



Monthly Report For March 2013



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A. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

This month's report covers the four week period from 23 February to 22 March 2013.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Manager Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

Although March was predominantly very successful there were a few incidents in the area.

During the late morning of the 3rd of March, SWB1 was involved in an altercation with a pit-bull at the Bluegums house, Castle Rock, when dog food was unfortunately left outside at the house. As the baboons



had been in the area all morning, the HWS Supervisor had earlier advised the owners of the house accordingly, requesting that all doors and windows be closed and dog food be taken inside, but unfortunately the request was unheeded. Dog food is usually kept outside in the garden at this house and is a constant cause of on-going conflict when baboons enter the garden to eat the food.

Fig.1. SWB1 attacked by two dogs

In this instance, the pit-bull attacked SWB1 and they subsequently fell down a steep embankment where a second dog attacked SWB1 from the rear with the pit-bull at its head. At this point the dog-owner arrived and proceeded to beat the baboon with a long stick that had nails on either end.



The dog finally released SWB1, who fled into the alien vegetation thickets. Veterinarian, Dr Currie and HWS Area Manager, Ziggy Rode, arrived on the scene to search for SWB1 however SWB1 was already very high up on the mountain when spotted. SWB1 was only seen again a few days later. This incident has been reported to both Cape Nature and the SPCA.

Fig.2. Stick used to beat SWB1 with blood-smearred nails on either end.



Splitting of the troop continued during March but did not occur as frequently as during February.

SWB4 also continued to be difficult to manage as SWB4 frequently splits away from the troop in an attempt to raid.

On 9 March the troop split into three with some individuals joining up with SWB1, a few others with SWB3 and with SWB4 going off on its own. SWB4 raided a bin on the road at Castle Rock corner. The HWS Area Manager, Ziggy Rode, attempted to drive the male away but SWB4 displayed aggressive and threatening behaviour towards her. Ziggy proceeded to use a paintball marker and SWB4 then left after which the bin was removed.

On 11 March SWB4 slept on its own in the Bluegums area and only re-joined the troop later the following day.

The Cape Argus Cycle Tour was extremely successful in terms of baboon management this year. It was said that this was the first time, since the inception of the Argus, that there were neither incidents nor baboons along the route. At the refreshment stations several cyclists asked why they had not seen any baboons.

On the day of the Cycle Tour we had our normal teams of rangers, plus another five pairs of rangers at drinking stations between Simonstown and Scarborough.

All of the rangers that were on duty at the Cycle Tour should be commended for doing an outstanding job in keeping the baboons in the natural vegetation and out of harm's way.

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	21	22	TOTAL							
BABOON TROOP:	Smits	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:	March																														
SWB3	M	7					1												1		7						5				
SWB1	M									5																	1				
SWB4	M	1		1		5*	5*		1		5,7	2,5,7		1	1				7	2		1		1			14				
SWB5	M																		1								1				
Troop																											0				
UnID Male	M					5*																					0				
	%																											HRS			
Troop	0.00																											0.00			
Males	1.36	15	10						20			10	40						5	35		30	40				3.42				
Roost:	AM	1	7	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	6	6	4	6	1	1	1	1,2	2	3	6	6	6	6	2		
Roost:	PM	7	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	3	6	6	4	6	2	1	1	1,2	2	3	6	6	6	6	3	2	3		
Roost Sites		1	Smits Caves				2	Partridge Point				3	Bluegums				4	Millers Point				5	Rocklands Farm								
		6	Castle Rock				7	SANParks																							
ID Features of Baboons		SWB3: collar, SWB4: Collar + double white tag, SWB1: Collar + blue & white tag, SWB5 = Red/Blue tags																													
General remarks		Town/Urban area = Millers Point boat launching area, caravan park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock Houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses 5* - raided on the ostrich farm, this area is not currently actively managed by HWS																													

Fig.3. Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

2. Waterfall Troop

Poor waste management at the Waterfall Barracks remained a problem throughout March as it poses a very strong attraction for the Waterfall troop. Bin raids continued around the Barracks due to the lack of both baboon proof bins and lockable bin rooms.

WF1 raided the ladies dormitory at the Happy Valley Shelter on two occasions when the door had been left wide open and there were no residents in sight. On 4 March, RH2 went down to Main Road (M4), Simon’s Town and raided a café but was driven back swiftly by the HWS Rangers.

Progress has been made on diagnosing the skin condition which has affected at least five individual baboons in the Waterfall troop. WF2 was darted by the veterinarian, Dr Currie, on the 14th of March and a skin biopsy was done. The preliminary diagnosis is Sarcoptic Mange although this has not yet been confirmed and further investigation is needed to obtain conclusive samples. At the time of taking the skin smear, the bare patch on WF2’s shoulder was already healing.



Fig.4 WF2 being examined.

