



**Human Wildlife Solutions**

**Monthly Report**

**June 2014**

Photo: John de Jager (HWS)

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report covers the four-week period from 23 May to 20 June 2014. It now being the middle of winter, baboon behaviour this month continues to be that typified by this season, i.e. baboons moving down the mountain to lower roost sites to get out of the cold wind, and increasingly attempting to raid town and other settlements for HDF's (human derived foods).

Despite this trend, there have still been relatively few urban raids this month with the exception of raids by the two troops most renowned for raiding, namely the Misty Cliffs and Da Gama troops. In both cases, most of the raids can be accounted for as raids by splinter groups led by old habitual raiders (both male and female) and sub-adult males. This trend is worrying, but will hopefully come to an end with the arrival of warmer weather in August.

## B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

### South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

#### 1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Smitswinkel Troop had a very good month. Unlike during previous months when it was becoming increasingly difficult to manage SWB1, this month has been better and there were no raids at all. Dedicating one ranger explicitly to monitor SWB1 has helped considerably in blocking SWB1 and the few sub-adult males that followed him when he attempted to break the line.

Over weekends, our rangers are also assisted by Lorraine Holloway (Honorary Nature Conservation Officer), who spends countless hours assisting rangers and speaking to tourists and the general public to educate and raise awareness.

The troop spent a total of 35 minutes (0,23% of time) in the 'urban area'; this was mainly when they were passing the Miller's Point parking and boat launch area and only occurred on three occasions during the reporting period.

The troop still spends some time in and around the Rocklands' Farm area, but efforts are made to push them back to the Partridge Point area where they are easier to manage, and can forage on the mountain and along the coastline.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																				TOTAL								
SE		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20									
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: June 2014																														
BABOON ID	Sex	24	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	TOTAL
SWB1	M																													0
SWB6	M																													0
Troop									1						1												1			3
UnID Fem	F																												0	
SWBF8	F																												0	
SWB9																													0	
UNID Male	M																												0	
SWB7	M																												0	
																						HRS								
Troop	0.23								15						15												5			0.58
Individuals	0.00																												0.00	
Males	0.00																												0.00	
<b>Roost:</b>	AM	6	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	6	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	6	4	3	6	5	4	5	5	6	6	6	5	
<b>Roost:</b>	PM	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	6	2	4	4	4	5	5	4	6	2	3	6	5	4	5	5	6	4	6	5	5	
<b>Roost Sites</b>		1 Smits Caves				2 Partridge Point				3 Bluegums				4 Millers Point				5 Rocklands Farm												
		6 Castle Rock				7 SANParks																								
<b>ID Features of Baboons</b>		SWB1: Collar + blue & white tag, SWB6 = Red/Blue tags + collar																												
<b>General remarks</b>		Town/Urban area = Millers Point boat launching area, caravan park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock Houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses																												

Fig.1. Smitswinkel Troop raid sheet

## 2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop has become increasingly difficult to manage and, during the reporting period, have been pushing to the Red Hill informal settlement as well as the SANParks' Wildeschutsbrand picnic area.

There have been 30 raids recorded this month and of these, 17 raids occurred inside the South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD). This problem has escalated during the last few months and HWS has had meetings with SANAD in order to attempt to implement steps towards conflict mitigation.

Previously only one baboon, RH2, raided SANAD. However, the number of baboons following him and attempting to gain access to the depot has increased and they have now all discovered weak spots where they can gain entry to the facility. On 4 June, the entire troop was found sleeping inside the SANAD fenced area, in the pine trees and at the warehouse. The troop has also discovered a reliable source of food inside this area (i.e. fruits, pinecones, human derived foods and waste), and it will become increasingly difficult to keep them out of the depot unless various control measures are implemented.

Prior to the increase in raiding at SANAD, the troop paid no attention to the Red Hill informal settlement. However, during the current reporting period, the troop came down to the vineyards and farmhouse. Small raiding parties attempted to break the line several times, and on 24 May, RH2 raided a farmhouse and then, later during the day, joined WF2 and a few females and raided houses and bins in the informal settlement.

On 8 June, the troop moved down the mountain towards the vineyards and encountered the Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB). The troop did not continue all the way down except for RH2. Subsequently, RH2 and GOB7 had a fight and RH2 ran away but continued to attempt to break

the line to raid. During the conflict, WF2 and an older female raided a farmhouse where they gained entry through a small open window. On 14 June, RH2 and GOB7 fought once again. RH2 ran away into the Red Hill settlement but was quickly pushed out by the rangers.

Some individuals have also started crossing the road at the Scarborough/Red Hill junction and entering the picnic area to raid bins.

In the Waterfall Troop raid sheet below, raids that occurred inside SANAD are marked in red however no 'time spent in town' has been allocated as SANAD is not within a residential area. Raids into the Red Hill informal settlement, as well as the farmhouses, are counted as time spent in town.

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: June 2014		3 Non malicious damage										6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																		
BABOON ID	Sex	24	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	TOTAL
Troop						2							1																	2
RH2	M	2,2		2		2	2	7	2			2										6		2	2,6				2	12
WF2	M	1		2		2			2			2			5	5										1				8
WFF3	F								2						5															2
WF4																														0
UnID Females	F	6,2														5							2							4
UnID Juveniles																														0
UnID Male	M																													0
WFF1	F																													0
UnID Individuals												2			1															2
	%																					HRS								
Troop	0.0																					0.00								
Females/Individuals	0.1	5													5	5														0.25
Males	0.6	65														5							5	10						1.42
Roost:	AM	9	10	9	10	10	9	10	9	4	10	9	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	9	9	
Roost:	PM	11	9	10	10	10	10	9	4	10	9	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	10	10	9	9	9		
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	SANDF				
	11	Mountain CoGHN					12	Gate 3 - Plateau Road					13	Rocklands farm					14	North peak										
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																													

Fig.2. Waterfall Troop raid sheet

### 3. Da Gama Troop

The Da Gama Troop has also become significantly more difficult to manage over the last few months. This can be attributed mainly to the fact that there is a lot of splitting up and re-joining taking place currently. DG10 is now a young adult male that wants to disperse and he regularly attempts to break the line. If he gets through, a few females generally follow him. DG11 is still somewhat smaller than DG10 but also splits off to raid together with some juveniles and females. DG1 also raids frequently, either alone or with females.

