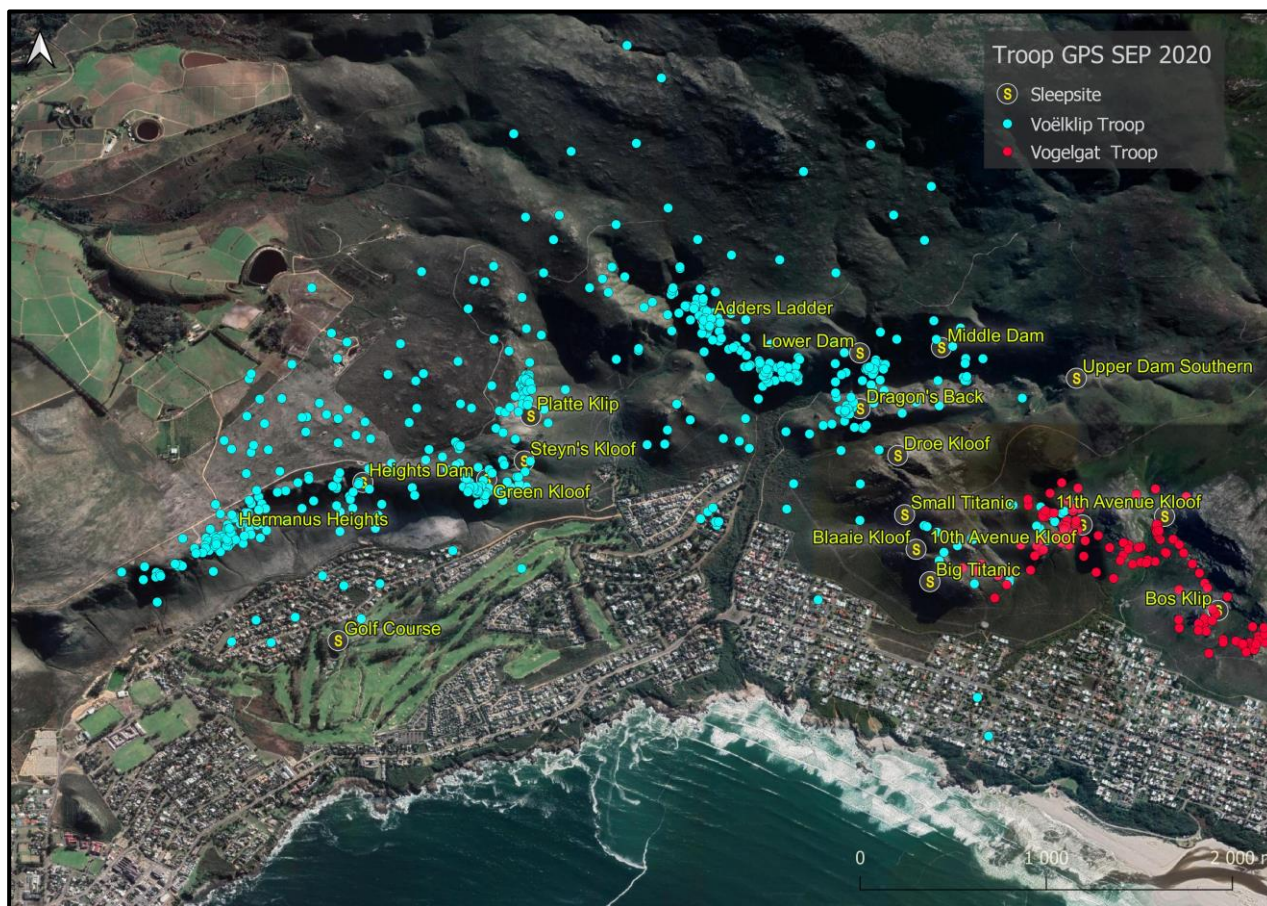


Figure 2.1: GPS locations of the Voëlklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar during September 2020.

3 VOGELGAT TROOP

The troop approached the town on 18 occasions in September, an increase from August. The troop continued to spend much of its time in Vogelgat Nature Reserve and moved along the R43 frequently.