Of the five other affected animals, one adult female has been severely affected by the skin condition and has experienced extreme hair-loss. This adult female is carrying an infant, but fortunately the infant does not appear to be affected at present.



Fig.5. Adult female with severe hair loss.

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: March		3 Non malicious damage												6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
WF2	M	5				2	2			2			2	2	2					2	2	2			2					11
WF1	M	5				2,5	2			2			2	2	5					2	2	2			2					12
UnID Females	F					2	2			2	2	2	2		2					2	2	2			2					11
TROOP				2	2					2			2	2	2					2	2	2			2					11
RH2	M					2	2			2	2,6	2	2		2					2	2	2			1	2				12
Juveniles		5				2	2			2			2	2	2					2	2	2			2					11
	%																									HRS				
Troop	1.7			15	25	20	15			15			20		10					60	50	10			10					4.17
Females	0.5									60	10																			1.17
Males	3.3	15		25	25	20	15			15	180	10	40	10	15					60	50	10		5	10					8.42
Roost:	AM	1	1	4	2	1	1	8	4	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
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																				
ID Features of Baboons		WF2 - red&blue tags + collar, WF1 - yellow&blue tag, RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																												
General remarks																														

Fig.6. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet

3. Da Gama/Glencairn

Following the dog attack on DG1 on 21 February, DG1 was released back into the troop on 25 February. DG1's condition has improved and seems to be well again. However the human-baboon conflict continues in Ocean View, and in fact has escalated over the last month. Some of the raids can be attributed to fruit and vegetables growing in gardens and other raids can also be attributed to waste management issues and easy access into houses.

Another dog attack occurred on 7 March when DG8 and a few females were in the Ocean View graveyard. The same pit-bull that was involved in the earlier altercation attacked DG8 and would not release him. HWS Supervisor, John de Jager and HWS Manager, Mark Duffel, attempted to separate the two, but this proved to be very difficult. Following a long struggle the dog finally released DG8, who escaped into the alien vegetation thicket. Veterinarian, Dr Currie, was consulted and it was decided that the injuries were not severe and DG8 would recover well.

Unfortunately, a week later on 14 March, DG8, together with several other baboons including DG1, entered Ocean View again. Following a protracted effort, the baboons were driven out and went into the alien vegetation behind Ocean View.

At the time it appeared that all of the baboons had made their way up the mountain. However, at approximately 14h30, we received a hotline call advising that there was an injured baboon lying under a motor car in Ocean View. HWS Supervisor, Jason Menzies, went to the area and found a male baboon lying underneath a parked car in a backyard in Ocean View but it was not possible to clearly identify the baboon at this stage. Jason received immediate and welcome assistance from TEARS animal rescue group, and the South African Police Service assisted with crowd management by cordoning the area off.

The baboon appeared to be seriously injured and could only roll back and forth slightly. When veterinarians from TEARS and the SPCA's Brett Glasby arrived the baboon was darted and taken to Alphen Animal Hospital. The baboon was subsequently identified as DG8 and under examination it was discovered that DG8 was severely underweight and its teeth were in very poor condition.



Taking into account the extent of the injuries, DG8's age and poor general condition, it was decided that the animal be euthanized for humanitarian reasons. A baboon in this condition would not be able to forage on natural vegetation and its survival would continue to depend on raids into urban areas.

Fig.7. DG8's poor dental condition

The level of conflict between humans and baboons in this urban area is of grave concern and all efforts need to be made to find a solution. Several baboons within the troop have unfortunately discovered that Ocean View offers easy access to food.



The situation has also been exacerbated by the fact that the troop discovered a new sleep site at Platkop which is close to Ocean View. This compounds the problem as the baboons run straight from there into Ocean View in the early morning. As a result, all efforts are being made to prevent the troop from sleeping there.

The Small Troop (ST) in Da Gama are also becoming increasingly difficult to manage as fracturing takes place within the troop during the day and small raiding parties enter the urban area at different locations and times to raid. The raiding parties consist of several combinations of baboons and this varies daily. The sub-adults and juveniles even enter the urban area on their own to raid.

The male that originated from Slangkop, SK3, has also started raiding on its own in town, entering both occupied and unoccupied houses.

When the ST splits it becomes extremely challenging to manage the troop effectively. Our efforts to encourage the baboons to sleep at a new cliff site out of town have unfortunately been unsuccessful. We employed additional rangers on night shifts to try and hold the baboons out of town.

After sunset, when it becomes dark the troop runs straight back to the flats in Da Gama and they sleep on either the Kroonseil or Bluefin (renovated) flats.