If all of these splinter groups raid at the same time, rangers need to split up and are then under enormous pressure to get each raiding group out of town, as well as prevent the main troop from heading into town. There have been at least 12 house raids recorded during this period.



On 8 June, DG1 raided a house in Welcome Glen whilst the team was trying to get him out of town. A sub-adult male also entered a house and ransacked the kitchen, opening the fridge and the cupboards before the rangers managed to get him out.



Fig.3. (a) Raided kitchen in Welcome Glen. (b) The sub-adult raiding baboon.

During this reporting period, the troop slept in smaller pockets on six occasions. The majority of the troop normally sleeps with SK3; however DG10 and DG1 often managed to get a few individuals to sleep with them, apart from the troop.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
SOUTH EAST		1 In urban area							4 Attacking pets							7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food															
BABOON TROOP: Da Gama		2 Raid bins							5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle							8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property															
MONTH: June 2014		3 Non malicious damage							6 Raid occupied house or vehicle							9 Nocturnal Raiding															
BABOON ID	Sex	24	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	TOTAL	
Troop			2			2	1	1			2																		5		
SK3	M						1	1				1	2	1	1,2	2	2	2	2		2		2	2	2	2	2	2	14		
DG1	M						2	5,8	1,2	2,2,2		2	1	1	6,6	2	2,6	6		6		2	2	2,6	2	2	1	2	26		
DG10	M			2			2,6	1	1	1					1	2	2	2				2	2	2,4			1	2	16		
DG11	M						2,6		1,7	8					1	2	2					2	2	2,4			2	6	12		
DGF1	F																												0		
DGF2	F																												0		
UnID Females	F						1					2	2	1	2	2					2	2		4			2	2	11		
UnID Female	F																												0		
UnID Male	M																6			2						2	2	4			
UnID Juvs			2				1		1			2	2	1	2,6,6	2,5								4		2	2	2	15		
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS						
Troop	1.4		45			50	60		20		50				10	20		20											4.58		
Individuals	11.9		20						70	210	40		45	55	70	30	300	210	280										38.42		
Males	13.7		20						420	160	200	90		45	55	70	109	120	210	280									44.23		
Roost:	AM	20	22,25	2	2	20	1,2	2	1,2	2	2,3	2,3	2	2	2	1,2	2	2	2	16	16	1,2	2	8,4	2	2	2,3	2	2,3		
Roost:	PM	22	2	2	20	2	2	1,2	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	1,2	2	2	2	16	16	2	2	8,4	2	2	1,2,3	2	2,3	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
ID Features of Baboons		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	25	3rd Avenue, Da Gama										
General remarks		DG1: Collar + blue & yellow tags; DG10: Collar + white tags SK3: Collar + green & yellow tags; DGF1: collar + blue & white tags																													

Fig.4. Da Gama Troop raid sheet

## Births and Deaths

No births or deaths were recorded during this reporting period.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**South African Navy Ammunition Depot (SANAD):** Baboon-proofing of bins, installing burglar bars in the mess room, and the removal of fruit trees is needed at SANAD to prevent the troop from continuing to raid the facility. Ongoing baboon awareness education is recommended.

**Smitswinkel Troop:** The collaring of SWB1 and two sub-adults is urgently needed in order to manage these animals more pro-actively.

**Waterfall Troop:** Collaring of WF2 and an adult female is needed as RH2 is currently the only baboon with a collar and he is often not in the same location as the troop. In order to manage the troop better, it is necessary to collar an adult female. WF2 will then be able to be monitored more closely.

**Da Gama Park and tourist routes:** Ongoing education and law enforcement is necessary in these areas.

**Waste management:** Urgent attention to this matter is needed in the Da Gama area but especially at the Da Gama Park flats where a new waste disposal system needs to be developed. Waste management and baboon proofing also needs to be addressed in the Red Hill informal settlement and on the surrounding farms.

## South Western Region – Area Manager: Nick Shaw

### 1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

The seasonal movements of this troop are very similar this year to what they were in 2013. Quoted below is an excerpt from the June 2013 Monthly Report:

“The GOB Troop has been in the Cape of Good Hope Reserve for the period 26th May to 21st June. The troop has moved between the areas of Olifantsbos and the cliff site on the Bonteberg ridge (C2) but has spent the majority of the month in the Olifantsbos area. On the 16th June, a large proportion of the troop managed to enter Scarborough at Gemsbok Rd where they raided bins and attempted to enter a number of houses. The alpha male and a number of females and juveniles did not enter Scarborough but remained just inside the fence in the Reserve. The troop was pushed out of Scarborough after 2 hours, except for one sub adult male and one female who stayed behind and slept in Scarborough overnight. These two were pushed out early the follow morning when they joined up with the troop at the Bonteberg sleep site”.

The image below that shows the GPS collar data points for June 2014, also shows a close correlation to the activity of the troop a year ago. For the first time since June 2013, the GOB troop has been insistent in their attempts to enter Scarborough. The one marked difference from June 2013 is that the whole troop, including GOB7, entered Scarborough.



Fig.5. Roost sites and GPS points for the GOB Troop – June 2014

On 25 May, the troop appeared above Scarborough late in the afternoon. The team attempted to move them back towards the Reserve but a number of females and juveniles ran into Scarborough. GOB7 refused to be pushed further away from town and, following numerous attempts, finally joined the individuals that were already in Hilltop Rd, which was after dark. The following morning the troop was pushed out of Scarborough and back into the Reserve except for a single female and juvenile that remained behind and hid amongst the houses for the rest of the day. The team was able to prevent the troop returning to Scarborough for the day but after the team left on the evening of 26 May, the troop returned and joined the two individuals in Hilltop Rd where they slept a second night. The following day the whole troop was pushed out of Scarborough and back into the Reserve.

Late in the afternoon of 2 June, the troop once again entered Scarborough from above Hilltop Rd. The troop slept on a property in Hilltop Rd, but was pushed out the following morning.

On the three occasions this month that the troop managed to enter Scarborough, there were no reported house raids but many bins were raided.

For much of the remainder of the month the troop has been sleeping at the Red Hill roost site, which is consistent with the pattern followed in June 2013. The cold, wet weather is most likely a contributing factor to the troop seeking shelter amongst the pine trees at Red Hill. This roost site is preferable to the Bonteberg roost site at this time of year because it is further away from the urban edge and reduces the chances of the troop moving into Scarborough after dark. The problems with this site however are the poor general waste management on the surrounding farms and the potential for raids into the Red Hill Settlement.



## 2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs Troop has spent the majority of the reporting period at the Misty Cliffs roost site. On 16 June, the troop was pushed into the Reserve and held there until 20 June.

The June 2014 pattern of raiding mirrors the pattern seen in June 2013. In both instances, the troop spent more time in the urban area than any other month of the year. The reduced available forage and easy access to human derived foods in the urban space make it very difficult to keep individual animals out of town. Even when the ranger team is able to hold the troop up in the mountain, individual animals peel off and run for Scarborough on their own.

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: June		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	24	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	
GOB9	M	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	2	2	1	5	2,8	2	2	2,6	2	2,8	2	2,6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	19
MCF2	F	2	2,5,6	2,6,6	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	24	
MCF3	F	2	2,5,6	2,6,6	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	23	
MCF4 + baby	F	2	2	2	2	1	2	2		2	1	5	2	2				2	2	2	2	2	2						18	
Troop		2	2	2	2	1	2	2		2	1	5	2	2				2	2	2	2	2	2						18	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS						
Troop	16.4	150	180	60	150	180	300	240		60	60	240	270	420			120	180	150	240	120	180						55h30		
Males & Females	22.8	150	180	60	150	180	300	240	180	240	60	60	240	270	420	75	240	120	180	150	240	120	180			360		30	180	76h45
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
		1 Misty Cliffs		2 CoGH Reserve		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10										
ID Features of Baboons	GOB9 has a VHF collar and Pink/White tags																													
General remarks	* indicates days where GOB9 was in Lakeside/Muizenberg/Fishhoek area																													

Fig.6. Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop – June 2014

### June Raids:

On 25 May, three individuals raided an occupied house in Iris Rd, Scarborough.

On 26 May, a number of baboons raided two occupied houses in Mountain Rise, Scarborough.

On 4 June, the troop raided an unoccupied house in Old Camp Rd, Misty Cliffs.

On 5 June, it was reported that GOB9 had pulled tiles off the roof of a house in Hilltop Rd, Scarborough.

On 8 June, GOB9 raided an occupied house in Beach Rd, Scarborough.

On 10 June, it was reported that GOB9 had damaged a window of a house in Gemsbok Rd, Scarborough in an attempt to open a window.

On 13 June, GOB9 and a few other individuals raided an occupied house in Mimosa Rd, Scarborough.

### Comments and Observations

During the first week of this reporting period GOB9 was still moving in the area between Lakeside and Kalk Bay (refer to May 2014 HWS Report). On 29 May, GOB9 was finally darted in Fish Hoek, collared, and returned to the Scarborough area. During the time he was in the Lakeside / Kalk Bay area, he regularly raided houses, up to five times a day. This was mainly due to the lack of precaution taken by residents in areas that are not familiar with raiding baboons.

The Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop spent a great deal of time in Scarborough this month. As was the case this time last year, the troop does not move together as a troop. When the troop stays together the ranger team is able to hold them up in the mountain. Numerous individuals break away from the troop on a daily basis to enter Scarborough on their own. This results in a situation where half the troop will be in the urban area and the other half on the mountain. The ranger team has to split up to manage these separate groups. This greatly reduces the effectiveness of both groups of rangers and almost inevitably leads to the whole troop managing to enter Scarborough.

The availability of food from rubbish bins and compost bins is a constant challenge. The individuals that break away from the troop return to the rotating compost bins in Seagull Rd on a daily basis as they often manage to get food from these bins.

This month, the number of house raids has been relatively low in comparison to the amount of time the troop has spent in the urban area. This is partly due to fewer windows being left open during winter, and the freely available food gained from bins and compost.

Since the removal of GOB8, there have been no further incidences of broken doors or windows in either Scarborough or Misty Cliffs although, it has been reported that GOB9 pulled tiles off the roof of one house and tried to force open the window of another house.

### **3. Slangkop Troop**

The Slangkop Troop has spent an equal amount of time at the both the C2 and C3 roost sites. The cold, rainy weather makes the pines at the C2 roost site more attractive at this time of year.

The map below shows the movements of the troop for this month.