3.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of town for the troop was 100% in September.
- Time out of town for individuals was 99.7%.
- No entries into town by the troop were recorded for September.

3.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- The troop entered the buffer zone (a 200m wide zone running parallel to the urban edge) on 18 occasions.
- No house raids, but three bin raids were recorded in September. On 14 September, as the troop moved east from the 10th Avenue Sleep site, multiple individuals managed to run ahead of the rangers and slipped down into 2nd Street and raided two bins on their way out of town. In this area of Voëlklip, 2nd Street is the street closest to the mountain. A lone male was found to have raided a bin on 10th Street on 28 September.

3.3 VIRTUAL FENCE

- The Virtual Fence was activated five times during September and deterred the troop on all five occasions.
- On an additional four occasions, the baboons were deterred from entering the town by clapping of hands and shouting. No paintball markers have been used on the Vogelgat Troop since management started in August.
- Since the implementation of the Virtual Fence in August, a further decrease in the number of hotline calls was observed in September. A single hotline call was received for the Vogelgat Troop in September.

3.4 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded for September.



Figure 3.2: GPS locations of the Vogelgat Troop as determined by the GPS collar during September 2020.

4 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

4.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 92.6% of its time out of town in September.
- Time out of town for individuals was 92.3%.
- Use of the Professor Sleep Site decreased significantly in September. Use of the Pringle Peak and Rooi Els sleep sites increased this month.
- The troop entered town on 17 occasions during September.

4.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- 14 house raids were recorded in September, ten occupied and four unoccupied. Individuals gained access via open doors, windows, dog flaps and security gates that, despite being closed, are not baboon proof. The spaces between the individual bars of some security gates and burglar bars are large

enough for baboons, especially small juveniles, to climb through and gain access to residences.

- As can be seen on the corresponding raid sheet (figure 4.1) multiple incidents occurred where baboons raided houses and/or refuse bags on properties outside of the urban area. Residents living on plots and smallholdings surrounding Pringle Bay are encouraged to manage their waste responsibly and ensure that waste is stored in baboon proof bins, while also ensuring that their residences are either baboon proofed or that the doors and windows are closed securely when the baboons are in the area.
- The Pringle Bay Mini Mart was raided on 01 September.
- Six bin raids were recorded, one in High-Level Road, one in Andre Road, one in Elizabeth Road and three in the CBD.
- One report of non-malicious damage was reported. A juvenile baboon pulled of a drainpipe on a house in Hilton Circle.
- The troop was found in town on one occasion in September before the rangers arrived for duty in the morning, and were reported to enter town on one occasion after the rangers had left in the evening.
- The Professor Sleep Site was used much less in September compared to previous months.

4.2.1 CAPTURES AND COLLARING:

The Collar on PBF1 has reached the end of lifetime.

4.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded for September 2020.

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	TOTAL
BABOON TROOP:	PRINGLE BAY	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	TOTAL
MONTH: September	YEAR: 2020	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	TOTAL
Troop		1									1		1		1	1	1				1;1;1		1	1	1	1		2		2;6	1	17
PBM1	M											1								2								1			6	4
PBM2	M						6					5				5						1										4
PBF1	F										1	1													1			1			6;6	6
PBF2	F																			2			2;6									3
UnID Male	M																															0
UnID Males	M																															0
UnID Females	F			1																												1
UnID Female	F																															0
UnID Individuals						6	1			1										5	5;6;6		1				6;6		2	2;6;6	14	
UnID Juveniles		6	1										6										2;6		1	1			3		8	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS		
Troop	7,4	83									5		10		50	55	29				301		95	150	90	29		300	137	192	25,43	
Individuals	7,7		30						123		10	93	195									95	235	80	150	9	174	170	226	26,50		
Roost:	AM	4	1	4	4	7	8	2	2	6;7	2	1	?	1	?	4	5	4	9	10	9	11	4	2	1	1	?	?	4	1	?	1
Roost:	PM	1	4	4	?	8	2	2	6;7	2	1	1	6	4	5	4	4	9	10	9	11	4	2	1	1	6	4	?	1	3	1	4
Roost Sites	1	Professor				2	Hangklip				3	Axel Kop				4	Pringle Peak				5	Twee Susters										
	6	Lemoenkop				7	Valley				8	Stink Kop				9	Waldo's Farm SS1				10	Waldo's Farm SS2										
	11	Kogelberg Dam				12																										
ID Features of Baboons																																
General remarks	Red Italics indicate a non-urban raid. Data missing for 26 September. Time out of town consequently calculated using 29 days.																															