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 BT	2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
MONTH: March	YEAR: 2013	3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle				9 Nocturnal Raiding																				
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
Big Troop						2																								1
DG8	M				6	2		6						1							2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5
DG1	M		2			2															6		1					6		5
DG5	M	6+7	2			1	5		2	1		2	5	7							2							8		10
2x Sub-ad males	M	1	2				2			6		2		2							2							6		8
DGF3	F					1	2					2		2							2									5
DGF4	F					1	2		6			2		2							2									6
DG7	M	1	2			2			6			2		2							2									7
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Big Troop	0.3					60																								1.00
Individuals	2.8	120	135							120		80		45														10		9.00
Males	4.9	120	135			40	60		40	120		80		45							195		90				30		15.92	
Roost:	AM	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	
Roost:	PM	11	11	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	12	
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 Misty Cliff		12 Slangkop		13 Platkop																									
ID Features of Baboons	DG5: red yellow tags + Collar. DG1: Collar, DGF3: Three legs, DGF4: Crooked tale + old.																													
General remarks	New born BT baby was confirmed 25/02, 03/03 & 19/03 (DGF3), another 2 new boms were seen - total 5 new boms. DG1 released 25/02																													
	New sleep site - Platkop, used as of 14/03 (close to Oceanview)																													

Fig.8. Da Gama Big Troop Raid Sheet



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 ST	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: March	YEAR: 2013	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
Small Troop						2		2			1										1		1				1		6	
DGF1	F					2		2															2						3	
DGF2	F					2		2																					2	
UnID sub-adult	M							2																					1	
UnID Juv								2				1			6,7		6,6	1			1	8					1		10	
ST Male	M					2		2	2	6											1	1		2		6		6	1	10
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Small Troop	0.6					15		20			30											15		20				10		1.83
Juveniles	1.3							90					80				20	10		20	30									4.17
Males	2.4					15		20	40	120					120		20	10		20	30		20		20		10	10		7.58
Roost: (Small)	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost: (Small)	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Roost Sites	1	Flats					2	Pines - Flats					3	Pines - Da Gama					4	Pines - Welcome Glen					5					
	6	Compass Bakery					7	Pines - Outspan					8	Jacks Shop					9	Elsie's Peak					10					
	11	Misty Cliff																												
ID Features of Baboons	DGF1 - Female with collar + blue/white tags																													
DGF2 - Female with crooked hand																														
General remarks																														

Fig.9. Da Gama Small Troop Raid Sheet

Births and Deaths

Four births took place in the Da Gama BT. One infant was seen early in the month (date of birth unknown), and another two infants were born on 03/03 and 19/03 (to DGF3).

DG8 was euthanized on 14 March 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Alien vegetation clearing behind Ocean View is needed urgently, as baboons are able to take cover in the alien thickets thus evading rangers and entering Ocean View to raid.

Environmental and animal welfare education in Ocean View is strongly recommended.

Further consultation with the Navy is needed with regard to waste management as it is proving increasingly difficult to keep baboons out of the Waterfall Barracks when resources are scarce in the mountain. The rewards gleaned by the baboons raiding the Barracks are high and it therefore remains a constant attraction.



South Western Region – Manager Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

The GOB troop has been in the Cape of Good Hope Reserve for the month of March. The troop has moved between the areas of Olifantsbos and the cliff site on the Bonteberg ridge (C2), across to the picnic site at Perdekloof and as far up as Klaasjagersberg.

From the 23rd Feb until the 22nd March the troop has spent only 4 days at Olifantsbos. The rest of the time the troop has slept at the Bonteberg (C2) cliffs. Every day the troop has slept there they are led towards the Scarborough/Red Hill area by a young male with a double blue tag, GOB2. When the troop is prevented from crossing the Reserve fence in the Scarborough/Red Hill area the blue tagged male carries on up the fence line along Plateau Rd.

Every day since the 6th March one of the supervisors has patrolled in a vehicle along this road from the Schusterskraal picnic site in Scarborough to the Klaasjagersberg area in order to find where this troop is and to prevent them from leaving the reserve.

On the 3rd March the GOB troop crossed Red Hill Rd in the Perdekloof area and made their way up onto the ridge above Scarborough. The rangers were not aware that the troop had crossed the road and it was only after residents of Hilltop Rd made a call to the hotline that rangers responded to the troop in the area.

The rangers were able to prevent the majority of the troop from entering Scarborough by keeping the alpha male KOB1 above the fire-break. However, the young GOB2, together with 7 females and juveniles, managed to break through the line and raided properties 19 and 21 Hilltop Rd. The rangers were able to push the rest of the troop, including KOB1, back into the Reserve but GOB2 and 7 females and juveniles remained behind in Scarborough and spent the night at 21 Hilltop Rd. The next morning these eight baboons were pushed out of Scarborough and back to the troop on the Bonteberg ridge.

This is the most time any of the GOB troop has spent in Scarborough since July 2012. The time spent in Scarborough by the eight individuals overnight was 18 hours.

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs troop was kept in the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (C2 cliff site) from the 20th February until the 11th March.

During this time the unidentified female with the baby broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough on its own. This occurred on the 28th February and the 5th, 7th and 9th March. On three occasions this unidentified female was followed in by GOB5, on two occasions by MCF1 and once by MC1.

