

# CAPE PENINSULA BABOON MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2019 TO JUNE 2020



## HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS

Innovative Conflict Management Services

Tel: 021 712 9544  
E-mail: [info@hwsolutions.co.za](mailto:info@hwsolutions.co.za)  
Web: [www.hwsolutions.co.za](http://www.hwsolutions.co.za)  
Mail: P.O. Box 31150, Tokai, Cape Town, 7966

# Annual Baboon Management Report (2019/2020)

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- This Annual Report is compiled for the City of Cape Town by Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS). HWS is the appointed service provider for the City of Cape Town to manage 10 managed baboon troops on the Cape Peninsula.
- HWS took over the management of the 10 managed troops in August 2012 and has held three consecutive tenders, covering 2-3 years each. The current contract commenced on 1 July 2017 and has concluded on 30 June 2020.
- The 10 managed troops are: Da Gama, Smitswinkel Bay, Waterfall, Groot Olifantsbos Troop (Main Troop and Individuals), Slangkop, Zwaanswyk, Tokai, Mountain, Constantia 1 and Constantia 2.
- In terms of the current tender, HWS has a ranger stationed on Plateau Road to manage the interface between tourists and baboons on the road. However, the Plateau Road Troop does not raid in the official urban area and is therefore not a managed troop.
- This Annual Report covers the period of 1 July 2019 until 30 June 2020. This Annual Report provides a synopsis of trends in baboon management since 2012/2013, with focus on the last 12 months.

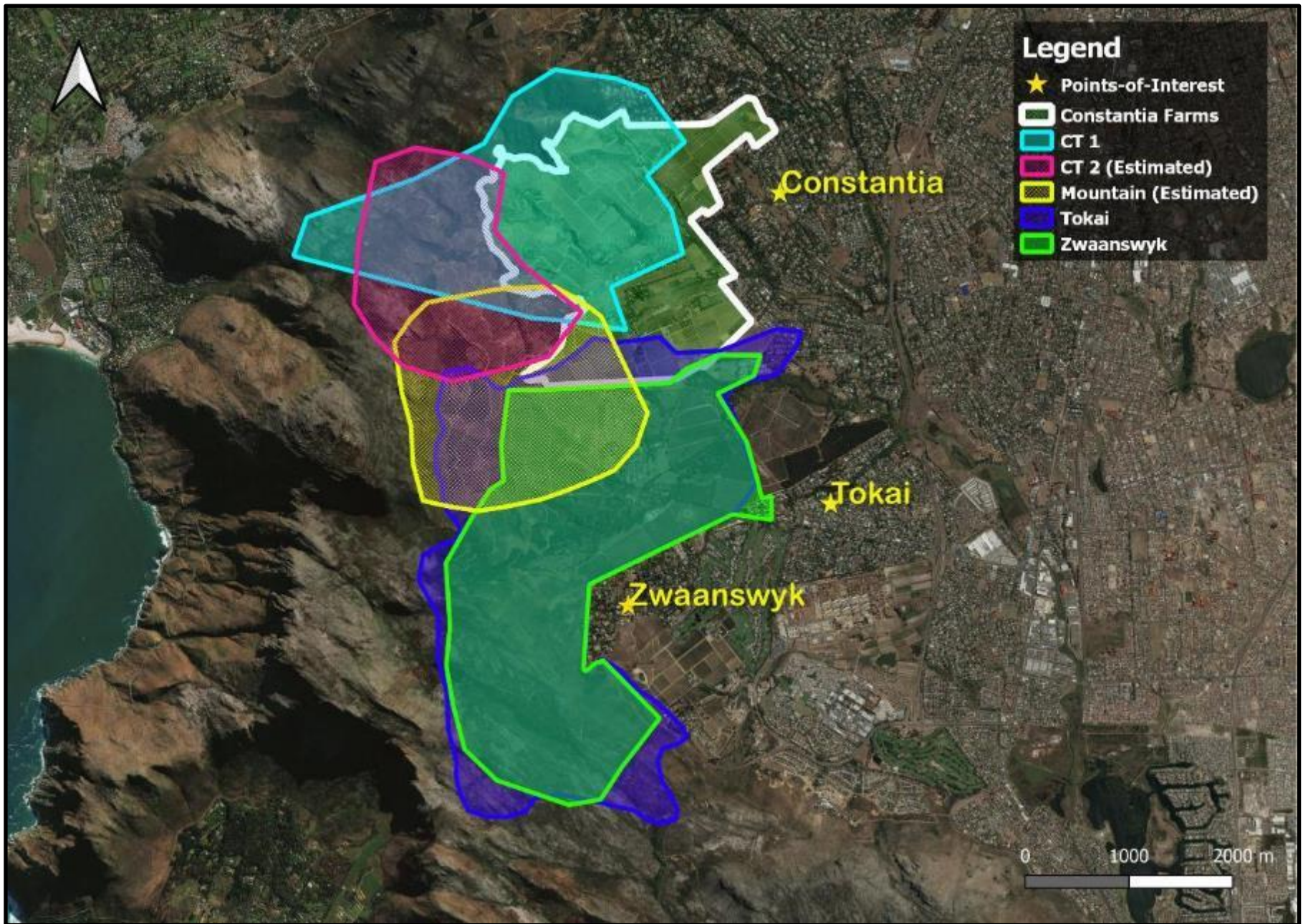




# BABOON TROOP RANGES







**Figure 1:** Northern Baboon Troops' Ranging Areas (July 2019 – June 2020). Mountain and Constantia 2 Troops' foraging areas are estimated.