Figure 4.1: The Pringle Bay Troop raid sheet for September 2020.

5 GENERAL COMMENTS

5.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

No births or deaths were recorded in any of the troops in September. The population data of the three managed troops can be seen in Table 5.1 and 5.2 below. The Vogelgat Troop still needs to be counted.

TROOP	OCTOBER	JUNE	SEPTEMBER 2020			Total observed Births (1 July 2020 to Present)	Total observed Deaths (1 July 2020 to Present)	Total Migrations (1 July 2020 to Present)
	2019	2020	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vogelgat*	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pringle Bay	16	16	0	0	0	3	1	0
TOTAL	45	45	0	0	0	3	2	0

Table 5.1: Population data for the two managed troops in the Overstrand in September 2020. Emigration/Immigration figures show animal movements between troops and are accommodated in the troop population totals. *Count of the Vogelgat troop not yet completed.

Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (June - July)	September 2020	TOTAL (since October 2020)
Management	3	0	0	3
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	0	3
<i>Direct **</i>	1	2	0	3
<i>Indirect ***</i>		0	0	0
Natural	2	0	0	2
Unknown		0	0	0
TOTAL DEATHS	6	2	0	8

Table 5.2: 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 and fire.

5.2 HOTLINE DATA

A 56% reduction in hotline calls numbers was observed during September 2020. A total of 74 calls (down from 131 the previous month) were received with 72 calls being raid related.

Hotline calls are for the Hermanus area only, because the Pringle Bay residents operate using another system of reporting raids. We ask that Pringle Bay residents to also start reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area to the Baboon Hotline (072 028 0008). Use of this number will ensure that the field manager on duty is aware of the problem and can more effectively assist residents.