On the 9th March all four baboons made their way back to the Misty Cliffs sleep site where they stayed overnight leaving the rest of the troop in the Reserve. On the 10th March they returned to the troop in the Reserve.



Figure 10: Misty Cliffs Troop Roost Sites for March 2013

March Raids:

On the 11th March GOB5 entered a house in Old Camp Rd, Misty Cliffs through an open window. After raiding the house GOB5 exited by forcing a sliding door off its rails. This was confirmed when the guest staying at the house when spoke with the HWS supervisor, who spent most of the day trying to prevent the troop from returning to the house.

On the 14th GOB5 entered the same house through the same sliding door. GOB5 also reportedly forced open the door of the neighbouring house during this time.

On the 13th and 17th March GOB5 raided occupied houses in Misty Cliffs and on the 16th March GOB5 raided an unoccupied building in Watsonia Rd, Scarborough. Both these raids were through open doors or windows.

On the 14th and 19th March MC1, together with a female in estrus, left the troop early in the morning to enter Scarborough. They remained in Scarborough for most of the two days and only joined the troop again late in the afternoon.

Comments and Observations

The challenge for the first 10 days of March was holding the troop in the Reserve. The female with the baby regularly broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough on its own. This led to the troop splitting because other baboons followed it into town.

Once the troop managed to break out of the Reserve and back to the Misty Cliffs sleep site the challenge became managing GOB5 as GOB5 would regularly enter into Misty Cliffs on its own, causing damage to properties by removing sliding doors from their railings and raiding occupied houses.



On the 13th the rangers kept the troop up at the Kleinplaas Dam all day and on returning in the evening, just after the rangers went home GOB5 raided an occupied house.

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: March		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																		
YEAR: 2013		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																							
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL	
GOB5	M											2		2		2	2	8		6	8		5	6	1	2	1	1	1		
MCF1	F											2				2	2	1		1	1		2	1	1	2					
MC1	M															2	2	1		1	1		5	1	1	2	1	2	1		
Female with baby	F						1					2		2		2	2	1		1	1		1	1	1	2	1	1	1		
Troop																			1		1		2	2	1	2	1	1	1		
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS			
Troop	5.7																	60		120		300	20	50	300	15	45	240		19h10	
Males & Females	12.9						20					40		50		120	180	60		40	420		300	20	50	540	240	300	240		43h40
Roost:	AM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost Sites	1	Misty Cliffs				2	CoGH Reserve				3					4					5										
	6					7					8					9					10										
ID Features of Baboons	GOB5 had a double red tag and a VHF collar MCF1 has a missing forearm. MC1 is young adult male.																														
General remarks	The high percentage of time spent in town for the males & females is mostly due to MCF1 breaking away from the troop to spend entire days in Scarborough on her own. She was often accompanied by MC1 and a female with baby.																														

Figure 11: Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Troop: March 2013

The other challenge in March was trying to manage MC1, who since being out of the Reserve has taken to leaving the troop much more regularly to enter Scarborough. MC1 is now the first to break away from the troop whereas before it would usually be MCF1. In the last two weeks MC1 has been followed by one or two females that would ordinarily remain with GOB5. It has been noted by the rangers that MC1 is often trying to run away with females in estrus which has resulted in more frequent altercations with GOB5. MC1 will leave the troop with these females early in the morning and will hide in Scarborough for most of the day. The remaining baboons, especially GOB5, become harder to manage when MC1 and these females are missing from the troop.

A resident of 130 Hilltop Rd has reported a lone female that seems to be hanging around the neighbouring property. The resident believes that this female is sleeping in the grounds of the property and has been seen there for days at a time. When the rangers have visited the property the female has not been seen but the supervisor believes it is the female that could possibly have bad eyesight or some other health issue which makes it behave strangely. This female often gets separated from the troop or is left behind when the troop moves from place to place.

One of the most pressing problems since the troop has been back at the Misty Cliffs (C1) site is the lack of available water outside of the urban edge. The supervisors have noticed that raiding, especially in Misty Cliffs, has occurred after individuals or the troop have accessed water from swimming pools. While the troop was in the Reserve they would drink at 'Die Mond' on a daily basis but since there is no naturally available water source in the Misty Cliffs/Scarborough area the troop is forced to find water in town. On two days the rangers managed to push the troop to Kleinplaas Dam in order to encourage them to drink there, but they have never done so of their own accord.

The troop does not leave the Misty Cliffs/Scarborough area voluntarily and pushing them to the dam is challenging and often results in the troop splitting and running for the urban areas.

3. Slangkop Troop

From the 23rd February to 22nd March the troop has moved between the C2 and C3 roost sites.

On the 25th February the troop made use of the artificial water point that was installed on the Kompanjiesuin development site below the C3 cliffs. Since then, throughout March, the troop as a whole has been prevented from crossing into urban areas or crossing Kommetjie Rd to Compass Bakery 99.8% of the time.