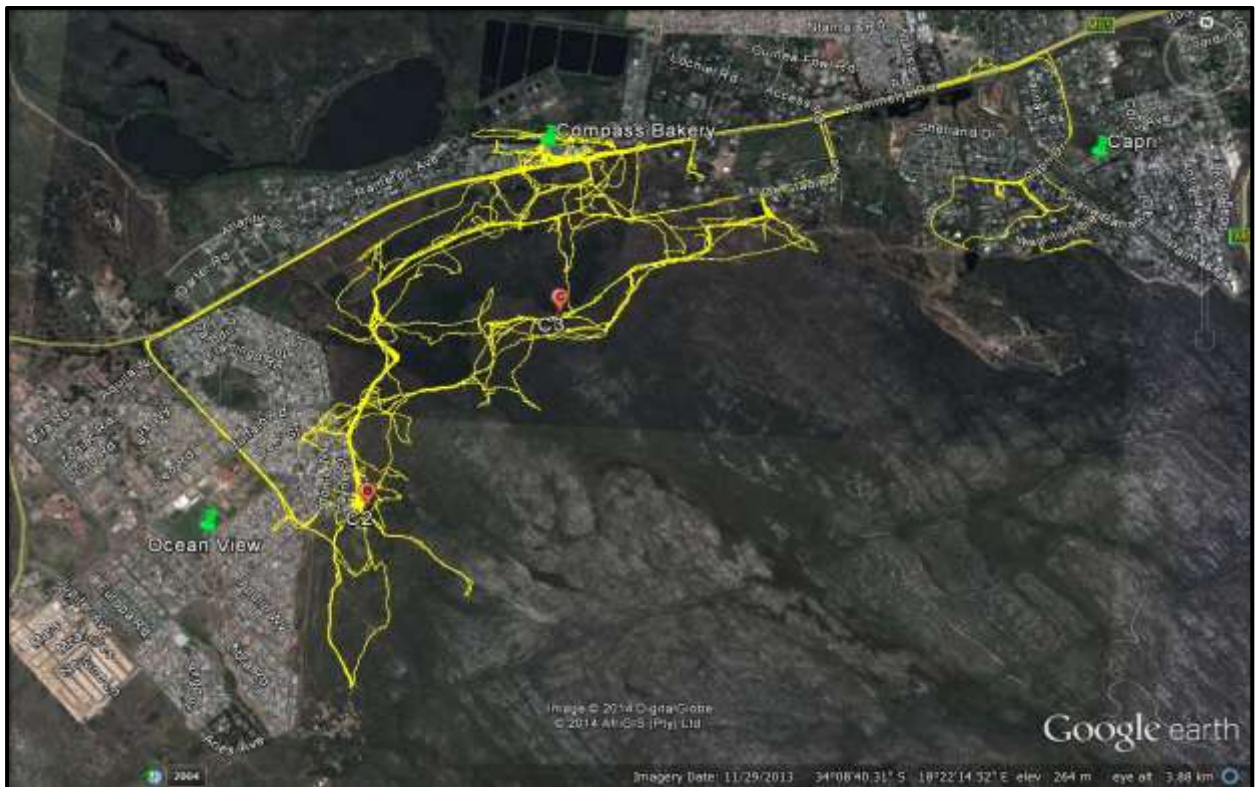


Fig.7. Data logger map for the Slangkop Troop – June 2014

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20									
MONTH: June		YEAR: 2014		In urban area		Attacking pets		Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food		Raid bins		Raid unoccupied house or vehicle		Breaking & Entering/Damaging property		Non malicious damage		Raid occupied house or vehicle												
BABOON ID	Sex	24	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	TOTAL
DG6	M	2	2	2	1	2	2		2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2,6	2	2			2	2	2	2		2		2	20
SKF1	F	2	2			2			2	2	2	2	2	2			2,6	2	2			2		2	2		2		2	15
SKF2	F	2	2					2			2	2	2	2			2	2	2			2	2	2		2		2	13	
SKF3	F	2	2			2			2		2	2	2	2			2	2	2			2	2	2		2		2	13	
Troop			2								2						2	2	2			2			2		2		9	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																				HRS								
Troop	1.9	20									20						65	90	20			10			25	60	75	6h25		
Males + Females	2.9	15	20	20	10	10	10		20	60	20		30		10	65	90	20			10	10	20	25	60	75	10h00			
Roost:	AM	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	
Roost:	PM	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	
Roost Sites		1 Slangkop		2 Ocean View		3 Compass Bakery		4 Witsand		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13				
ID Features of Baboons		DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag																												
General remarks																														

Fig.8. Raid Sheet for Slangkop Troop – June 2014

**June Raids:**

On 31 May, DG6 entered Imhoff’s Gift along Atlantic Rd but no raids were recorded.

On 3 June, DG6, SKF1, SKF2, SKF3 and a number of juveniles entered Imhoff’s Gift along Atlantic Dr and raided a number of bins and vegetable gardens.

On 8 June, DG6, SKF1 and a few juveniles raided a house in Jamaica Close, Capri. The whole troop raided bins.

On 9 June, DG6, SKF1, SKF2, SKF3 and a number of juveniles entered Imhoff's Gift and raided bins and vegetable gardens.

On 18 June, the troop managed to enter Capri and raided bins.

On four occasions this month, the troop has raided bins at Compass Bakery.

### Comments and Observations

The troop has spent very little time in the urban areas this month. DG6, three females and a number of juveniles continue to raid bins in Ocean View on their own, but no house raids or broken windows were reported this month.

The biggest challenge has been preventing the troop from crossing Kommetjie Rd to raid Compass Bakery. Access to food from bins at the Bakery is a constant attractant. Subsequently, because the troop has been crossing Kommetjie Rd, there have been three raids in Imhoff's Gift this month. This is the first time, in almost a year, that baboons have raided there.

Also due to freely available food from bins at Compass Bakery and in the urban areas of Capri, Ocean View and Imhoff's Gift, the troop has raided very few houses. Only one house raid was recorded in Capri, and this was through an open window.

On 9 June, an immobile young juvenile baboon was found at the C2 roost site. The veterinarian was consulted to assess the condition of the baboon. There were no physical signs of injury but the baboon was hypothermic and unable to move. Following a thorough assessment and for humane reasons, it was decided to euthanase the baboon.

### Births and Deaths

There were no births recorded for any troop this month. One death was recorded for the Slangkop Troop.

### Recommendations

**GOB Troop:** The recent incidences of the GOB troop entering Scarborough in the late afternoon/evening is a matter of great concern. The current position of the troop at the Red Hill roost site will help to reduce the chances of them returning to Scarborough but it will be necessary to monitor the troop in this area in order to prevent raids of the Red Hill informal settlement where poor waste management and the presence of vegetable gardens are a constant attractant.

However, the focus will be to prevent the troop from sleeping in Scarborough as this could result in the GOB troop, once again, becoming a habitually raiding troop.

**Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop:** The on-going strategy will be to try to return the troop to the Reserve from where they, and the GOB Troop, can be more effectively managed. It has been shown however, that it is not possible to hold the troop there if individuals remain behind in Scarborough.

There is therefore good reason to delay pushing this troop into the Reserve until the availability of natural forage improves so that there is less pressure on the habitual raiders to seek food and refuge in Scarborough.

**Slangkop Troop:** This month, the troop has targeted the bins at Compass Bakery, which has resulted in spin-off raids of Imhoff's Gift.

The recent clearing of alien vegetation on the Kompanjiesuin property has helped in the management of the troop and prevented the troop from crossing Kommetjie Rd most days. However, the troop remains insistent in their attempts to access Compass Bakery and the adjacent Municipal dumpsite, and this will likely continue this next month.

It will be necessary to concentrate efforts to hold the line on the Kompanjiesuin property and prevent the troop from crossing the road. This will again reduce raiding of Imhoff's Gift.

### **Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Houry**

During this reporting period, baboon rangers have noticed a distinctive spike in raiding attempts by all northern troops as they have been pushing down from the mountains into the lower lying areas. This is a direct consequence of the change of season as the mountainous areas are windier, colder and wetter than the lower lying sections. Therefore, the troops push down to seek shelter and a break from the unfavourable weather. This puts the troops in contact with human settlements (albeit mostly non-urban), and increases the possibility of raiding.

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

This reporting period has seen an increase in raiding from the Tokai Troop. The troop has spent much of its time in the lower lying areas around the Tokai Plantation, including Lister's Tea Room, Chrysalis, Porter Stables and other non-urban infrastructure. The baboon rangers have endeavoured to move the troop back up the mountain and into the levels of the Tokai Plantation, yet the troop has been persistent and evaded rangers on several occasions.

During the reporting period, HWS rangers have been working tirelessly to prevent raids in the lower lying areas. Imminent raids by individual baboons and small raiding parties were, on several occasions, prevented at the Tokai Picnic Site.



Four raiding attempts at Porter’s Market were also prevented on 31 May, and numerous attempts at Chrysalis were prevented throughout the month. However, the baboons did manage to evade rangers on a few occasions and raided within the non-urban areas.

On 8 June, TK28 and TK40 raided the skip at the Tokai Picnic Site.

On 13 June, TK28, TK39 and TK40 stole lettuce, chips and rolls from an unoccupied table at the Tokai Picnic Site. Although the Tokai Picnic Site has a fence around it, it is not baboon-proof and allows easy access to a rich source of raiding opportunities.

In addition to the picnic site, Lister’s Tea Room was also raided on 8, 14 and 19 June, by TK40, TK28 and an untagged male.

There have been a few reports of intra-troop fighting between the males in the Tokai troop. TK28, the current alpha, lost his lower right canine because of these interactions. Other minor injuries have been reported in respect of TK24 and TK40, and their healing progress is being monitored.

This month, a female was witnessed giving birth to a stillborn foetus. Additionally, a juvenile was also reported to have died from an unknown cause.

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:	Tokai 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 from perso	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	Nocturnal Raiding																				
MONTH: May - June	YEAR: 2014																													
BABOON ID	Sex	24	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	Total
TK 28 (B-G) Collar	M																2					5						5,7	4	
TK 39 (G-R)	M																					5	7	6,7						4
TK 40 (P-Y)	M																2					5,7						5,7	5	
UnID male	M																6												1	
UnID Female	F								2																				1	
<b>The Troop</b>																														0
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS					
Tokai Troop		0.0																												0.00
Individuals		0.0																												0.00
Males		0.0																												0.00
<b>Roost:</b>	AM	1	7	6	11	1	1	1	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	1	1
<b>Roost:</b>	PM	7	6	11	1	1	1	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	1	1
<b>Roost Sites</b>	1	Tea Garden					2	Upper Tea Garden					3	Level 1 Tokai Clearing					4	Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums					5	Level 2 Stream				
	6	Lower Guest House					7	Upper Guest House					8	Level 3 Pines					9	Level 4 Pines					10	Level 2 Pines				
	11	Level 1a Quarry Gums					12	Other					13						14						15					
<b>ID Features of Baboons</b>																														
<b>General remarks</b>																														

Fig.9. June raid sheet for the Tokai Troop. All raids took place in the non-urban area.



Fig.10. Tracking data for Tokai Troop for the June reporting period

## 2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop spent much of this reporting period in the lower lying areas of the Tokai Plantation.

At the start of this reporting period, the Zwaanswyk Troop was without an alpha male. This produced a lack of group cohesion resulting in some females from the troop raiding. TKF5, TKF7 and an untagged female raided the security room at the Manor House, bins at Chrysalis, and an unoccupied vehicle in the levels of the Tokai Plantation.

The troop raided bins at Chrysalis on 24 May.

At the beginning of June, an untagged male, suspected to come from the Mountain Troop, claimed the alpha position and subsequently the females have not raided heavily. However, the new alpha has asserted his position within this troop through infanticide. Three juveniles were killed and two injured by the new alpha.

Infanticide from a new alpha is not unusual behaviour where, by removing an un-weaned juvenile from a female, the female commences oestrus sooner, and the new male is then able to mate with her and rapidly pass on his genes into his new troop.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food from person																							
BABOON TROOP:	Zwaanswyk Troop	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: May - June	YEAR: 2014	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	24	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	Total
TKF 5 (Green)	F	5			2,5																									3
TKF 7 (Red)	F	5																												1
Sub adult	M	5			2,5							2																	3	
Un-ID fem	F	1			5																								1	
Un-ID Juvenile					2																								1	
<b>The Troop</b>		2																											1	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS					
Zwaanswyk Troop		0.0																												0.00
Individuals		0.0																												0.00
Males		0.0																												0.00
<b>Roost:</b>	AM	8	1	8	1	11	4	1	8	1	11	2	2	11	4	4	4	8	11	4	4	8	2	11	2	8	1	1	1	
<b>Roost:</b>	PM	1	8	1	11	4	1	8	1	11	2	2	2	4	4	4	8	11	4	4	8	2	11	2	8	1	1	1	8	
<b>Roost Sites</b>	1	Tea Garden				2	Upper Tea Garden				3	Level 1 Tokai Clearing				4	Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums				5	Level 2 Stream								
	6	Lower Guest House				7	Upper Guest House				8	Manor House				9	Tokai bridge Blue Gums				10	Level 2 Pines								
	11	Other				12					13					14					15									
<b>ID Features of Baboons</b>																														
<b>General remarks</b>																														

Fig.11. June raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Troop. All raids took place in the non-urban area.

### 3. Constantia Troop

During this reporting period, the Constantia Troop has spent most of its time on Groot Constantia as seen in raid sheet below. Despite this being a relatively clear raid sheet, it has not been a particularly quiet month for the Constantia Troop. Many attempts were made by several individuals to raid the restaurants, but to our knowledge, all were prevented.

On numerous occasions, the troop dispersed throughout the farm with some individuals venturing as far as the entrance gate of Groot Constantia. The HWS rangers have done well this month to keep them from entering the urban area on almost all occasions.

On 20 June, TK33 and CON6 entered Price Drive, however were unable to raid before HWS rangers pushed them back to the troop.

The PhD research project that is being conducted on the Constantia Troop continued this month, and males MT1, TK19 and TK33 were fitted with GPS collars. Additionally, a previously untagged baboon was tagged pink-white during the collaring progress, and assigned code CON8. Currently, eight of the ten males in Constantia now have research collars. No more are planned to be collared.

Baboon on baboon fighting within the Constantia Troop resulted in a laceration underneath the research collar on TK16's neck. It subsequently appeared that the collar was interfering with the wound and healing process and therefore, both the City of Cape Town's appointed Wildlife Veterinarian and the Baboon Research Unit's researchers were consulted.

It was agreed that the collar be removed to ensure the wound could heal adequately. However, several attempts to cage-capture or dart TK16 were unsuccessful. Following two weeks of attempting to capture TK16, it became apparent that his wound was healing despite the collar,

and the collar was therefore left on. HWS rangers and researchers are closely monitoring the healing process, and it has been reported that TK16 is moving and foraging normally.

On 2 June, a deceased juvenile from the Constantia Troop was found; the cause of death is unknown.

On 16 June, a new infant, suspected to be approximately 2 weeks old, was seen by HWS rangers.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food from person																							
BABOON TROOP:	Constantia Trp	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: May - June	YEAR: 2014	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	24	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	Total
TK 33 (R-O) Collar	M																												1	1
The Troop																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS						
Con Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	0.0																													0.00
Males	0.2																												45	0.75
Roost:	AM	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	
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	Buiten BG							
		6	Uitsig BG				7	Mckenziez/Groot				8	Other				9					10								
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Fig.12. June raid sheet for the Constantia Troop

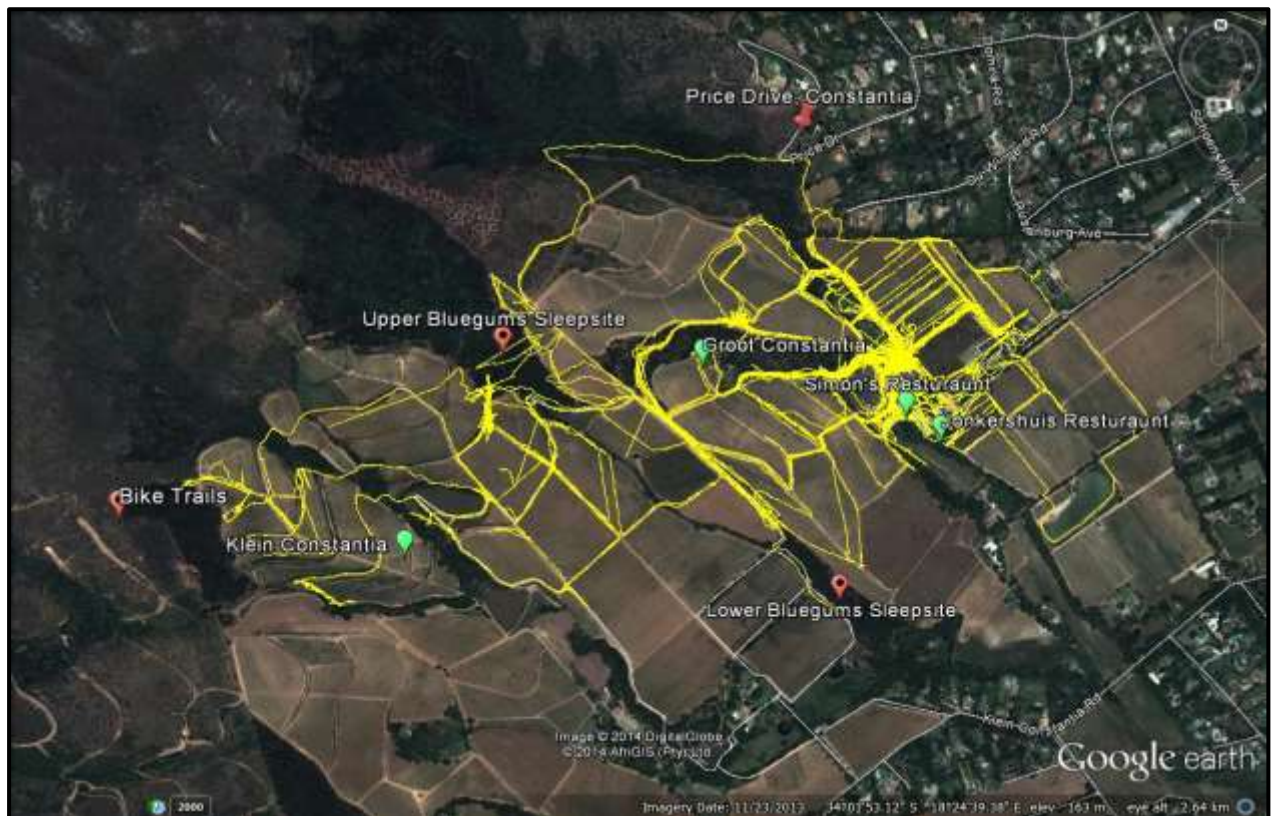


Fig.13. Tracking data for Constantia Troop for the June reporting period

#### 4. Mountain Troop

On two occasions this month, the Mountain Troop followed the trend of the northern baboons and pushed down into the lower lying areas.

We received an unconfirmed report of a house raid on Klein Constantia, which was suspected to emanate from the Mountain Troop; however, it is possible that this individual could have been from the Constantia Troop.

The Mountain Troop was also spotted in the lower lying areas of Buitenverwachting, yet all potential raids were prevented when Buitenverwachting rangers pushed the troop back out of the farm.

The Mountain Troop is accustomed to living on the mountain and therefore did not push down as much as the other northern troops.

#### **Births and Deaths**

On 2 June, a dead juvenile from the Constantia Troop was found, the cause of death unknown.

On 5 June, a stillborn was reported in the Tokai Troop.

On 6 June, the new alpha male in the Zwaanswyk Troop killed three juveniles.

On 13 June, a dead juvenile was found in the Tokai Troop, cause of death unknown.

On 16 June, a new infant was reported in the Constantia Troop on the 16 June.

#### **Recommendations**

**Fencing:** Fencing around the Tokai Picnic Site should be modified to make it baboon-proof. This would prevent a multitude of raiding opportunities for both the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops.

**Restaurants:** The restaurants on Groot Constantia should consider employing a baboon ranger and stationing him outside their establishments to prevent individual baboon raids.



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

The baboon population this month declined slightly by six animals. Although three deaths were as a result of infanticide, it is possible that this slight decline is also as a result of the cold wet season and lack of food. One infant was still born and two juveniles died of unknown causes.

**Population Data for the Ten Managed Troops  
on the Cape Peninsula**

TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	Total End Dec 2013	June Births	June Deaths	Total Births 2014	Total Deaths 2014	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATIO N
Da Gama Troop	54	44			1	2	43
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21			2	1	22
Waterfall Groot	28	30			0	1	29
Olifantsbos	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs							
Splinter	18	17			0	1	16
Slangkop	33	40		1	1	1	40
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>169</b>
Zwaanswyk	25	30		3	1	3	28
Tokai	61	70	1	2	6	6	70
Mountain	33	44			3	0	47
Constantia	60	72	1	1	2	5	69
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>383</b>

Fig.14. Population data for the ten managed troops on the Cape Peninsula.

**Hotline Data**

This month, the hotline calls again demonstrate two extremes in terms of baboon raiding behaviour. For most of the troops, there were very few or no hotline calls reporting baboon raids. However, calls from Welcome Glen and Scarborough again top the list. It is pertinent that these calls are in response to raids by troops (Da Gama and Misty Cliffs Splinter) that were previously renowned extremely bad raiders, regularly used to sleep in town (Da Gama still does), and are also splinter troops.

The Da Gama troop is particularly bad this month. It is worth noting that this troop previously comprised two troops that only re-joined about a year ago. It is therefore composed of a few factions, which are inclined to split up.

Furthermore, there are a few sub-adult males which are trying to establish their own followings, and so at times, the troop may break up into three or four groups as they try to raid town (Welcome Glen or Da Gama). When a troop breaks up into so many factions it makes it extremely difficult for the rangers to manage them all, so some baboons are bound to break through and raid town.

In the Misty Cliffs Troop, various individuals or small groups also regularly break away to raid town, thereby making the whole troop difficult to control.

“Other Raids” is again high this month, and this is because the male, GOB9, which escaped from Westlake prior to being radio collared, was still on the run in Muizenberg before being recaptured and returned to the Misty Cliffs Troop. The residents of Muizenberg and the surrounding areas are totally unused to baboons, so their houses provided easy access to a baboon that was looking for food.

It is pleasing to note that this month, despite the seasonal cold and lack of naturally available food, 84% of all hotline calls were merely reporting baboons being within the urban area. However, as usual, the next highest category of calls was still for baboons raiding occupied houses, at 10%.

Although raids of occupied houses are the most likely to be reported, this is still a worrying statistic which HWS are continually striving to reduce.

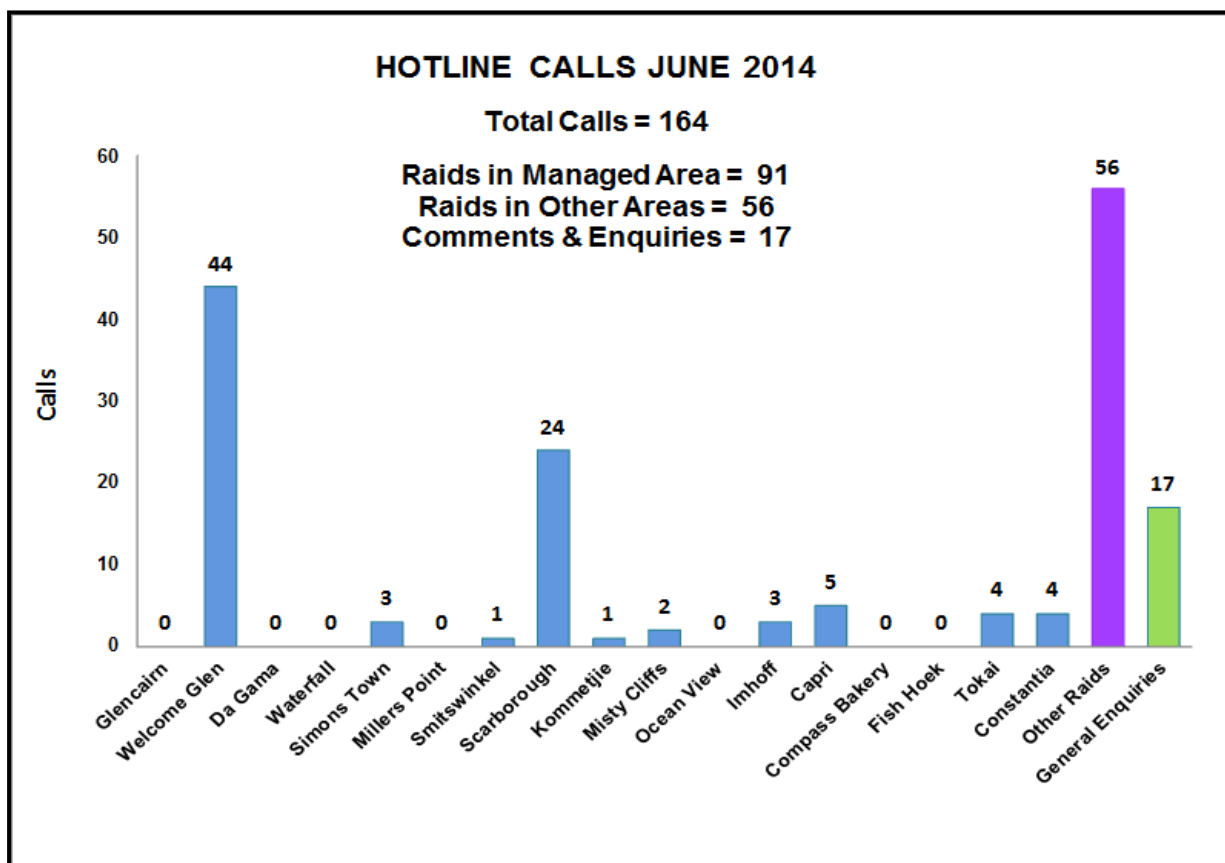


Fig.15. Hotline calls summary per area.