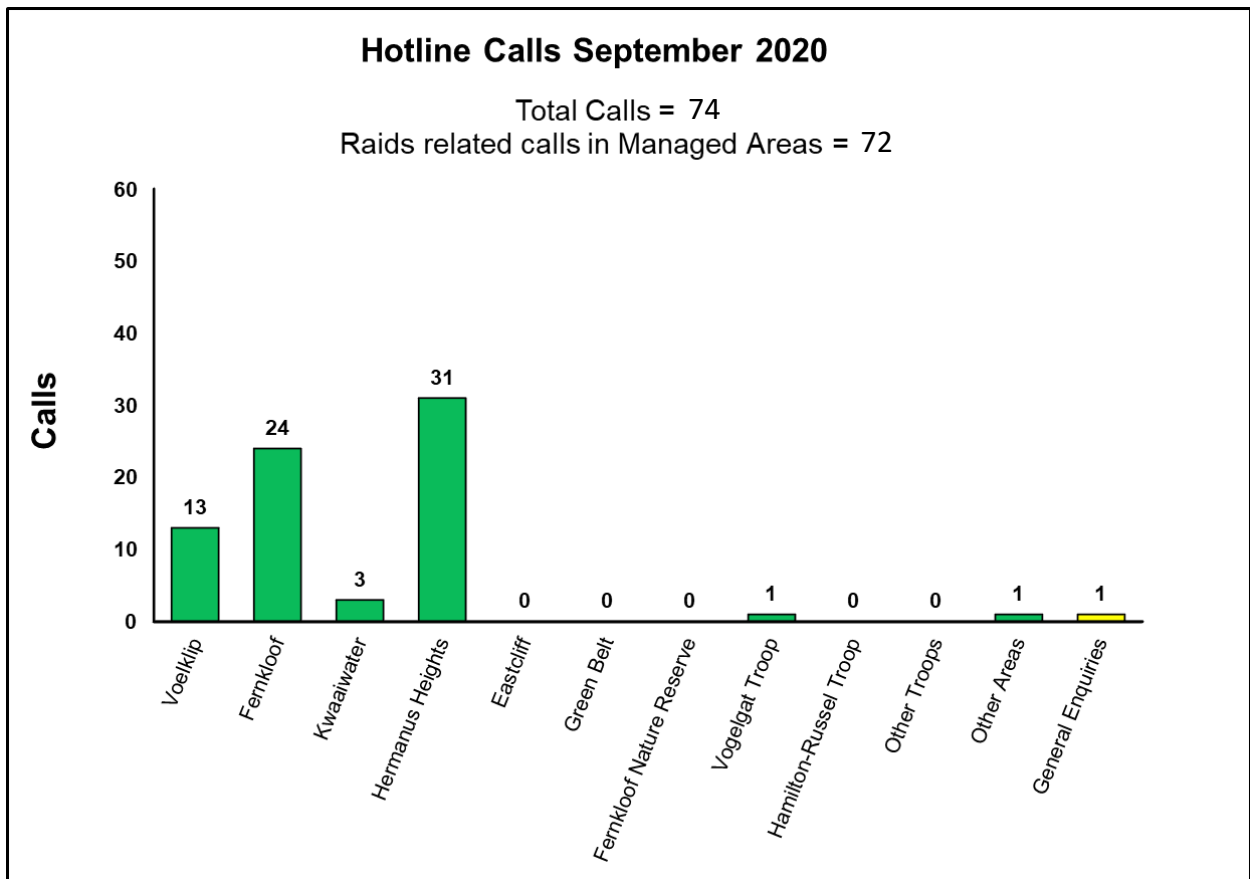


Figure 5.1: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas of Hermanus for September 2020. Raid-related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas represent those areas beyond the urban edge or the range of managed baboons.

Like previous months, the majority of hotline calls during September reported baboons in the urban area (86%). A total of nine house raids were reported to the hotline by residents, five unoccupied and four occupied. Only a solitary bin raid was reported to the hotline, this is not unusual as residents are generally not at home during the day when bins are out for waste collection.

Since the implementation of the virtual fence for the Vogelgat Troop in August, only one hotline call, related to a solitary male, has been received regarding the Vogelgat Troop.