On the 3rd March the rangers lost sight of the troop in low cloud on the mountain which allowed the troop to enter 'Small Capri' where they raided a garden but did not gain entry into the house. The only other raids into urban or industrial areas were by individual baboons breaking away from the troop in two's and three's and at the most 10 baboons crossed Kommetjie Rd to Compass Bakery and into Imhoff's Gift.

The biggest challenge in March has been managing three males (SK2 and two younger males) as well as two specific females, one with a baby, who regularly break away from the troop to raid bins in Mathews Rd, Ocean View as well as Compass Bakery and Imhoff's Gift.

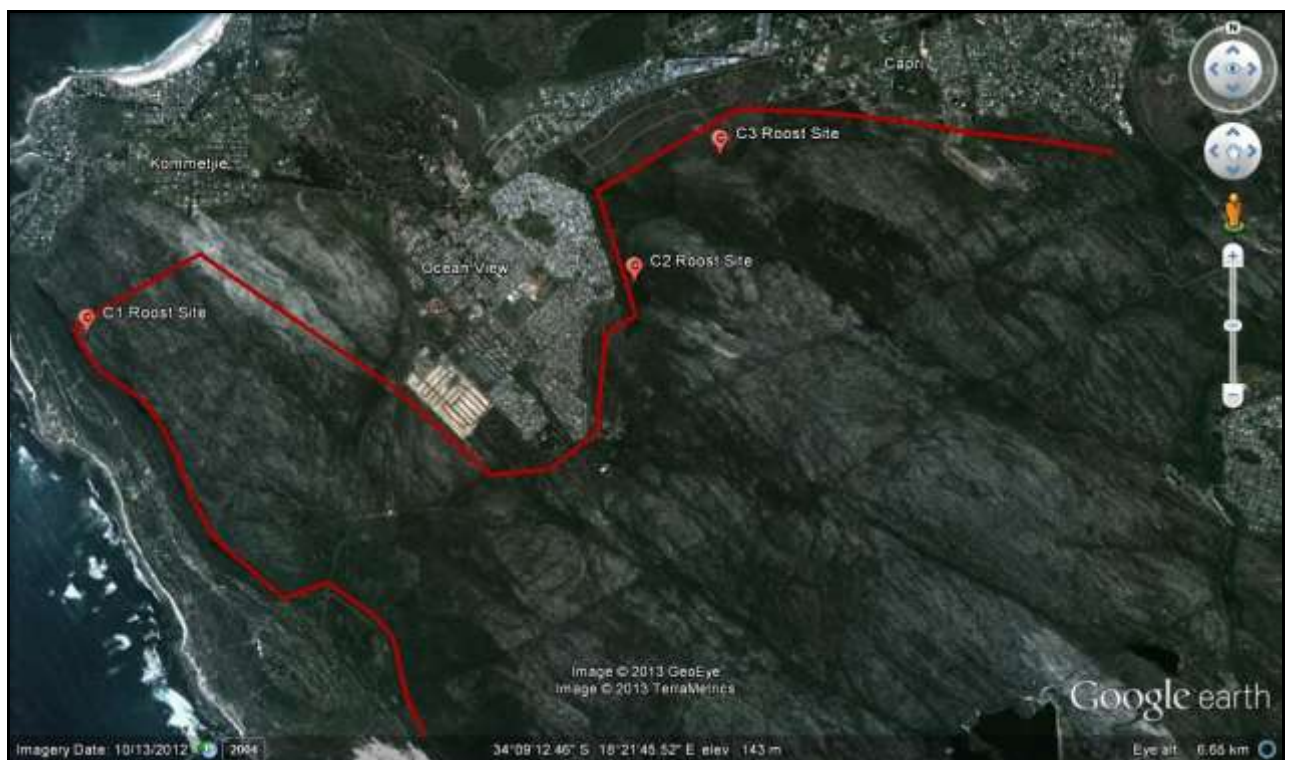


Figure 12: Slangkop Troop Roost Sites March 2013

March Raids:

SK2, a female and the two young males have regularly broken away from the troop to enter Imhoff's Gift from either the Heron Park Industrial area or down Atlantic Drive.

On the 13th March both young males raided an occupied house in Cormorant Circle, Imhoff's Gift.

On the 15th March SK2 raided an occupied house in Harrier Circle, Imhoff's Gift.



On the 19th March SK2 stole food from an employee of Compass Bakery.

On the 20th March SK2, together with the female with a baby raided two houses at the bottom of Atlantic Drive, Imhoff's Gift.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1 In urban area				4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																				
MONTH: March		2 Raid bins				5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
YEAR: 2013		3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
DG6	M		2														1	2										5		4
SK2	M		2														1		2							7	5,6			9
Sub-adult Male1	M		2			2		2				2	2				1	2		6		6	2			2		5		12
Sub-adult Male2	M							2				2					1	2	2	6						2		5		8
Unidentified Female	F		2			2		2				2	2				1	2					2	2						9
Unidentified Female	F					2		2				2					1	2					2							6
Troop										1																				1
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Troop	0.2									40																				0h40
Males & Females	1.9	75				10		15				10	5						30	40	120		20				20	45		6h30
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	
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 SK2 has a green/red tag and a VHF collar																												
General remarks		In the month of March 2 births were recorded																												

Figure 13: Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – March 2013

Comments and Observations

The installation of the artificial water point below the Compass Bakery (C3) cliffs has made managing the troop much easier. Although certain individuals are still breaking away from the troop to raid Compass Bakery and Imhoff's Gift, the troop as a whole has not needed to cross Kommetjie Rd or enter the Solole Reserve to access water. This has reduced the resulting raids in the urban areas. In Figure 14 below, the frequencies with which the troop raided urban areas after drinking from four different water sources are listed, comparing February before the new water source was added below the C3 sleepsites, and March after it was installed.

Not surprisingly, the troop never raided after drinking rain water on the mountain. In March they drank at the new waterhole on 11 occasions, drank rain water on another 7 occasions / days (they generally only drink once a day), and drank only once at Solole and raided Capri immediately thereafter. In March they never drank at the Municipal Treatment Plant (MTP) which is situated below the new waterhole. In February the troop raided every time after visiting the Solole Reserve waterhole but only managed to raid once after visiting the MTP. This difference can probably be explained simply by terrain. From the Solole waterhole it is only about 50 meters to Capri, whereas the troop is much more easily managed in the relatively open terrain around the MTP. To conclude, the frequency with which baboons raided in February, when there was no suitably placed artificial water source out of town, was five times greater than in March, after the new waterhole had been installed.



MONTH	WATER SOURCE and NUMBER OF DAYS ACCESSED BY TROOP								TOTAL NUMBER OF RAIDS
	WATER TANK		SOLELE RESERVE		MUNICIPAL TREATMENT PLANT		RAINFALL		
	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	DRINK	RAID	
FEBRUARY	No Water tank		4	4	5	1	5	0	5
MARCH	11	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	1
Comments: Water tank installed on 25 th Feb February data set: 01 Feb – 25 th Feb March data set: 26 th Feb – 22 nd March Raiding data indicates raids by troop and not individual males									

Figure 14: Slangkop troop frequency of raiding urban areas after drinking at different water sources.

SK2 remains the biggest challenge as SK2 is regularly breaking away from the troop with one or two females, and recently with the two younger males, to raid Compass Bakery, Imhoff's Gift and Ocean View. In the last two weeks the two young males have also broken off from the troop to go raiding on their own.

The alien vegetation above Capri has been removed. This has helped in preventing the troop raiding Capri as it increases the buffer zone between the C3 sleep site and the urban edge and reduces the dense cover that the troop used to break the line past the rangers into Capri. There is currently alien clearing being done on the Kompanjiesuin development site by a private contractor which, when it is completed, will help to reduce raiding of Imhoff's Gift by individual males who use the cover of the alien vegetation to break away from the troop.

Births and Deaths

In the month of March there were two births recorded in the Slangkop troop. There were no births recorded for the Misty Cliffs troop in March.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop over the next month will be to return them to the Reserve and prevent them from entering Scarborough and returning to the Misty Cliffs roost site. The long term goal is to condition the troop to thinking of the C2 cliff site in the Reserve as their preferred roost site. As it is difficult to keep the troop in the Reserve for very extended periods of time, especially at the end of summer when natural food reserves are low, further measures must be looked into that will help to keep the troop in the Reserve permanently.

The aggressive nature of GOB5's raiding must be addressed. In the last two months GOB5 has broken into a number of properties by damaging doors and windows. Residents have also expressed concern about the aggression GOB5 has shown toward them.

The issue of available water for the troop in the Misty Cliffs/Scarborough area at the end of summer needs to be considered. Providing the Slangkop troop with an artificial water point has reduced raiding by the troop in the urban areas and this should also apply to the Misty Cliffs troop although the distance from their roost site to the urban edge is much less, therefore making them more difficult to contain.

North Region – Manager Stefan Theron

1. Tokai Main Troop

Feeding by the troop at the refuse skip opposite the Cape Research Centre and Bosdorp has only occurred twice this month and purely due to human error when the skip was left open. This is in stark contrast with previous months when the skip acted as a regular feeding station.

The skip has been replaced with a refurbished skip in accordance to an instruction issued by SANParks to the waste removal contractor. The new skip has four hooks at each corner where the lids are attached with chains. At this stage the baboons seem to be confused by this mechanism

On Saturday, 2nd March, the Tokai area was quite full of activity with a number of visitors. On this day TK28 stole food from the Porter Fresh Produce Market and from picnickers in the SANParks picnic area. TK23 jumped into a car through an open window to investigate a take away coffee cup.

At times during the course of the day when the number of people visiting the picnic area increased, it seemed to attract more baboons over the electric fence looking for a quick meal in the freshly stocked trash bins. TK28 hijacked a piece of fruit from a horse stable feeding trough and TK9 stole a carrot from a horse's mouth. The troop clearly sees the horse stabling ranges as prime opportunistic feeding areas. Despite the highly palatable kikuyu paddock lawns, the horses also regularly have to share their oat bails, pellets, mielies and treats with the baboons.



Figure 15: Refurbished Skip at Cape Research Centre

On Sunday, 3rd March two young baboons removed the rubber roof strips from a parked vehicle at the Arboretum Tea Garden.

On Wednesday, 6th March, a Chrysalis Academy student was seen feeding a baboon and when approached by an HWS Ranger, he responded with verbal abuse.



Figure 16: Car window damage

On the 7th of March, TK9 and TK23 from the Tokai Main Troop were euthanized as a result of numerous reports of extensive conflict during the past six months affecting both residents and visitors to the Tokai SANParks area, Porter Estate and the Chrysalis Academy.

On the 9th of March, two juvenile baboons dropped a green pine cone onto a parked vehicle windshield while playing at the Arboretum Tea Garden. The windshield was cracked and the bonnet of the car dented in the process.

On Sunday 17 March, a sub-adult baboon approached a woman and child holding a bag of sweets at the Arboretum Tea Garden. They subsequently dropped the sweets and fled the scene leaving the baboon to help itself.