**Figure 2:** Southern Baboon Troops' Ranging Areas (July 2019 – June 2020). Plateau Road and Groot Olifantsbos Troops' foraging areas are estimated.

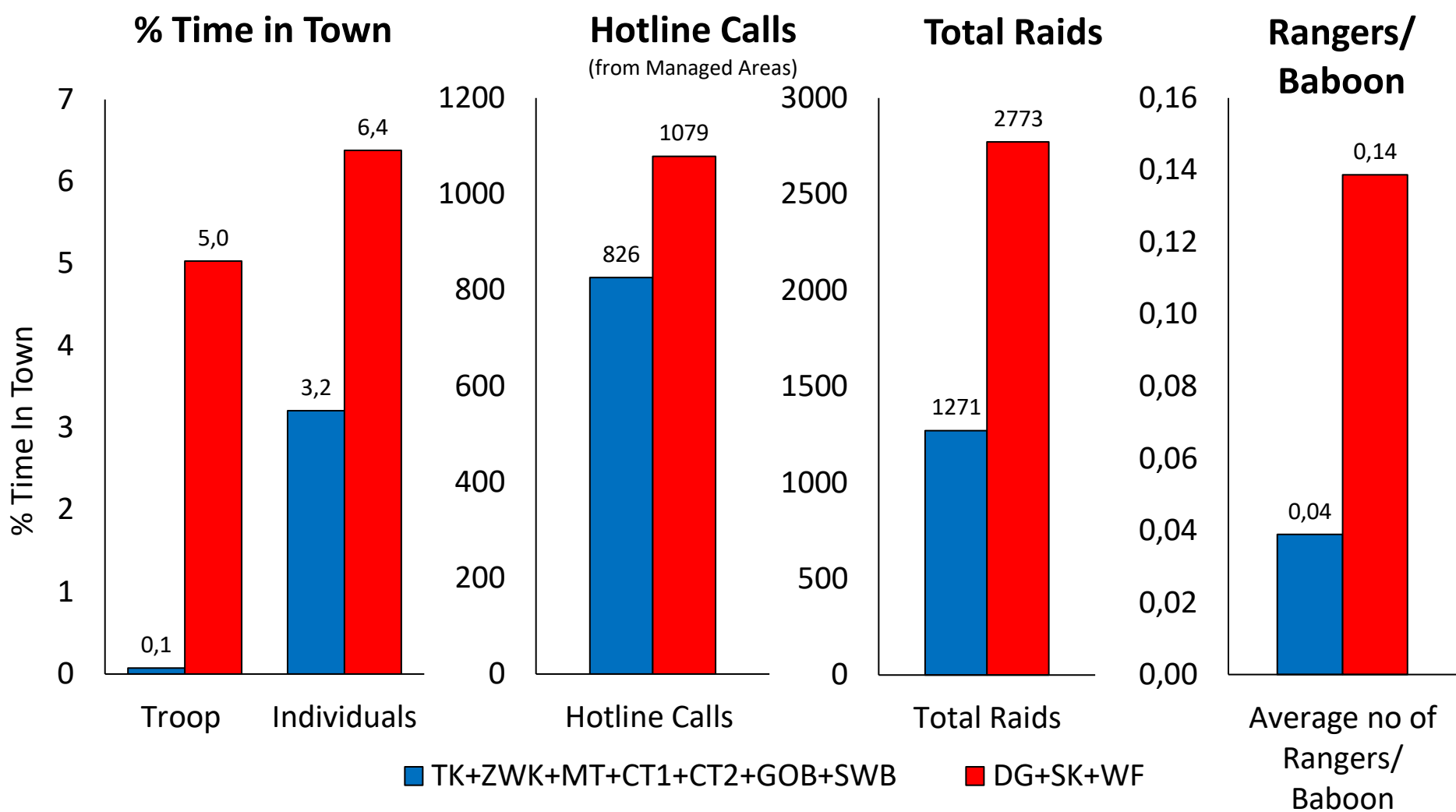
# NOTEWORTHY TRENDS





	HOTLINE CALLS (from Managed Areas)	TROOP % TIME IN TOWN	INDIVIDUALS % TIME IN TOWN	NUMBER OF BABOONS	NUMBER OF RANGERS PER SHIFT	AVERAGE RANGERS PER BABOON PER SHIFT	TOTAL RAIDS
TK+ ZWK+ MT+ CT1+ CT2+ GOB+ SWB	826	0,1	3,2	308	12	0,04	1271
DG+ SK+ WF	1079	5,0	6,4	137	19	0,14	2773
TOTAL	1905	1,6	4,2	445	31	0,07	4044

**Table 1:** Comparative data of Da Gama (DG), Slangkop (SK) and Waterfall (WF) troops versus Groot Olifanstbos (GOB), Smitswinkel Bay (SWB), Tokai (TK), Zwaanswyk (ZWK), Mountain (MT), Constantia 1 (CT1) and 2 (CT2) Troops. These data clearly indicate that a disproportionate number of resources are dedicated to only three troops. These three troops are responsible for the majority of raids, time in the urban area and hotline calls. These three troops are characterised by having steep mountainous areas immediately adjacent to the urban areas.



**Figure 3:** Even though the Da Gama, Slangkop and Waterfall Troops had many more rangers allocated per troop (Figure 2), they were responsible for more than double the number of urban raids. Hotline calls were also higher for these three troops. The average time in town for these three troops was more than 30X greater than it was for the remaining seven troops, which average 99.9% time out of town. The three troops are often very difficult to manage with steep inclines and high mountains bordering the urban edges.



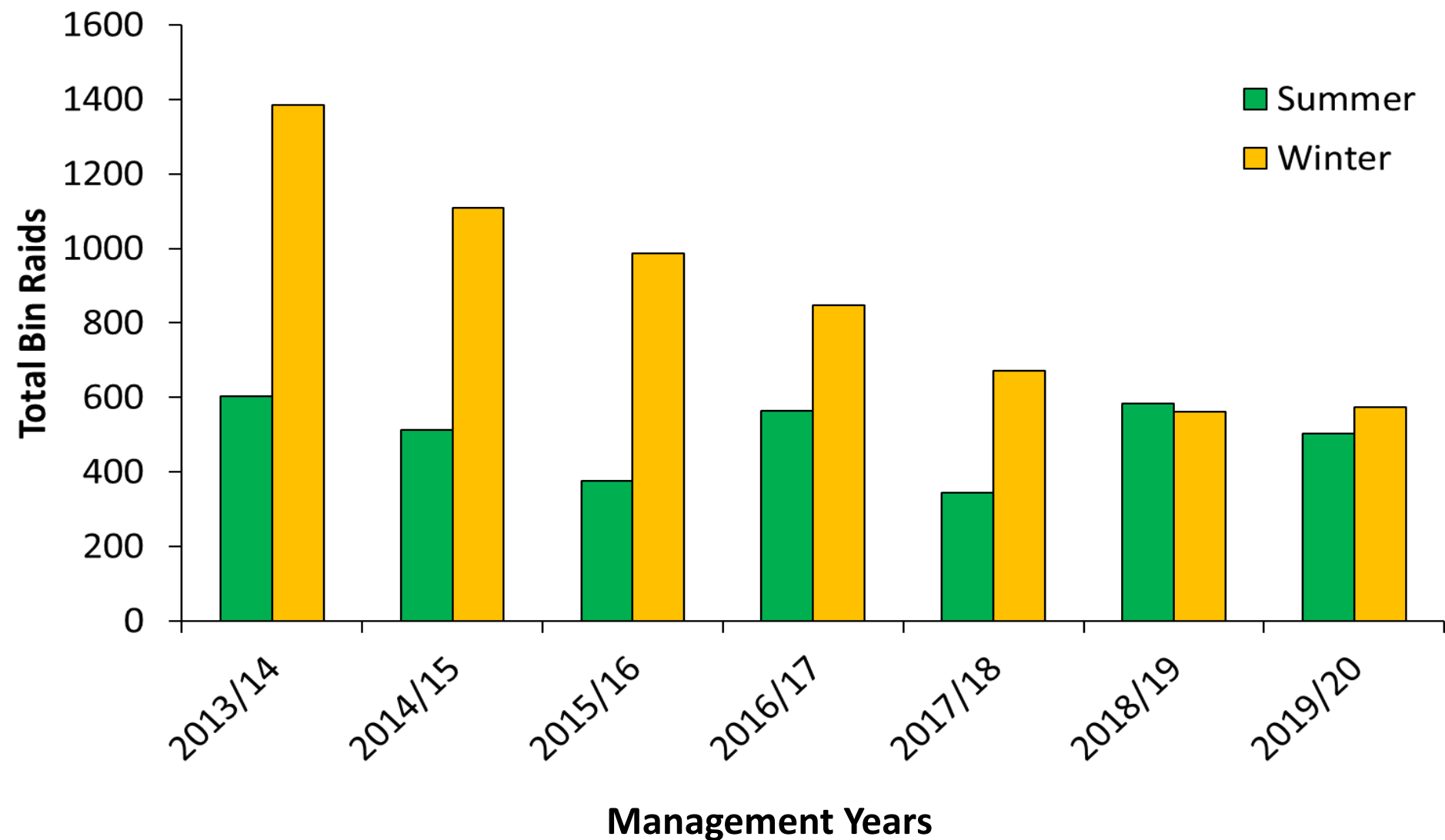
CAUSE OF DEATH		JULY 2014 - JUNE 2017	JULY 2017 - JUNE 2020	% CHANGE
MANAGEMENT	Raiding Guidelines	23	17	-26%
HUMAN INDUCED	Dog Bite	5	12	140%
	Car Accident	2	5	150%
	Gun Shot	5	6	20%
NATURAL	Infanticide	27	58	115%

**Table 2:** Major causes of baboon deaths for the last six years. The numbers of baboons being killed by dogs and cars has doubled in the last three years. This could reflect the level of interaction between humans and baboons, as both their populations increase, and the space left for baboons decreases. Over the last three years the number of infanticides committed by baboons has more than doubled, compared to the previous three years. This trend suggests that not only are baboons and humans coming into increasing conflict with each other, but that intra baboon conflict is also increasing. This could be due to the total population (currently 445) nearing the carrying capacity estimated at 488 by Hoffman and O’Riain (2012). Contraception and sterilization are suggested as population control measures to be considered for continued management success.

# SUMMER VS WINTER RAIDS







**Figure 4:** Total Bin raids per season per management year (June to July). Data for troops and individuals are combined to reflect annual trends.. There has been an almost perfect decline in winter bins raids from the winter of 2013 until the present. This trend is also almost perfectly reflected in the increasing average troop time out of town over the same period (Figure 7). The small changes of direction of both these trends in the 2019/2020 year both align with the increase in the baboon population, and the increased human on baboon, and baboon on baboon, conflict evident in Table 3.

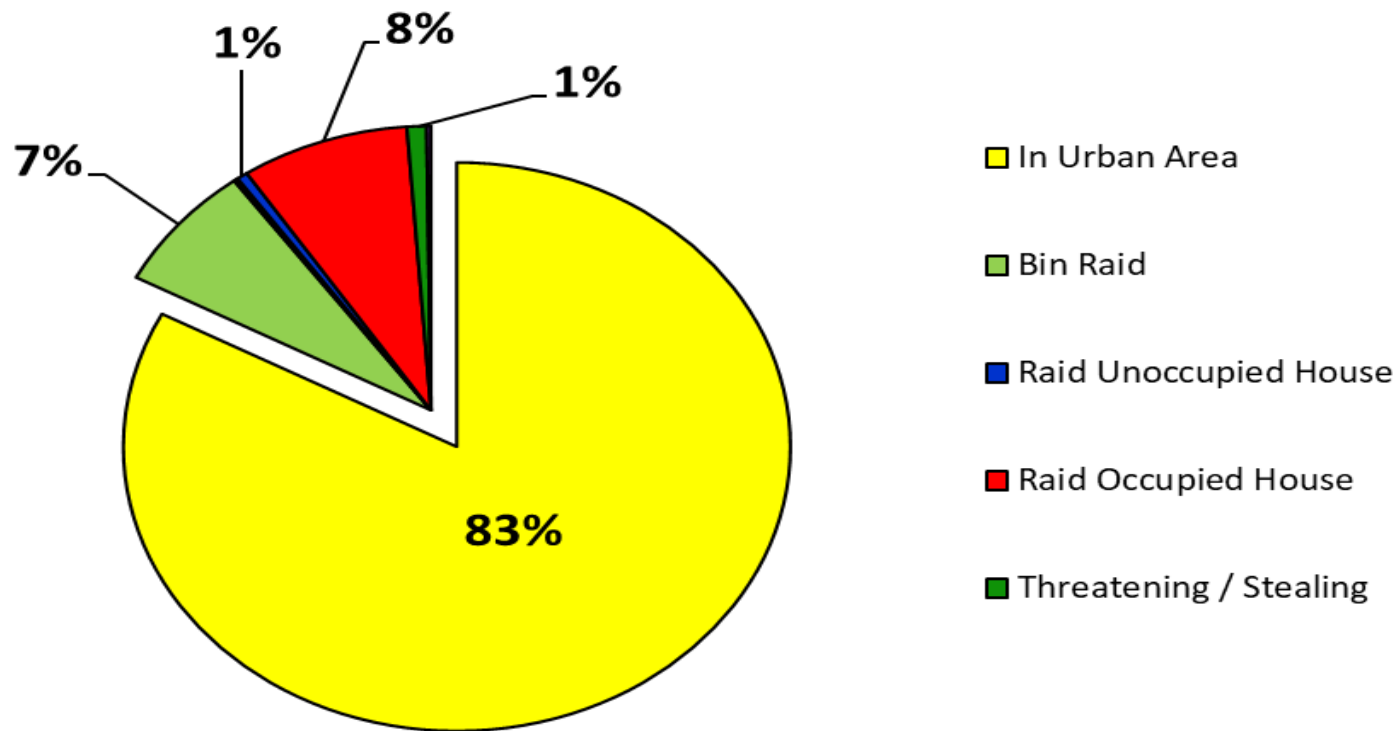
# HOTLINE CALLS





## Hotline Calls 2019 / 2020

Raid Related Calls in Managed Areas = 1900

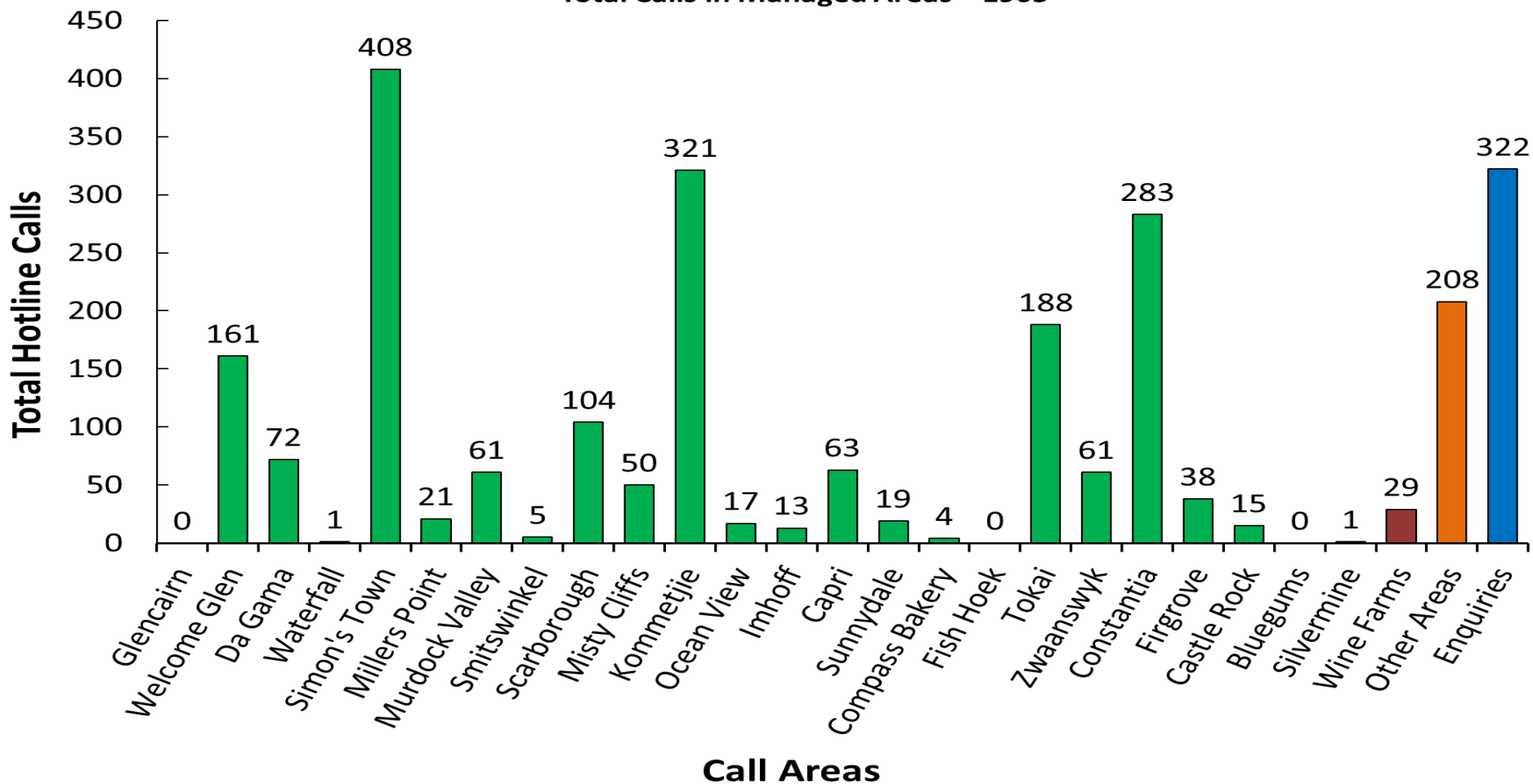


**Figure 5:** Types of baboon raids reported on hotline calls from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. Because of their nature, occupied house raids are expected to be over-represented as they are more likely to be reported, particularly when compared to unoccupied house raids and bin raids. It is nevertheless pleasing to note that 83% of hotline calls are simply reporting baboons in town.

## Hotline Calls July 2019 - June 2020

Total Calls = 2465

Total Calls in Managed Areas = 1905



**Figure 6:** Total Hotline Calls for period July 2019 to June 2020.

HWS manages a 24-hour Public Hotline to deal with reports of baboons observed in urban areas. The information recorded, includes the callers' contact details, the area for dispatch, any coloured identification tags and an incident description. Raid related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons observed in urban areas. Managed Areas are those urban areas in which the managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas represent those areas beyond the urban edge, or the range of managed baboons, from which calls relating to baboons are made.



MANAGEMENT YEAR	TOTAL HOTLINE CALLS	TOTAL RAID RELATED HOTLINE CALLS	% OF HOTLINE CALLS RAID RELATED
2013/14	1179	939	80%
2014/15	972	784	81%
2015/16	1011	811	80%
2016/17	2241	1829	82%
2017/18	1477	1171	79%
2018/19	2010	1540	77%
2019/20	2465	1905	77%

**Table 3:** Total hotline calls for all managed troops per management year (July to June).

Note that total hotline calls increased in the 2019/20 reporting period. This can be ascribed to: 1) Slangkop troop moving to Slangkop mountain; 2) Poor waste management in many areas, and 3) The education and awareness work of the Community Conservation Officer, which has ensured many more people are aware of the hotline facility.

# POPULATION TRENDS



TROOP	DEC	END <u>JUNE</u> TOTALS									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	NO. INCREASE	% INCREASE
DA GAMA	54	42	43	46	52	52	55	48	<b>48</b>	-6	-11,1%
SMITSWINKEL	23	21	22	24	29	33	35	31	<b>35</b>	12	52,2%
WATERFALL	28	28	29	31	33	37	40	48	<b>47</b>	19	67,9%
GOB	19	20	19	16	17	23	29	23	<b>25</b>	-12	-32,4%
MISTY CLIFFS*	18	17	16	9	11						
SLANGKOP	33	37	40	35	41	40	44	43	<b>42</b>	9	27,3%
SUB TOTAL	<b>175</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12,6%</b>
ZWAANSWYK	25	28	28	30	28	30	20	20	<b>18</b>	-7	-28,0%
TOKAI	61	64	70	62	65	69	75	91	<b>92</b>	31	50,8%
MOUNTAIN	33	41	47	49	47	57	60	73	<b>63</b>	30	90,9%
CT1**	60	70	69	77	81	63	46	64	<b>68</b>	15	25,0%
CT2**						22	10	8	<b>7</b>		
SUB TOTAL	<b>179</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>38,5%</b>
TOTAL	<b>354</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>25,7%</b>

**Table 4:** Population data for all managed troops per management year (July to June), from Dec 2012 to June 2020. There has been a steady increase in the managed baboon population from 2012 to 2020. This number is not very different from a predicted minimum carrying capacity (488) for baboons for the whole peninsula, including the unmanaged baboons in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (Hoffman and O’Riain, 2012).

\*The Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop merged with the GOB Troop in January 2017. Four individuals from the GOB later returned to Scarborough and bred. The last four individuals from this newest splinter were relocated to a suitable and approved sanctuary during February and March 2020.

\*\*The Constantia Troop split into CT1 and CT2 late in 2015 and the totals for the separate troops are illustrated here from 2017 onwards.



DEATHS	END JUNE TOTALS							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MANAGEMENT	17	10	8	4	11	8	4	5
HUMAN INDUCED	5	3	23	13	5	8	17	11
<i>DIRECT**</i>	5	3	4	8	2	7	8	10
<i>INDIRECT***</i>			19	5	3	1	9	1
NATURAL	19	21	22	8	27	28	18	30
PLOHP****						7		
UNKNOWN	5	9	5	8	7	13	6	6
TOTAL DEATHS	46	43	58	33	50	64	45	52
TOTAL POPULATION	368	383	379	404	426	414	449	445

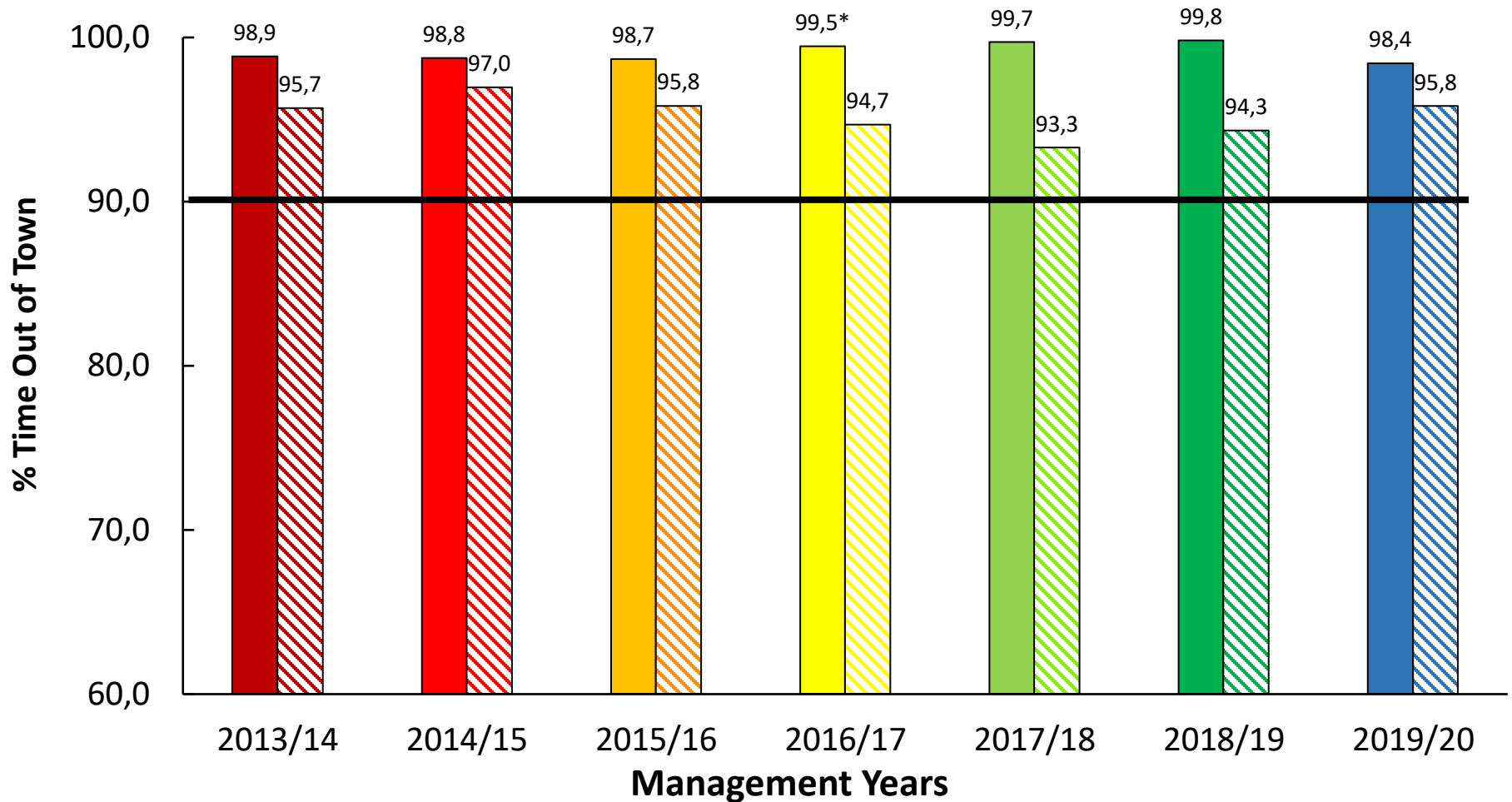
**Table 5:** Annual Causes of baboon deaths since September 2012. It is apparent that over the eight-year period, natural mortality has been more than double any other form of mortality. Furthermore, although management deaths represented 37% of all mortality in the period September 2012 to June 2013 management mortalities only represented 10% of all mortalities the past year (July 2019 – June 2020).

**Management** – baboons euthanased for management reasons according to the WAAC raiding protocol; **Human Induced Deaths** are divided into two categories; (a\*\*) **Direct** – baboons killed by dogs, car accidents, poisoning, shootings etc.; (b\*\*\*) **Indirect** – electrocutions, human related fires. This category also includes baboons seriously wounded by the above causes, then humanely euthanased; **Natural** – baboons dying from old age, fights, infanticide etc.; (iv) **Unknown** – occasionally a baboon is found dead and the cause could not be determined.

# TIME OUT OF TOWN



## Baboon Troops Average Annual % Time out of Town June - July



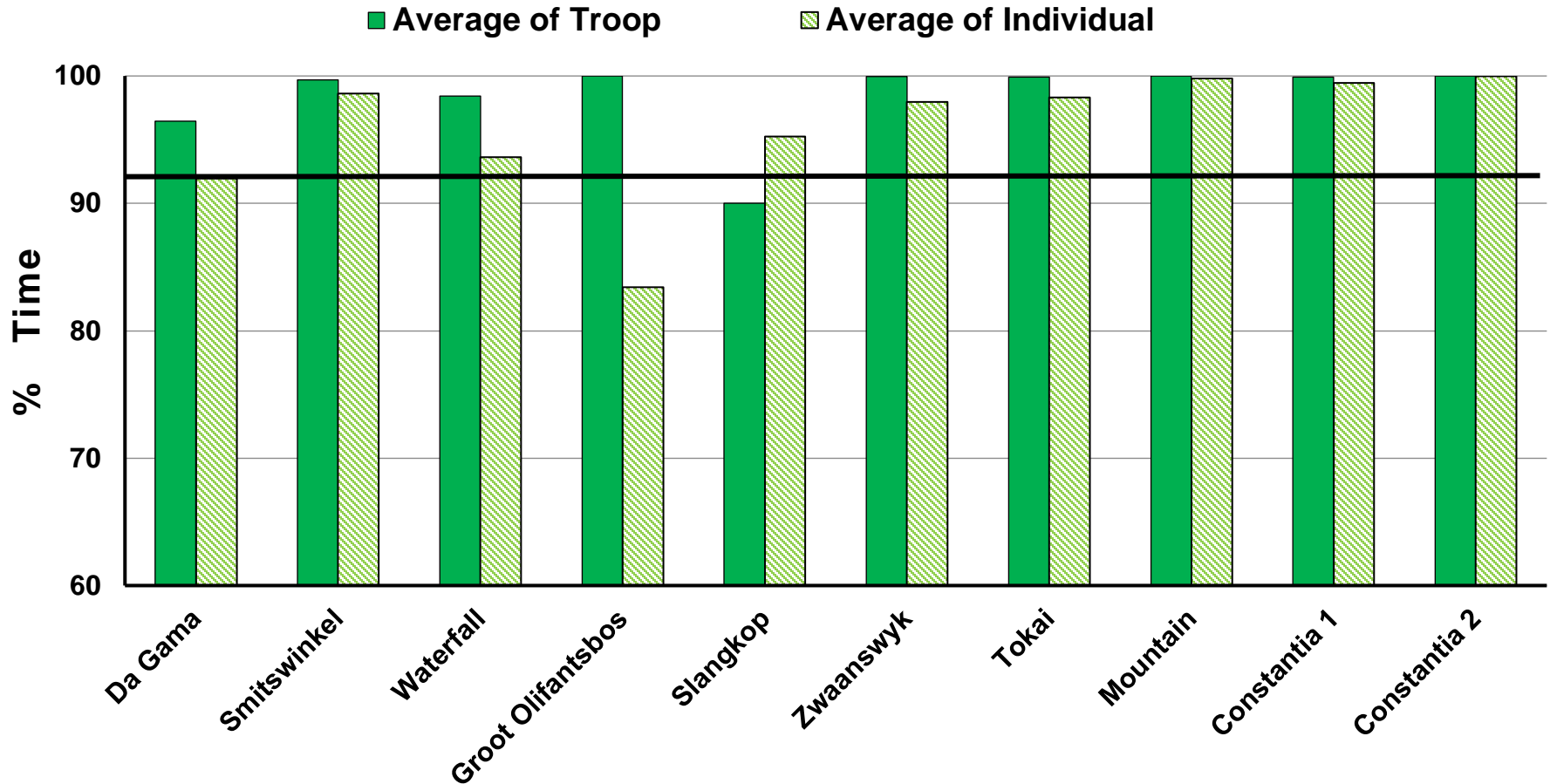
**Figure 7:** Managed baboon troops (solid bars) and individuals (striped bars) average percentage time out of town per management year (July – June). The City of Cape Town's requirement is that the average time out of town is at least 90%.



## % Time Troops Spent Out of Town 2019/20

Troop Average = 98.4%

Individuals = 95.8%



**Figure 8:** Managed baboon troops (solid bars) and individuals (striped bars) average percentage time out of town for the 2019/20 management year (July – June). The City's 2017 tender requirement is that the average troop time out of town is at least 90%.

The 2019/20 management year represents the first time the baboon troops have had a noticeable decline (1.4%) in the percentage time out of town (Figure 4). This decline can largely be attributed to the Slangkop Troop which spent a significant amount of time in the Kommetjie urban area, since moving to Slangkop Mountain in January 2020. The Waterfall and Da Gama Troops also had significant drops in time out of town.

# COMMUNITY AWARENESS



Community Awareness/Education Activities	No.	Public Reach	Hours of Outreach/ Education**
Site visits	185	311	5277
Residential visits	156	221	2516
Distribution of educational materials: Households*	645	2257	4862
Distribution of educational materials: Public spaces	8	287	733
Education/ Awareness sessions	31	2765	33527
Stakeholder Meetings	37	239	2597
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>6080</b>	<b>49511</b>

\* Public reach figure estimated at 3.5 persons per household

\*\* Hours of outreach/education = public reach X hours

**Table 6:** Community outreach activities in baboon affected suburbs.

Community work was severely hampered by the COVID19 Lockdown regulations which came into effect in March 2020. This position has been a major success for the project, continuing to help drive positive change in human behaviour around the baboon-affected areas of the Peninsula.



# SUMMARY OF TRENDS



# Summary of Trends in Baboon Management: 2019/2020

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- **POPULATION:** It would seem that the population is stabilizing around a number of about 450 baboons. This number is not very different from a predicted minimum carrying capacity (488) for baboons for the whole peninsula, including the unmanaged baboons in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (Hoffman and O'Riain, 2012). It is also notable that the troop sizes for both the northern and southern sub-populations appear to be stabilizing. The average troop size in the southern population is now 39 and the northern population is 50 baboons per troop. Contraception is suggested as population control measure to be considered for continued management success.
- **TIME OUT OF TOWN:** Even though time out of town for individuals has increased over the past year, the 2019/20 management year represents the first time the baboon troops have had a noticeable decline (1.4%) in the percentage time out of town. This decline can largely be attributed to the Slangkop Troop which spent a significant amount of time in the Kommetjie urban area, since moving to Slangkop Mountain in January 2020.
- **ATTRACTANTS:** Waste management, particularly in the South East region, remains a major issue in baboon-affected areas on the Peninsula. Ready access to fruit trees, vegetable gardens and open compost heaps remains a problem and regularly attracts baboons into town.
- **AWARENESS:** The Community Conservation Officer has continued to help drive positive change to human behaviour around the baboon-affected areas of Peninsula. This work which has resulted in focused outreach, education and awareness within communities affected by baboons. Outreach is targeted at schools, residences, businesses, and public areas, and has reached an additional 6000 people over the period in review. Community work was, however severely hampered by the COVID19 Lockdown regulations.

*Dr Phil Richardson*

Project Manager

Human Wildlife Solutions