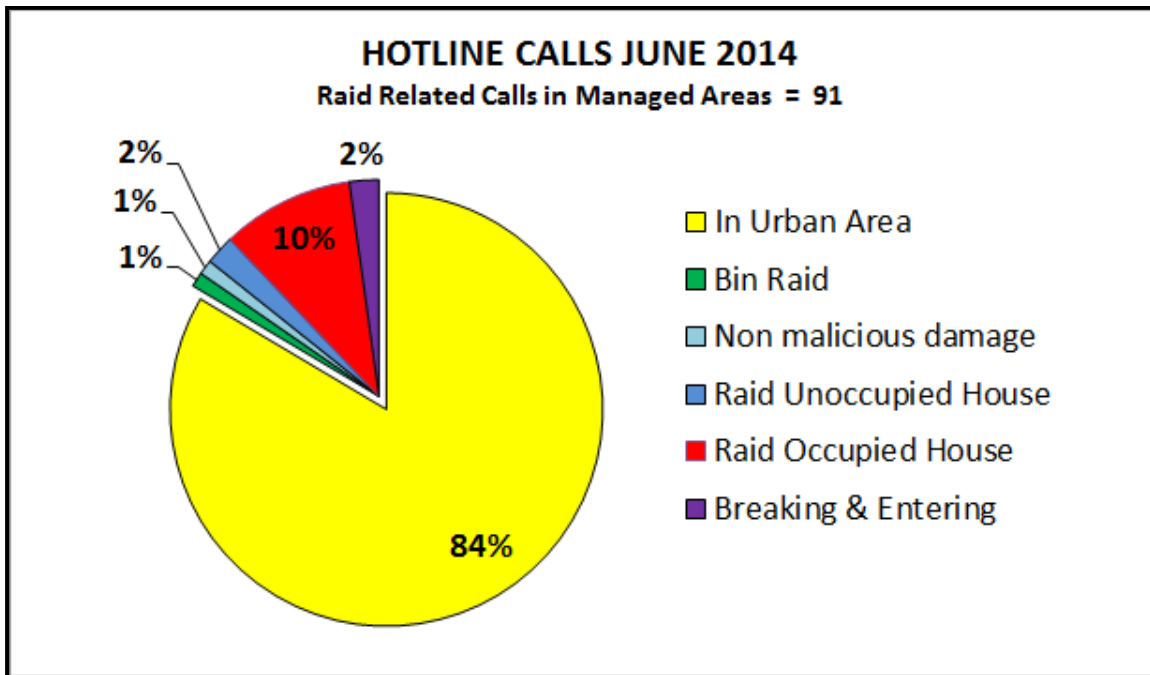


Fig.16. Raid-related hotline calls.

**Percentage Time out of Town**

The percentage time spent out of town by the managed baboon troops closely reflects the data from the hotline calls, with the Misty Cliffs and Da Gama Troops definitely being the worst raiders and spending the most time in town. There is one notable point however, and this is that although a number of small splinter groups from the Da Gama Troop did manage to break away and raid town, the whole troop was still relatively well behaved and spent 98.6% of its time out of town.

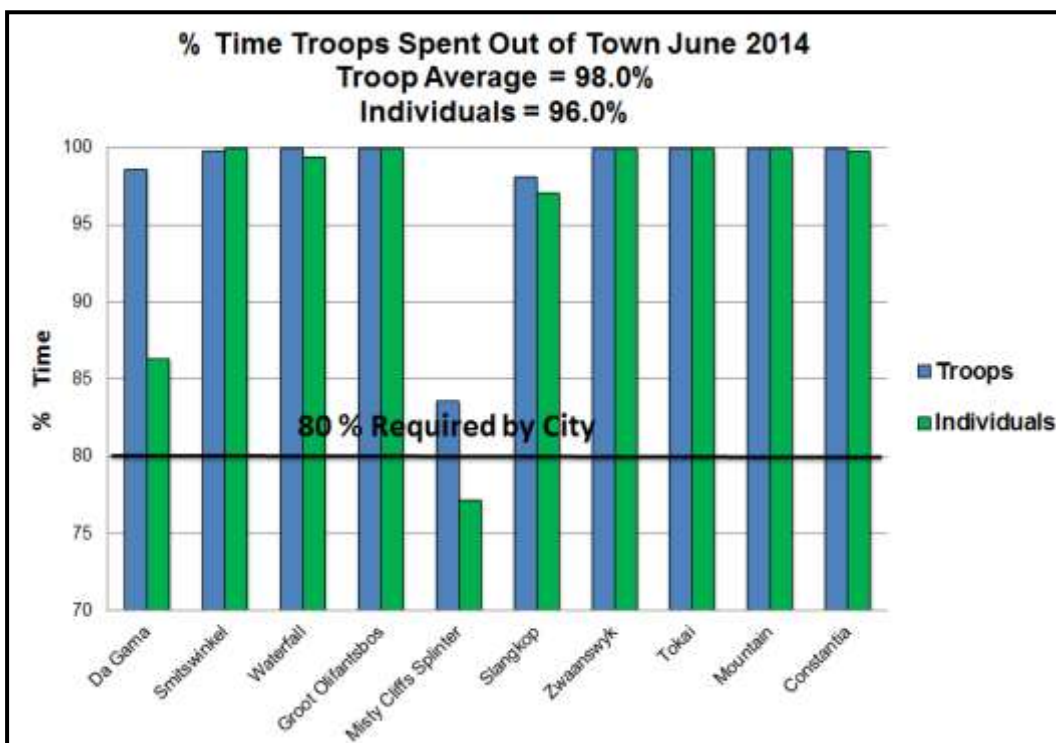


Fig.17. Percentage time troops spent out of town for the reporting period.

## **Conclusion**

The HWS data for June 2014 are very similar to those for May 2014. There are two major trends evident for both months.

The first is that all the baboons are suffering from the cold, wet season, which is characterised by a lack of natural food available in the fynbos. They all therefore prefer to sleep at lower altitudes, out of the worst of the cold and wind, and are therefore more likely to come into conflict with humans. Given this, it is pleasing to note how little time all of the troops, with the exception of the Misty Cliffs Troop, spent in town.

The second notable trend from the past two months is the tendency for individuals or small groups in the Da Gama and Misty Cliffs Troops, to break away and raid town on their own. This is most evident in the Da Gama Troop, and is most probably because of its history of being previously comprised of two troops and therefore having more factions within the troop.

Hopefully, with the arrival of spring within the next two months, this trend will be able to be reversed when there is more food available in the fynbos. In addition, it should be easier to encourage the troop to sleep at sleep sites out of town, which will further remove individual's inclinations to raid town.

Dr. Philip Richardson

**Human Wildlife Solutions**