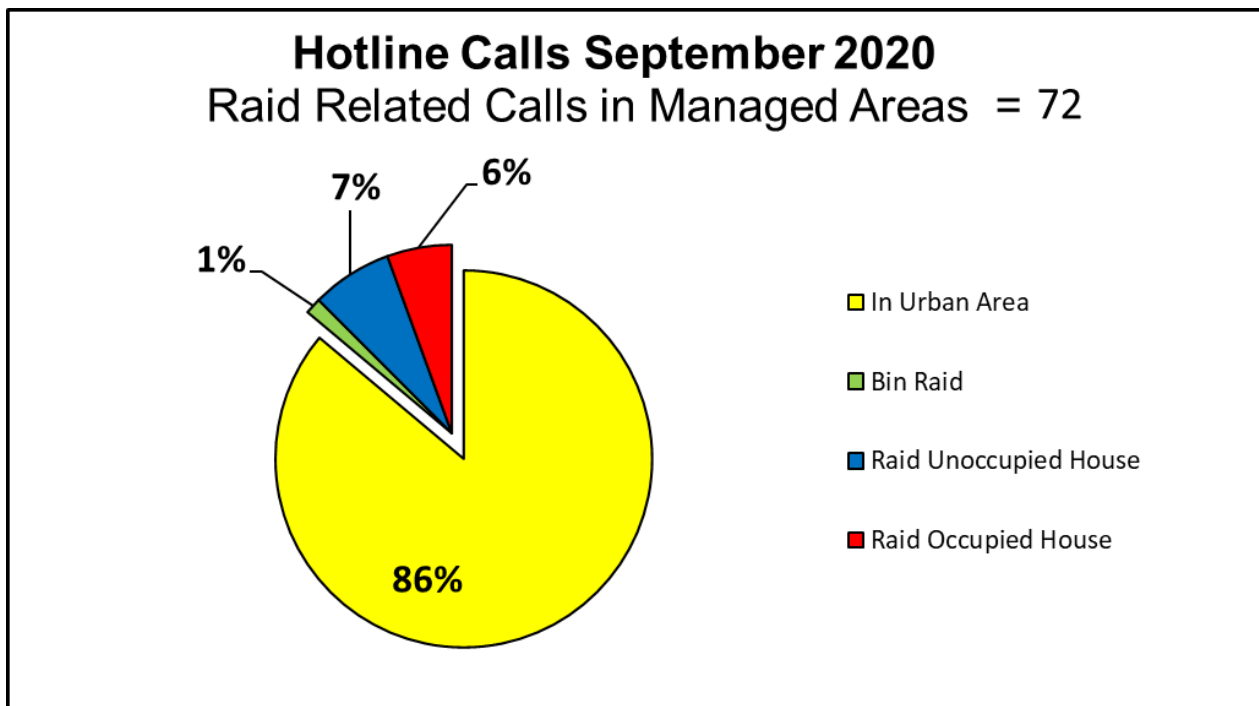


Figure 5.2: Composition of raid-related hotline calls during September 2020. Note this graph represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of raids by baboons.

5.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During September 2020, the average time out of town for the troops was 97.3% and 94.4% 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
Voëlklip Troop	99.2	91.1
Vogelgat Troop	100.0	99.7
Pringle Bay Troop	92.6	92.3
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	97.3	94.4

Table 5.3: Percentage time the Voëlklip, Vogelgat and Pringle Bay Troops and individuals spent out of town during September 2020.

5.4 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.

Here waste is currently collected at around midday.

- **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.
- 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 regularly to prevent the waste from becoming unmanageable, particularly during the holiday season and long weekends. Waste should not be left outside this collection point (bin cage), because it is a major attractant to baboons.
- 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.
- Ripening **fruit on fruit trees** in baboon-affected areas should be harvested to remove this attractant for baboons.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon-proofed. This 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 many of these trees (particularly pines) could be removed it would greatly reduce the baboons' incentive to sleep in town.
- Many house owners leave their **doors and windows open** by day and do not have burglar bars. Residents should be made aware that easy access to food attracts baboons into the area. Residents should install **baboon-proof** burglar bars where possible.

6 CONCLUSION

In contrast to last month, the Voëlklip Troop made more use of the western part of their home range and ranged over a greater area compared to the previous winter months venturing as far inland as Platberg. This is normal baboon behaviour for this time of year with troops making greater use of the new vegetation during spring. Consequently, the Voëlklip Troop spent much more time out of town and the troop only entered the urban area on one occasion.

The number of hotline calls for the Vogelgat Troop showed a further decrease this month and suggested another successful month in the management of this troop. The collar that was fitted in August has allowed the team to monitor and anticipate the movement of the troop, which allowed the team to be prepared before the troop arrived near the edge of town. The continued success of the virtual fence in managing the Vogelgat Troop has meant that no paintball markers have been used in Vogelgat since management started in August.

Time in town for the Pringle Bay Troop has once again decreased this month, but the number of house raids in the Pringle Bay area remains high at 14 this month. Baboons gained access to occupied and unoccupied houses via open doors and windows as well as dog flaps. Most of these house raids were due to no or insufficient baboon proofing. There was also an increased number of raids that took place on the plots and smallholdings around Pringle Bay. Residents are encouraged to contact Human Wildlife Solutions for advice regarding baboon proofing their properties.

Residents in suburbs affected by baboons are urged to play a role in preventing baboons pushing to town regularly. This includes keeping windows and doors closed when the baboons are in town, not leaving food in locations visible to baboons, improving waste management, baboon-proofing vegetable gardens and removing fruit from fruit trees.

Dr Phil Richardson

HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS