



# Baboon Management Cape Town



Photo: John de Jager

**Monthly Report**  
**For December 2013**

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report covers the four week period from 23 November to 20 December 2013. Over this period the baboon troops were kept out of town for 99.4% of the time, which is slightly down from the record of 99.7% for November.

## B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

### South Eastern Region (Ziggy Rode)

#### 1. Smitswinkel Troop

Raiding during December has been minimal once again, and time spent in the urban area has been very similar to what it was in December 2012. Seasonal staff was employed by HWS in order to increase ranger presence and prevent raiding as well as reduce the likelihood of baboons being fed along the roadside by visitors and tourists. The strategies employed have paid off and the result has been that the troop only spent 0.13 % of its time in the urban area.

The raids that did occur were mainly opportunistic raids where doors or windows had been left open and food was visible. On 13 December, an unidentified male baboon entered a house however ran out again before the rangers could get there. The occupants reported that they could not see any tags or collar on the animal.

Although it is the festive season and there is a lot of traffic along the Smitswinkel /Cape Point Route, there have not been any incidents of feeding reported and the baboons spent minimal time on or near the road.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
SE		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL									
BABOON TROOP:	Smitswinkel	In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																						
MONTH:	December	2013																													
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL	
SWB1	M			6											5															2	
SWB6	M																													0	
Troop																						1		1					2		
UnID Fem	F																												0		
SWBF8	F																												0		
UNID Male	M																						6						1		
SWB7	M																												0		
		%																													
		HRS																													
Troop	0.13																												10	10	0.33
Individuals	0.13																												10	10	0.33
Males	0.26			10											10														10	10	0.67
Roost:	AM	1	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	6	4	2	2	1	6	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	6	2	2	2	4	2			
Roost:	PM	1	4	3	6	2	3	3	6	4	2	2	1	6	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	6	5	2	2	4	2	2		
Roost Sites		1	2	3	4	5																									
		Smits Caves	Partridge Point	Bluegums	Millers Point	Rocklands Farm																									
		6	7																												
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 Bay Raid Sheet

## 2. Waterfall Troop

The strategy for the Waterfall Troop remains the same i.e. to keep the troop at the top of the mountain where they sleep mainly behind the ammunition depot of the SANDF. This strategy seems to be highly effective and no raids by the troop, as a whole, took place during this reporting period. The troop has also moved over the ridge of the mountain and is feeding in some very dense Protea stacks and drinking from a stream at the top of the mountain. This is a great improvement on what the situation used to be where the troop fed mainly on human derived food and / or waste. The only problematic individual is RH2, who has found a weak spot in the electrified fencing around the ammunition depot where there is a small stretch that is not electrified. This is where RH2 enters, however he has also previously entered through the electrified fencing despite it being on. Once inside the ammunition depot, RH2 raids bins and enters offices but rangers are able to push him out of the area very quickly.

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: December 2013		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																						
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL
WF2	M																	5*											0	
UnID Females	F																												0	
TROOP																													0	
RH2	M			2	5	6												5*			2	8*							4	
UnID Juveniles																						5*							0	
UnID Male	M																												0	
WFF1	F																												0	
UnID Individuals																													0	
	%																									HRS				
Troop	0.0																									0.00				
Females/Individuals	0.0																									0.00				
Males	0.7			15	15	20												20					30						1.67	
Roost:	AM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	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	10	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/Zwartkop				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																												
ID Features of Baboons	WF2 - yellow&blue tag. RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																													
	WFF1 - three legs																													
General remarks	The raid on the 14/12/2013 took place in the Cape Point Conservancy.																													

Figure 2. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet

## 3. Da Gama Troops

This month has proven very difficult in respect of managing the Da Gama troops and this can mainly be attributed to the fact that the daylight hours are extremely long, and poor waste management continues to be an issue at the flats. Unfortunately, waste is still being dumped on top of bins instead of into the empty bins at the naval flats, and the waste continues to be a constant attractant enticing baboons back to the urban area.

Furthermore, now at the height of summer, the baboons are sometimes active beyond the hours when the rangers are on duty (05h30 - 19h30), so this waste can be responsible for bringing the baboons back into the urban area at night, and encourages them to come down from their roosts early in the morning.



Figure 3 (a). Waste dumped on top of the bins at the Naval Flats in Da Gama Park.  
(b). DG10 feeding off dumped waste

To compound this issue, some children in Da Gama Park have been seen to paintball the baboons when they come down from the mountain, which results in the troop running away from them and going further into town. These incidents have been reported to CapeNature.

When the troop sleeps in the residential area, it tends to spend some time raiding in the urban area, or attempting to raid, before being pushed out onto the mountain in the mornings. One can also see from the map below (Figure 4), that the baboons spend more time closer to the urban area during this period, compared to when they sleep in the mountain further away.



Figure 4. Da Gama Troop movement for November and December (Blue lines = movement when sleeping in the urban area; Yellow lines = when the troop is sleeping in the mountain).

For the first time in several months, individuals within the troop have entered Welcome Glen at night. Some of the baboons have also slept in the pine trees in Glenalpine Road in Welcome

Glen. Because these individuals come down so early from their sleep sites, they have managed to spend time in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park before the rangers arrive on site.



Figure 5. Movement of raiding parties in the morning before being pushed out of the urban area.

On 26 November, an infant was born to a female that is closely associated with DG1, and this has resulted in SK3 wanting to kill the infant and DG1 actively protecting it. This has further led to severe fighting taking place between the two males.

On 16 December, DG1 spent the entire day on top of the roof of the flats as a result of injuries suffered in a fight with SK3. Three days later, the two males had another fight, but this time DG9 and DG10 joined DG1 and the three of them managed to chase SK3 to the periphery of the troop for the day. However, by the next day SK3 was back in charge of the troop. DG1, the female, and the infant, are staying well away from SK3 and spend most of their time on the periphery of the troop now. It has also meant that the three of them occasionally sleep away from the troop and tend to spend more time in the urban area.

On 9 December, an adult female baboon was trapped inside a baboon proof bin, and once again, on 19 December, another adult baboon was trapped in a bin. This has happened twice previously as some of the animals have learnt to open one bin by sitting on the bin next to it and then jump in to get the food at the bottom of the bin. However, the lid then closes leaving them trapped inside. It is therefore recommended to keep locks or clips on the bins to prevent this from happening.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																				TOTAL								
SOUTH EAST																														
BABOON TROOP: Da Gama		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20									
MONTH: December 2013		In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	Nocturnal Raiding																				
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL
Troop						1		1								1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	12
SK3	M				1			2							1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	14
DG1	M		2	2	2			2	1			1		2		1,2		1	1	1	1	1,6	1,2	1	1	2	2	1	1	23
DG10	M	2			2			1		1	1	1		1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	19
DG9	M	2	2	2				1	2			1	1	2		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	20
DGF1	F					2,6	2									1		1	1	1		1	1	1	2	2	1	1	13	
DGF2	F															1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	10	
Sub-adult Male	M						1		1			1				1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	14	
UnID Females	F		2	2				2	1	1	1	1						1	1	1		1	1		2	2	1	1	15	
UnID Female	F													1							1	1	1	1	1			1	6	
UnID Juvs		2																							2	2	1	1	5	
UnID Males	M		2	2			1		1	1	1	1																	6	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																				HRS								
Troop	6.2							360								30		80	90	105		160		10		200	50	65	45	19.92
Individuals	13.9	50	90	55	60	15	270	360	90	100	65	50		240		30		80	105	105	110	210	45		120	200	100	65	70	44.75
Males	13.4	50	90	55	100	75	45	360	90	100	65	50		240		90		80	105	105	110	290	45		720**	200	100	65	70	43.00
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	3,4	1	8	1	3	3	3	1,2	3,4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Roost:	PM	1	16*	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	16	16	3	1	3,4	1*	3,4	3	3	17*	16*	22*	22*	2	1	1	1	1	22*	22*
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																							
	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	* - Troop headed down towards flats once rangers have left. ** - DG1 stayed on top of the flats all day as he was injured																													

Figure 6. Da Gama Troop Raid Sheet

**Births and Deaths**

On 26 November, one birth took place in the Da Gama Troop.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**On-going Education and Law Enforcement** is desperately needed in Da Gama Park as well as along the tourist routes. People, particularly children, need to be taught to respect baboons and not mistreat them.

**Waste Management** still needs urgent attention particularly at the Da Gama Park flats, the Waterfall Barracks and at Miller’s Point Caravan Park. Meetings have been held with staff at the Caravan Park, however effective waste management is still not implemented when campers and visitors are present. Councillor Simon Liell-Cock has visited the caravan site and Da Gama Park flats on a number of occasions and has made various recommendations on improving these situations. Active implementation of these recommendations is needed.

**South Western Region (Nick Shaw)**

**1. Groot Olifantsbos (GOB) Troop**

During the month of December, the GOB troop has been in the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) Reserve. The GPS collar data map below (Figure 7) shows the movements of the GOB troop, within the reserve, for the month of December. Over the past two months the troop has spent considerably more time in the Bonteberg region than in previous months. This is most likely due to the removal of GOB5 and the interest shown by GOB7 (the GOB alpha male) in the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop even though GOB8 has asserted himself as the new alpha of that troop.

At no time during the month of December did the GOB Troop enter Scarborough or leave the CoGH Reserve.



Figure 7. Roost sites and GPS points for the GOB troop - December 2013

## 2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs Troop has been in the CoGH Reserve, at the Bonteberg roost site, for the month of December. The troop did manage to make its way back to the Misty Cliffs roost site on 23 November but the team of rangers was able to return them to the Reserve the following day.

GOB8 has now asserted himself as alpha of the troop. During the first week of him being with the troop he killed the three youngest juveniles in the troop.

### December Raids:

On 26 and 29 November, GOB8 followed some females into Scarborough where they raided bins.

### Comments and Observations

After the three infanticides the troop has settled down and seems to have accepted GOB8 as the new alpha. There have been reports of a single female in Scarborough but she seems to have returned to the troop on her own. Two females in estrus were able to break away from the troop on two separate occasions this month to enter Scarborough and raid bins. On both occasions GOB8 followed them in. The team was able to prevent the rest of the troop from following and the raiding individuals were eventually pushed out of Scarborough to join the troop in the Reserve. The rest of the month has been raid free and the troop has been moving between the Bonteberg Roost site and 'Die Mond' in the Reserve most days.

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															
MONTH: December		YEAR: 2013		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property															
				3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																				
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL
GOB8	M				2			2																					2	
Unidentified female	F				2			2																					2	
Unidentified female	F							2																					1	
Unid female + baby	F																													
Unid female + baby	F																													
Unidentified juvenile	M																													
Troop																													0	
		%		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS				
Troop		0.0																												0h00
Males & Females		1.6					210																							5h30
Roost:		AM	1	1	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	
Roost:		PM	1	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	
Roost Sites			1 Misty Cliffs				2 CoGH Reserve				3				4				5											
			6				7				8				9				10											
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks			Three infanticides by GOB8 were recorded during this reporting period																											

Figure 8. Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop - December 2013

### 3. Slangkop Troop

During the month of November, the Slangkop Troop moved between the two usual roost sites, and has roosted almost exclusively at the C3 roost site during the reporting period. The map below shows movements of the troop during this period.

#### December Raids:

DG6 has entered Ocean View on his own to raid bins on four occasions this month.

Two females continue to break away from the troop to raid Ocean View, Compass Bakery and, on one occasion, a single female raided bins in Imhoff's Gift.

#### Comments and Observations

The troop, as a whole, only managed a brief raid of Capri Village on 19 December when the troop entered the Solole Reserve from where they were able to access Capri Village. The troop was moved out again by the rangers after a short period of time. This month there were no raids by the troop at Compass Bakery although a single female raided there once on her own.

Almost all of the raids that took place this month were by DG6 and the three females from the original TK5 split in the troop. When the troop is foraging on the pine cones from pine trees above Ocean View, DG6 breaks away from the troop to enter Ocean View. These raids are usually very brief and the team is able to chase him out in less than half an hour. The same can be said for the three raiding females in the troop.

The late rains in November have ensured that there is still sufficient water in the stream next to the Ocean View roost site which has been the primary source of water for the troop.

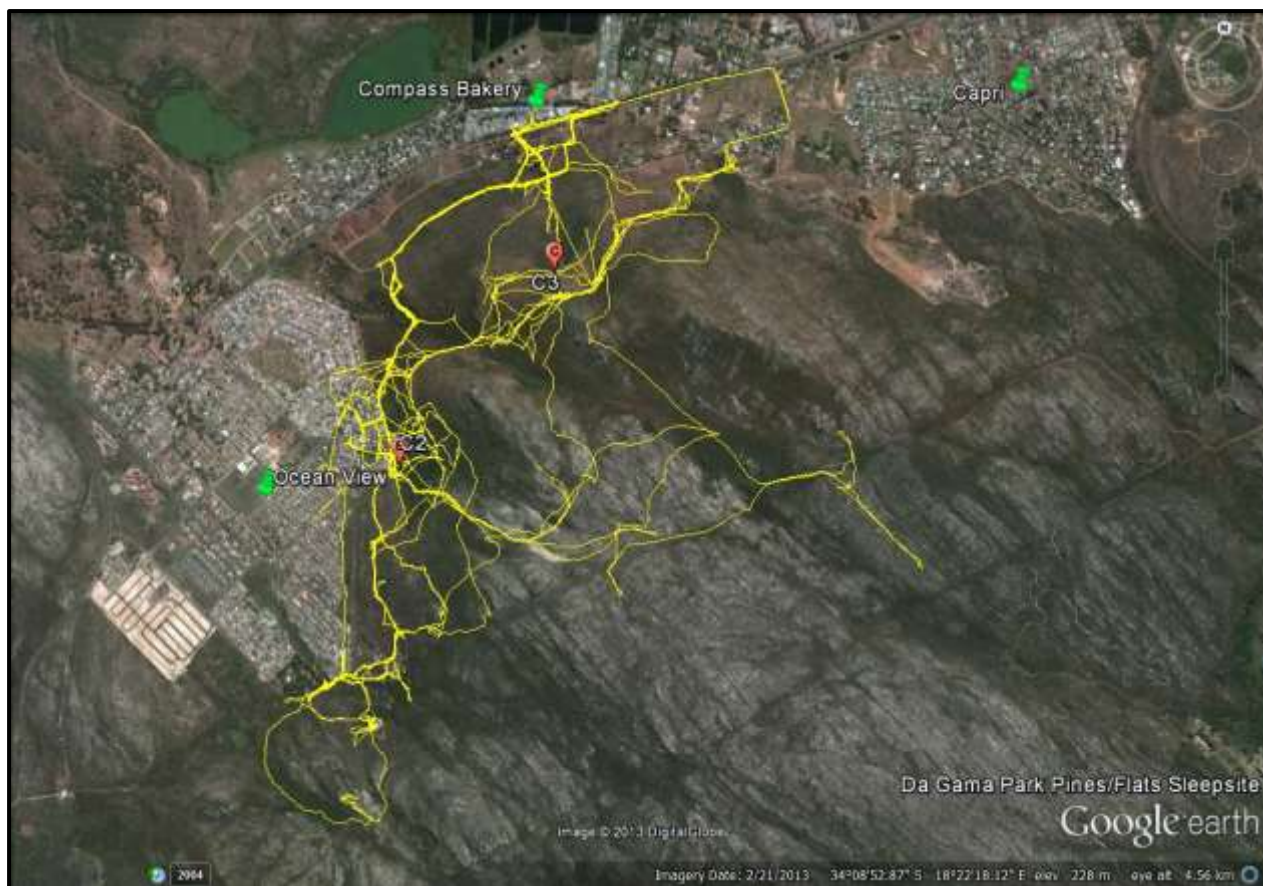


Figure 9. Slangkop Troop Data Logger Tracks - December 2013

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1 In urban area	4 Attacking pets	7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																										
MONTH: December YEAR: 2013		2 Raid bins	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																										
		3 Non malicious damage	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																											
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL
DG6	M					2			2	2							2													4
Unidentified Female	F															2											2			2
Unid Female + baby	F																										2			1
Unidentified Female	F																													
Troop																											2		1	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																				HRS							
Troop		0.1																										15	0h15	
Males + Females		1.0				20			45	45						15	35										20		3h00	
Roost:		AM	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost:		PM	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Roost Sites		1 Slangkop		2 Ocean View		3 Compass Bakery		4		5		6		7		8		9		10										
ID Features of Baboons		DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag																												
General remarks		One birth was recorded during this reporting period																												

Figure 10. Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – December 2013

## **Births and Deaths**

There was one birth recorded in the Slangkop troop.

There were three infanticides recorded in the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop.

## **Recommendations**

The developments with regards to GOB8 asserting himself as alpha of the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop must be closely monitored and the troop must be prevented from returning to the Misty Cliffs roost site. It is hoped that, because GOB8 is more familiar with the Reserve, he will be less inclined to want to move to the Misty Cliffs area which will have a positive effect on the management of this troop. The possibility remains however that the females in the troop will lead GOB8 back to the Misty Cliffs roost site.

Last year, the month of February saw a dramatic increase in the raiding of Scarborough by the Misty Cliffs Troop and this could be attributed largely to the availability of grapes on fruiting vines in certain residences in Scarborough. It will be necessary to identify these properties and appeal to the owners to remove such attractants so that the troop does not fall into the same raiding pattern as in previous years.

The availability of water in the various troops' home ranges must be assessed as summer progresses, especially that of the Slangkop Troop where natural water sources tend to dry up early in the new year. The artificial water point on the Kompanjiesuin property remains closed but will be opened up again if and when it has been determined that the troop no longer has access to natural water sources.

The raiding behaviour of the three females in the Slangkop troop must be monitored. As the hot summer months progress there is the likelihood of increased raids due to the constant attempts by these individuals to break away from the troop to raid on their own.

The alien vegetation on the Kompanjiesuin property has grown significantly over the past couple of months and this will no doubt pose a problem to the team in preventing raids of Compass Bakery. There is currently a private contractor responsible for invasive alien vegetation clearing on site but the large scale of the clearing is obviously proving challenging.

## **Northern Region (Nick Shaw and Ziggy Rode)**

### **1. Tokai Main Troop**

There was again, no raiding in the urban area by the Tokai Main Troop for this reporting period. Throughout the month the majority of the troop spent most of its time in the upper levels of the plantations, and although there have been a few occasions where some individuals have come down to the Chrysalis Academy, Porter Stables and Lister's Tea Room, there have been no entries or raids into the urban area by this troop. This pattern is very similar to December 2012, when the troop also spent most of its time in the plantations.

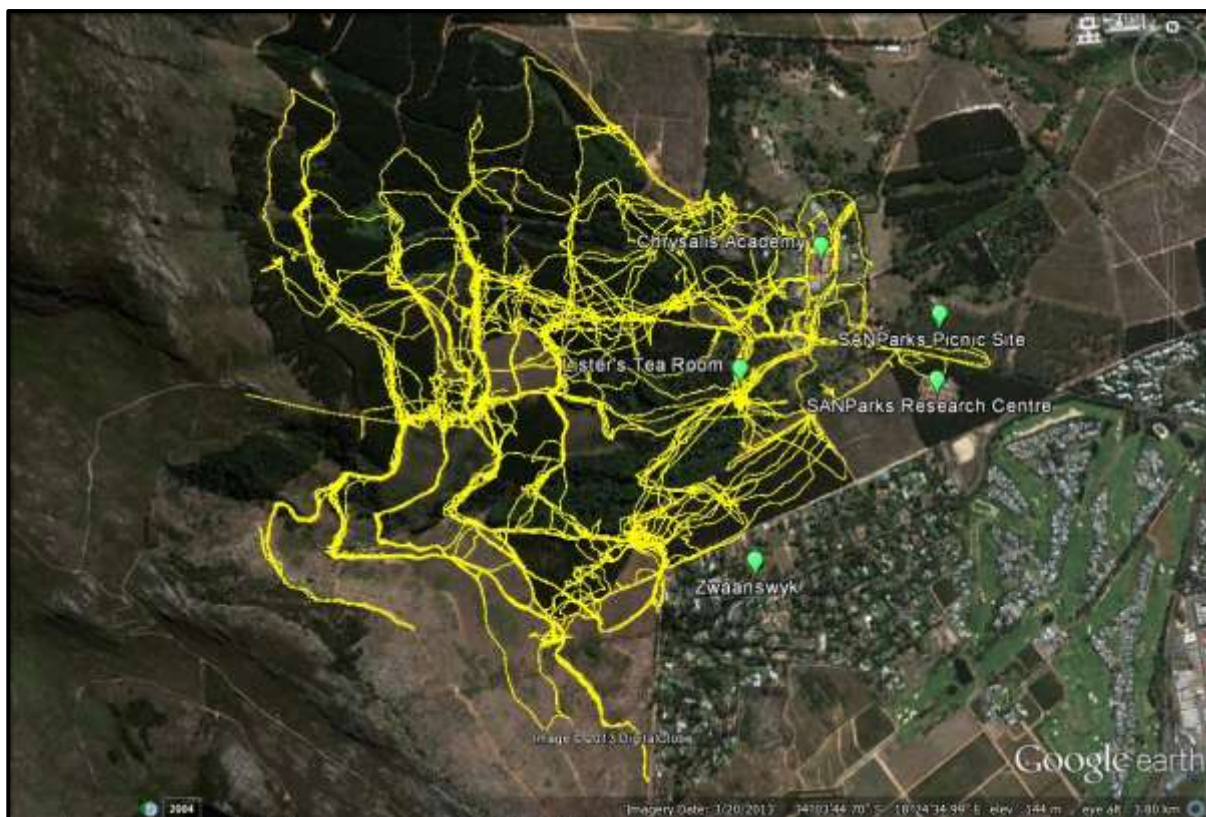


Figure 11. Tokai Main Troop tracking data for November.

## 2. Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop

Throughout the reporting period, the home ranges of the Tokai Main Troop and the Zwaanswyk Troop continued to overlap, however the Zwaanswyk Troop did tend to spend more time lower down the mountain (see Figure 12).

During the last few days of November and the start of December, TK37 remained difficult to manage as he was still actively trying to disperse and entering the urban area where he came into conflict with residents. On Sunday 1 December, when TK37 returned to the troop, he had a fight with TK35. TK37 sustained rather severe injuries across his back and his front right leg. The lacerations were very deep and as a result he was struggling to climb and run. Attempts were made to capture and/or dart TK37, however he spent a large amount of time in very dense vegetation and was difficult to capture. TK37 spent three days alone, away from the troop and then returned to the Tokai Main Troop. Soon thereafter, TK37 once again started entering the residential area again (see November report) and it appeared that TK37 had resumed dispersal behaviour. With WAC approval, TK37 was euthanized on 12 December 2013.

Shortly after the euthanasia of TK37, TK35 joined the Tokai Main Troop and has not returned to the Zwaanswyk Troop. The behaviour of TK35 seems to be quite strange as he was the alpha male of the Zwaanswyk Troop and is now not the alpha male in the Tokai Main troop. This has left TK38 in charge of the Zwaanswyk Troop and this has induced him to stay with the troop more than he used to. If the situation remains this way, it might have a positive effect on TK38's

raiding behaviour. TK35 has unfortunately continued raiding and also attempts to enter the urban area quite regularly.

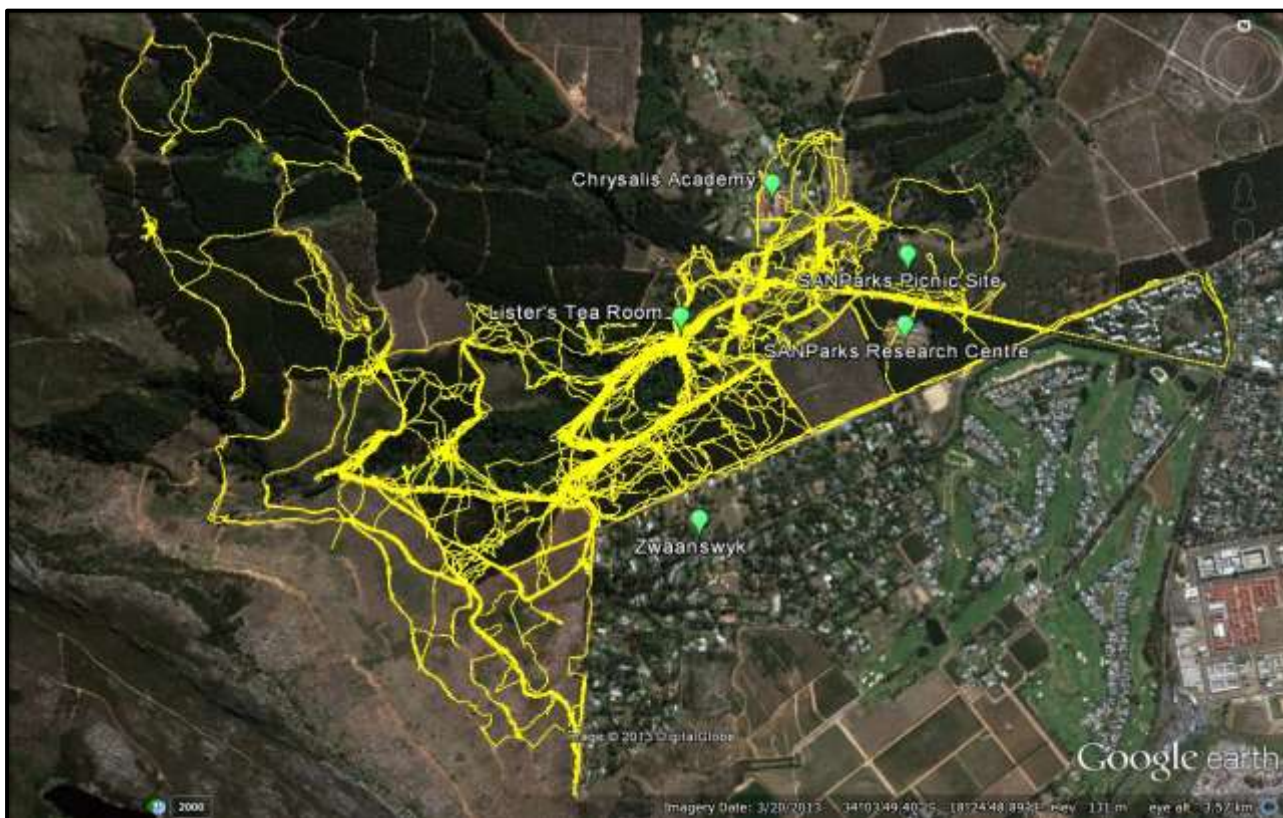


Figure 12. Zwaanswyk Troop tracking data.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																													
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																											
North		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL							
BABOON TROOP:	Zwaanswyk	In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food fro	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	Nocturnal Raiding																			
MONTH: December	YEAR: 2013																												
Zwaanswyk Troop (ZT)																						0							
TK 35 (R-Y)	M								2	2			1,2			6	7	7				7							
TK 37 (W-Y)	M	7		1,2	2,6	2,6,7	7	1,2		1		2	1,2									15							
TK 38 (Single Red)	M			2													7			7	7	4							
TKF 4 (Grey)	F																					0							
TKF 5 (Green)	F																					0							
TKF 7 (Red)	F																					0							
Sub adult	M																					0							
Un-ID fem	F																					0							
Un-ID Juvenile																						0							
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																				HRS							
Zwaanswyk Troop	0.0																					0.00							
Males	16.8			120	300	360	420	720							60	70	90	120	270			660	53.17						
Roost:	AM	4	1	1	1	4	3	4	5	1	9	8	4	1	4	2	4	1	2	9	1	1	4	2	10	2	2	4	5
Roost:	PM	4	1	2	1	10	11	5	11	4	1	4	1	4	2	4	2	5	4	4	1	4	2	10	4	9	9	5	3
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	Tokai Manor House				7	Lower Guest House				8	Upper Guest House				9	Other				10	Level 4							
	11	Level 3																											
ID Features of Baboons																													
General remarks																													

Figure 13. Zwaanswyk Troop Raid Sheet

### 3. Constantia Troop

During the past month, the Constantia Troop has spent a significant amount of time on the Groot Constantia property as well as in areas above the wine farms on SANParks land. For the majority of the month the troop has roosted at the lower Bluegums between Groot and Klein Constantia farms. At no point during this month did the troop raid in the urban area. The foraging pattern of the troop is illustrated in Figure 14. The yellow tracking line travelling deep into Constantia is an artefact of the person carrying the data logger while driving around.



Figure 14. Tracking Data for the Constantia Troop - December 2013

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
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	TOTAL								
BABOON TROOP:	Constantia trp	In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	Nocturnal Raiding																				
MONTH: December	YEAR: 2013																				0									
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL
TK 33 (R-O)	M																													
TK 34 (O -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	M																													
CON 4 (B) S.Ad	M																													
CON 3 (G) S.Ad	M																													
CON 5 (G-G)	M																													
CON 6 (O) S.Ad	M																													
Un-ID fem + Juv	F																													
Untagged/Unknown	M																													
Const. Troop																														0
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																				HRS								
Troop	0.0																													0.00
Males	0.0																													0.00
Roost:	AM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	7	7		
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	7	7		
Roost Sites	1	KC/GC Border - Upp. Blue gums				2	KC Lwr Blue Gums				3	KC/SANpk MTB trail upp				4	Middle Plantation KC				5									
	6	Uitsig BG				7	Mckenziez/Groot				8	Other				9					10									
	11																													
ID Features of Baboons	CON 1, large untagged male with facial scars.CON 2 tagged Blue/Orange and collar fitted 23/09, t-lem freq 148.5300. 2 sub-adults also tagged single blue,single TK 16 now confirmed tagged double White.																													
General remarks	Many males in CT with BoB injuries, nothing too serious. 08/12 Mckenziez/Groot is pre NCC sleep site One birth was recorded in the troop during this reporting period																													

Figure 15. Raid Information Sheet for the Constantia Troop – December 2013

### December Raids:

No raids took place.

### Comments and Observations

The many years of foraging on grapes on the wine farms seems to have resulted in hard-wiring the Constantia Troop's behaviour into focusing almost exclusively on the growing points of vines and/or grapes at the height of summer. At times when the troop has been near the urban edge above Price Drive, they have still been relatively easy to control and keep out of the urban area.

The newly-installed electric fence on Groot Constantia is not yet 100% baboon-proof and the final section of fencing will only be completed after this year's harvest, so it is very likely that the troop will continue to forage on the farms for the rest of summer.

### **3. Mountain Troop**

The Mountain Troop has not been seen very often this month except for the occasional sighting on Buitenverwachting. One hotline call was received this month for this troop approaching houses on the Buitenverwachting property. No raiding incidents were recorded for any individuals of this troop this month.

### **Births and Deaths**

There was a single birth recorded in the Constantia Troop this month.

On 30 November, two infants were seen in Tokai Main Troop.

On 12 December, TK37 (Zwaanswyk Troop) was euthanased.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Steenberg Wine Estate fence needs to be monitored to resolve any remaining weak spots.

Effective signage needs to be erected at the corner of Zwaanswyk & Tokai Roads, at the Chrysalis Academy, in the Arboretum Tea Garden parking area and at the Tokai picnic area warning visitors not to have food and drinks exposed, and to keep vehicles locked.

Management strategies for the Northern troops will need to be developed as the pine plantations are cut down and increased efforts are being made to keep the troops off the vineyards.

**C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS****Population Data**

HWS has been collecting the population data on the managed troops of the Cape Peninsula for one year now. These data were collected simply by recording births and deaths each month and adding or subtracting them from the total. These data still need to be verified by actual counts on the ground by Esme Beamish, but there are still some clear trends apparent in the data.

<b>Population Data for the Ten Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula</b>						
<b>TROOP</b>	<b>Total End Dec 2012</b>	<b>December Births</b>	<b>December Deaths</b>	<b>Total Births</b>	<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>TOTAL CURRENT</b>
Da Gama Troop	54	1		11	21	44
Smitswinkel Bay	23			2	4	21
Waterfall	28			3	1	30
Groot Olifantsbos	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18		3	4	5	17
Slangkop	33	1		11	4	40
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>171</b>
Zwaanswyk	25		1	7	2	30
Tokai	61	2		14	5	70
Mountain / Ghost	33			11	0	44
Constantia	60	1		19	7	72
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>216</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>387</b>

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

Overall the managed population has grown from 354 to 387, which is an increase of 9.3% over the year. However, as has been noted in previous reports, there have been quite different growth patterns between the northern (Tokai and Constantia) troops and the southern (South of Ou Kaapse Weg) troops. In January 2013 these two populations were almost exactly the same - standing at 179 and 175 respectively. However, over the past year the northern population has shown a growth rate of 17.1% and now stands at 216 baboons, with four baboons being euthanased for management reasons. The southern population has declined slightly to 171 baboons, showing a negative growth rate of -2.3%. The negative growth is primarily a result of SK4 killing 11 babies and juveniles when he joined the Da Gama large troop, and 13 baboons being euthanased for management reasons.

Although these deaths were much higher in the south than the north, there were still some very different birth rate patterns between these subpopulations which affected their numbers (Table 2). Over the year there were 65% more babies born in the north than in the south (51 vs 31), although the starting populations were almost exactly the same. This difference in birth rates is

attributed to the very different food sources available to the two sub-populations. In the south, the baboons feed primarily on natural fynbos vegetation. Nevertheless, there was still a huge variation in the birth rates of the troops in the south, and these appear to correlate directly with the troops' access to human derived foods (HDF's).

Birth Data for the Ten Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula															
January to December 2013															
TROOP	TOTAL POPULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL BIRTHS	BIRTH RATE %
Da Gama Troop	54		1	4			2	1		1		1	1	11	20.4
Smitswinkel Bay	23					1				1				2	8.7
Waterfall	28							3						3	10.7
Groot Olifantsbos	19													0	0.0
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	1								1	2			4	22.2
Slangkop	33	2	1	2			1		1	1	1	1	1	11	33.3
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17.7</b>
Zwaanswyk	25	3				1				1	1	1		7	28.0
Tokai	61	1		2		1	1	3		3	1		2	14	23.0
Mountain / Ghost	33	2	1	3	1	1		3						11	33.3
Constantia	60	3	2	2	2	3	2	1		1	1	1	1	19	31.7
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>28.5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>23.2</b>

Table 2. Birth data January to December 2013.

The highest birth rate was 33.3% for Slangkop which, as mentioned in the November report, has access to pine nuts around their Ocean View sleep site, and they regularly had access to bread and buns at Compass Bakery, which has very poor waste management. The next highest birth rates were for the Misty Cliffs (22.2%) and Da Gama troops (20.4%, now combined) which have traditionally been the worst behaved troops on the peninsula in terms of raiding bins and houses in the urban area. Over the past year these three troops spent more time in town than any other troop on the Peninsula (Figure 16).

Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the troop with the lowest birth rate is Groot Olifantsbos which has not been recorded being in an urban area since August 2012. The recorded birth rate here is zero, but this may be an underestimate, because the troop is managed from a distance and rangers do not approach it unless it is attempting to leave the CoGH reserve. It is also evident in Table 2 that the two troops which have the least contact with humans, Groot Olifantsbos and Mountain troops, also had the least mortality (zero) recorded over the year.

In the north the baboons probably spend at least 50% of their time feeding on HDF's. These are primarily pine nuts in the forest, grapes in summer and barley, planted between the vines, in winter. In addition they also derive HDF's from raiding restaurants on the farms, the SANParks picnic site, Lister's Tea Garden, Chrysalis Academy and from some stables, all beyond the urban area. These northern troops had an average birth rate of 28.5% for the year, ranging from 23.0 - 33.3%. These statistics confirm the huge effect that artificial feeding of baboons can have on their populations.

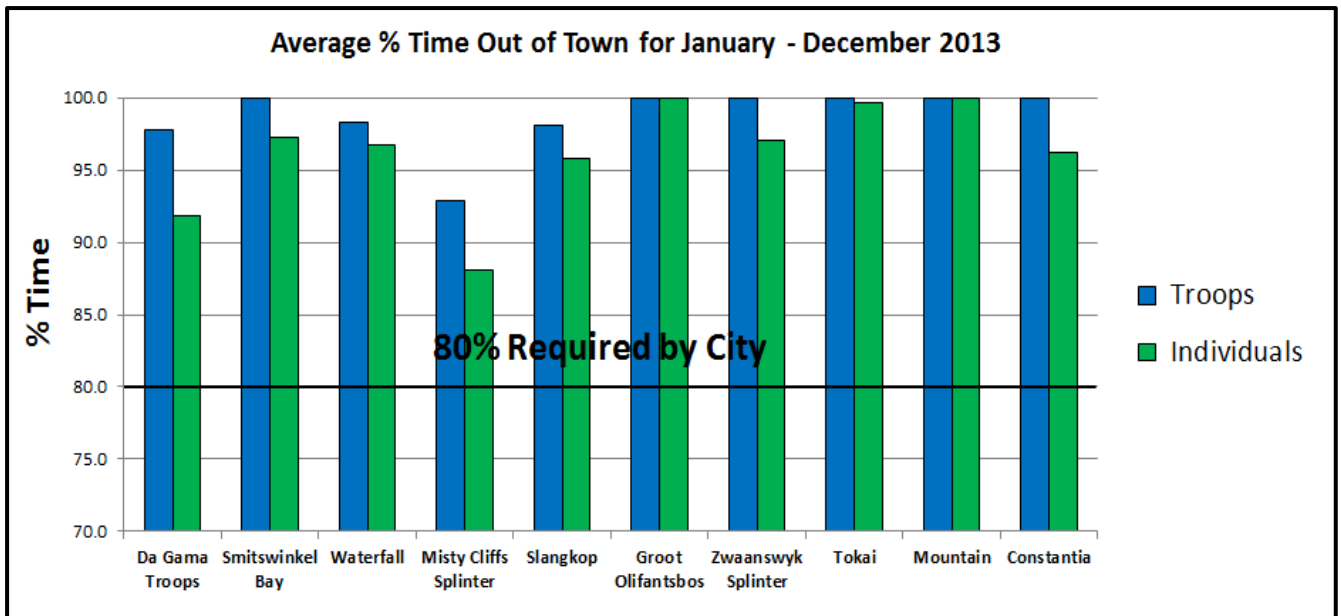


Figure 16. Annual percentage out of town data.

**Hotline Data**

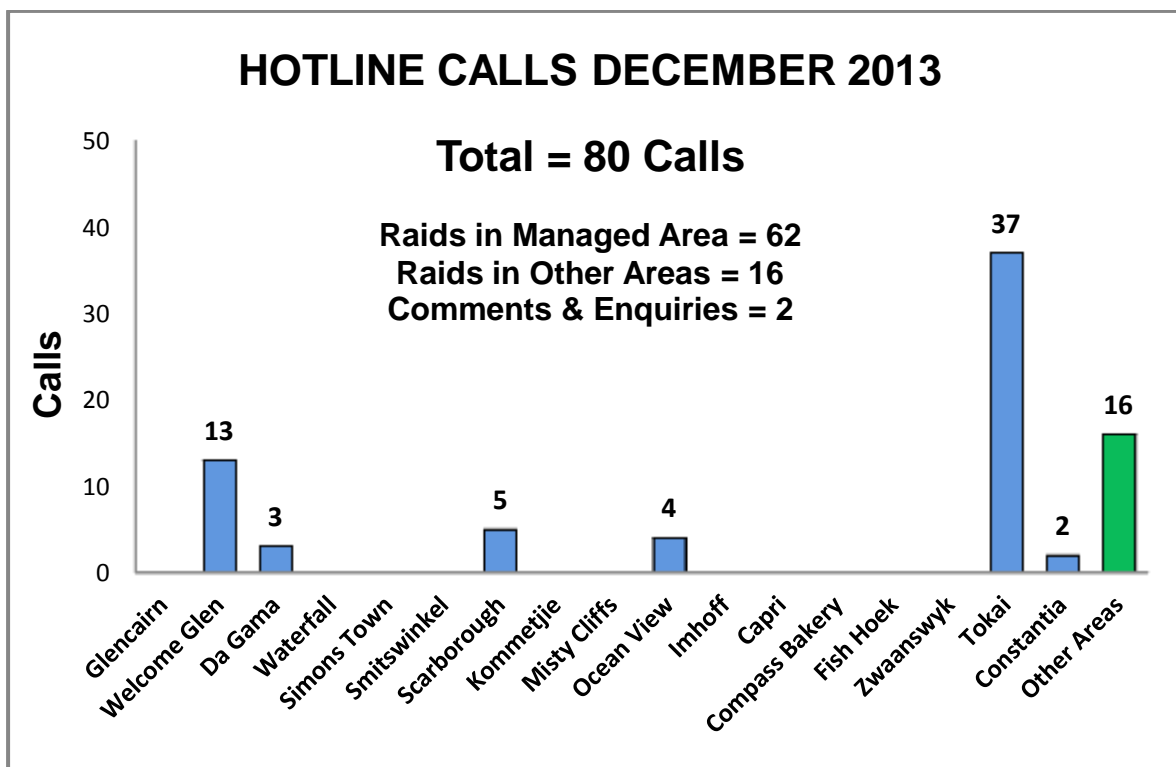


Figure 17. Hotline calls summary per area.

Although there were 80 hotline calls recorded this month, 16 of them were for areas not managed by HWS (Figure 17). Of the remaining 64 pertinent calls, 37 were from Tokai and mainly in response to raids by TK37, who was euthanased after two months of particularly intensive raiding in the urban area. Thus apart from these raids, there were very few hotline calls recorded in December, and most areas recorded no raids at all.

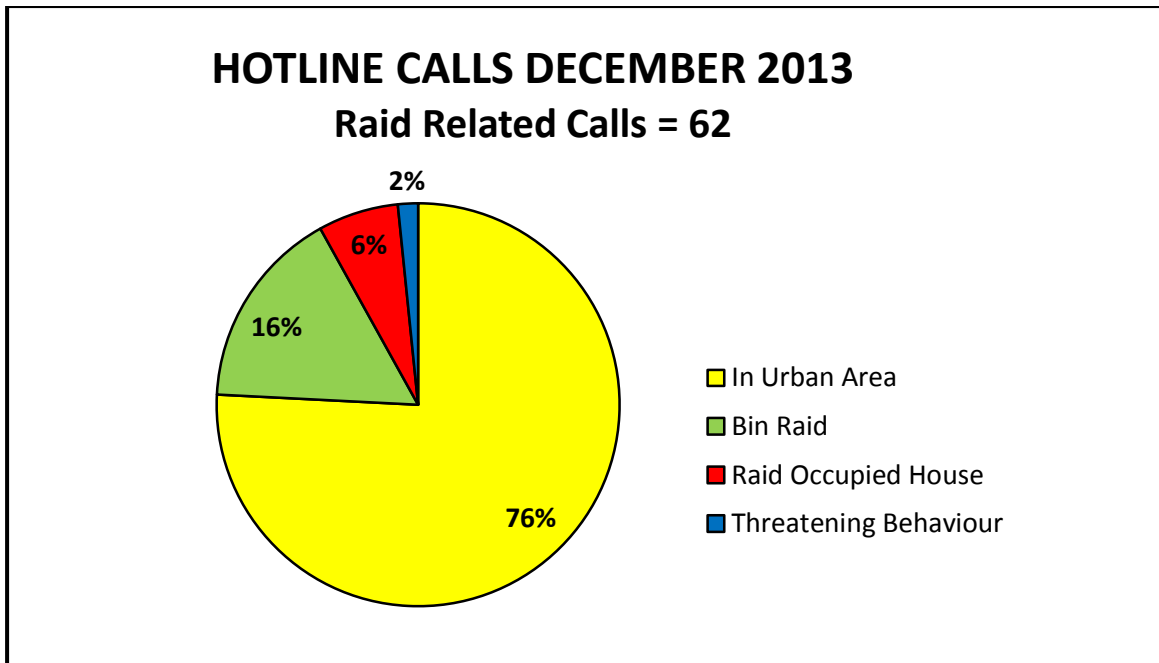


Figure 18. Raid-related hotline calls.

Despite the raiding spree recorded by TK37, the type of hotlines calls received by HWS continues to show the pleasing trend noticed over the past few months. This month 92% of all calls were simply for baboons being in town or raiding bins and only 6% were for baboons raiding occupied houses. With the removal of TK37, it is hoped that this figure will decrease again.

#### Percentage Time out of Town

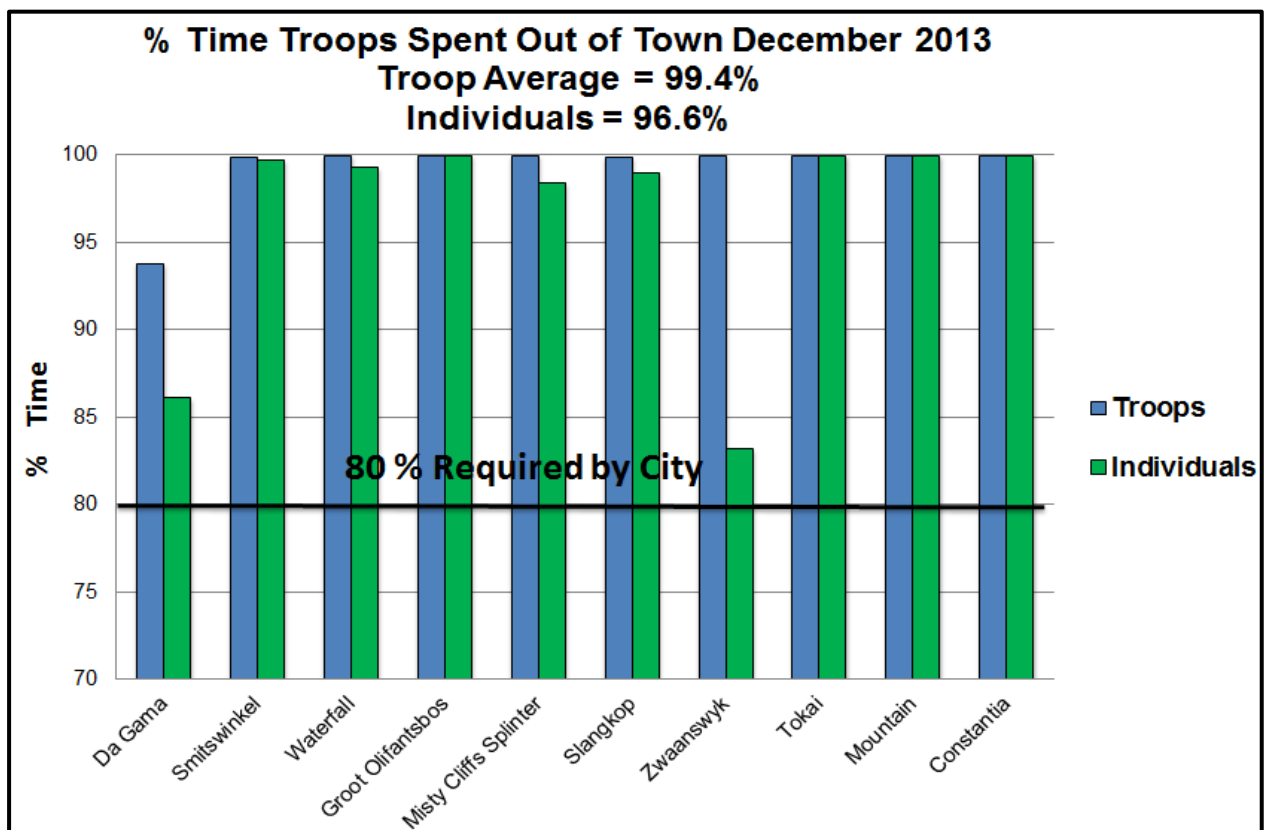


Figure 19. Percentage of time troops spent out of town.

This month all troops, with the exception of Da Gama, were almost perfectly behaved and spent close to 100% of their time out of town (Figure 19). The Da Gama troop went through a spell of returning to town late in the evening and raiding bins and other waste left lying around at the Naval Flats. They would raid again early in the morning, but fortunately they were mostly quite easily chased out of town when the rangers arrived on duty.

The relatively poor record for raiding individuals from the Zwaanswyk troop can largely be attributed to TK37, who spent long periods of time hiding in thick vegetation in the urban area.

## **General Summary**

There are two really pleasing trends to report this month.

The first is that, despite the return to raiding by the Da Gama troop, there were seven troops that spent 100% of their time out of town and the other two troops were only marginally under 100%. The average for all troops was 99.4%.

The other very notable development is that, since the removal of GOB5, the Groot Olifantsbos troop (GOB) has been spending considerable time with the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop. It did not take GOB8 long to notice the absence of GOB5 and he rapidly assumed the alpha status in the troop after moving across from GOB. However, GOB7 has recently also started taking an interest in the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop and some females have even temporarily moved across to the GOB troop for a day or two.

The significance of this, is that the Misty Cliffs troop splintered off from the GOB troop several years ago, and now it is looking as though the troops may well re-join under the influence of GOB7, who is a wild, unhabituated male from within the CoGH Reserve.

It is largely because of this wild male that HWS has been able to keep the GOB troop out of Scarborough since August 2012. In June 2012 this troop was virtually living and sleeping in Scarborough.

If these two troops do re-join, like the two Da Gama troops have done, it will mean that there will be one less troop to manage on the Peninsula. Furthermore, if the combined troop is under the leadership of GOB7 and GOB8, both of which are wild and unhabituated to humans, the troop should be much easier to manage in the future. It should continue to behave like the GOB troop has been over the past 18 months and unlike the Misty Cliffs troop was under the leadership of GOB5.

Finally, it has been one of the objectives stated by HWS in previous reports, to break the cycle of "bad" baboons teaching raiding behaviour to their offspring. Without breaking that cycle the baboons of Cape Town will continue to raid indefinitely.

Over the past 18 months most of the bad raiders have been removed, and now most troops have alpha males that are more interested in leading their troops and protecting their offspring than in raiding.

This is a very positive outcome, and if the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop can re-join its original troop AND be under the leadership of a wild, unhabituated male, this will be another milestone in breaking the cycle of older baboons training up their offspring to raid like themselves.

Dr. Philip Richardson

**Human Wildlife Solutions**