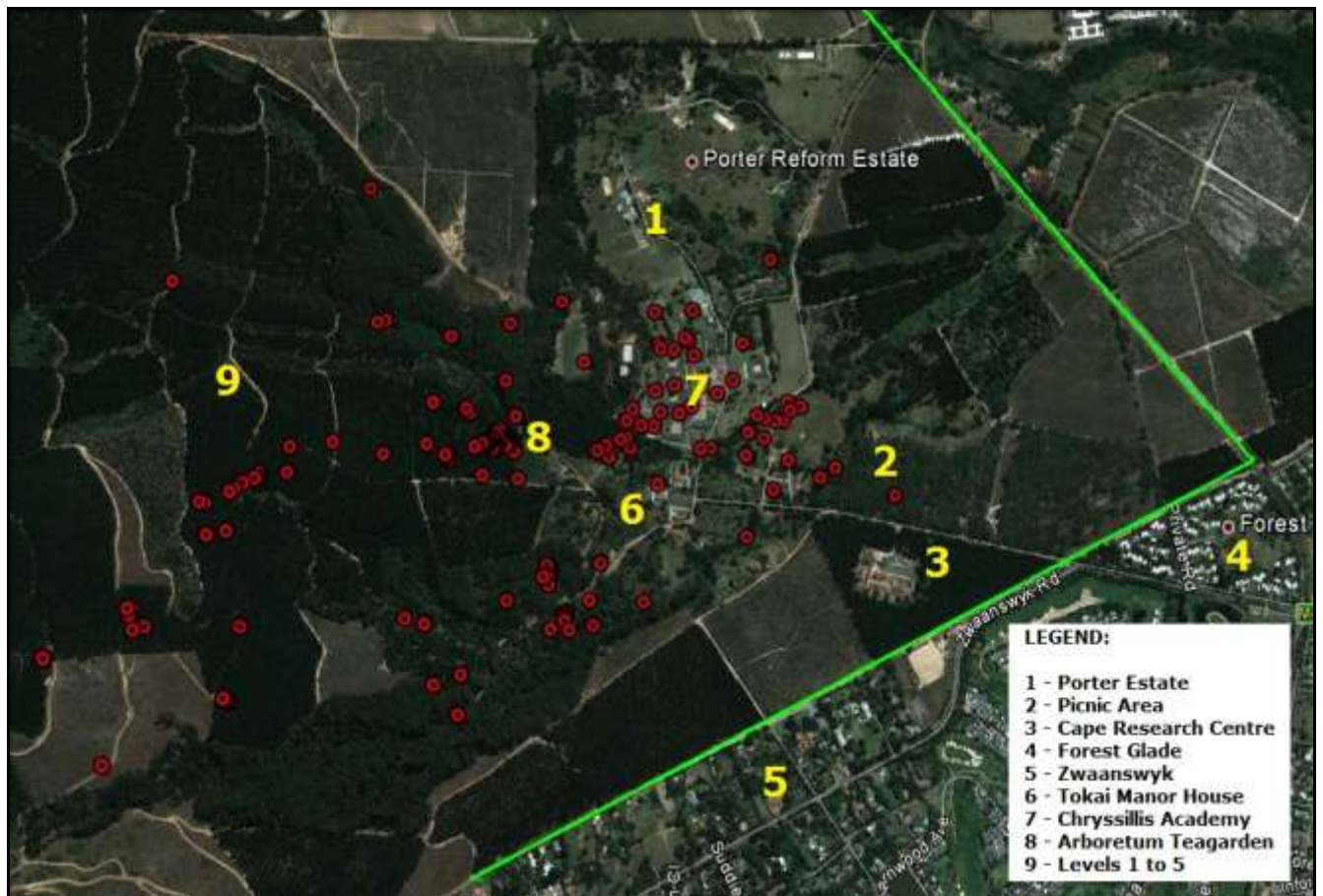


Figure 17: The daily spatial ranging of the Tokai main troop from 23 February to 22 March 2013.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Tokai		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
MONTH: March		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
YEAR: 2013		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
TK23	M								7																					1
TK28	M								5																					1
Unidentified Sub-Adult	M																							7						1
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																							HRS				
Males		0							0																					0
Troop		0																												0
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Roost Sites		1	Plantation behind Eagle Owl Guest house										2	Arboretum Tea Garden										3	Levels					
ID Features of Baboons		TK23 - Tagged Yellow/White. TK28 - Tagged Blue/Green.																												
General remarks																														

Figure 18: Tokai Main Troop Raid Report for March

2. Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop

Possibly the most important factor determining the daily movements of the Zwaanswyk Troop, is their desire to avoid conflict with the Tokai Main Troop which seem, to large extent, to follow the former around. Males from the Tokai Main Troop regularly chase individuals from the Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop.

On the 6th March, TK35, the current troop alpha, had an altercation within the troop in the Zwaanswyk plantation. This resulted in the troop running down the fence firebreak and ending up almost at the hut on the road at the entrance to Zwaanswyk. The rangers responded promptly to the subsequent hotline call and managed to push the troop back before any baboons could cross over into the urban area.

On the 9th March, a juvenile climbed into a car parked at the Arboretum Tea Garden as the car door had been left open. The baboon managed to steal a tube of hand cream.

On the 11th March, a young male opened the Tea Garden shop bathroom door and raided the plastic liner bag in the dustbin.

On the 16th March, a child riding a bicycle in the Arboretum parking area rode over a baboon infant. The troop responded to the infant's screams. An HWS ranger resolved the situation by chasing the troop away with the infant returning to the troop. The infant showed no visible injuries.

On the 18th March, was there a significant altercation within the troop in the tree canopies above the Arboretum. Later during the day a severely injured two month old infant was observed.

On the 20th of March the infant was cage trapped and, for humanitarian reasons, was euthanized by veterinarian Dr Currie as it had sustained severe scalp and eye injuries as well as hip joint dislocation.



Figure 19: Infant with severe scalp and eye injuries and hip dislocation

The scalp injury alone revealed a 5cm x 2cm area of exposed skull bone and an even larger area was covered by a flap of loose scalp. The hip joint dislocation was most likely due to its mother trying to pull it from the jaws of its assailant.



Figure 20: TK35 tagged Red/Yellow and VHF collared.

TK35, the troop alpha male, was cage trapped at the same time in order to prevent the possibility of him behaving aggressively towards the captors of the infant and its mother. TK35 was subsequently tagged red/yellow, VHF collared and released.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: ZWK		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
MONTH: March		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
YEAR: 2013		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
Unidentified Juvenile	M															5														1
Unidentified Sub-Adult	M																5													1
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Males	0															0	0													0
Troop	0																													0
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	
Roost Sites	1	Arboretum Tea Garden										2	Plantation above CRC										3	Levels						
	4	Corporate Braai Area																												
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 21 : Zwaanswyk Troop Raid Report for March

Constantia Troop

The Constantia troop spends the majority of its time on SANParks land along the mountainside facing the vineyards.

As grape harvesting season reached its peak this month, the farm monitors were working diligently to prevent the troop from entering the vineyards.

Intense daily altercations are a common occurrence between the adult males because of the large number of males in the troop.

TK15, tagged orange/yellow, is becoming more dominant and may soon take over the alpha position. TK15 is currently the largest male.

TK13, tagged orange/green, remains the troop's alpha male and seems to be the main leader in attempts to raid the vineyards, often being the first one on the farms.

On certain days the troop splits and one group ranges up on the mountainside and the other group attempts to enter the vineyards. On other days, after substantial resistance from the monitors on the vineyard boundaries, the troop tended to scatter into smaller pockets along the Buitenverwachting and Klein Constantia fences.

The baboons were very persistent and continued attempting to enter the farms at certain sections of the electric fence. The persistent resistance by the vineyard monitors using motor cycles, bear bangers and paintball markers has resulted, to a certain extent, in the Constantia troop range being moved more to the South and East overlapping a margin of the Mountain troop's current home range where the two troops are within 100 meters from one another on certain days.

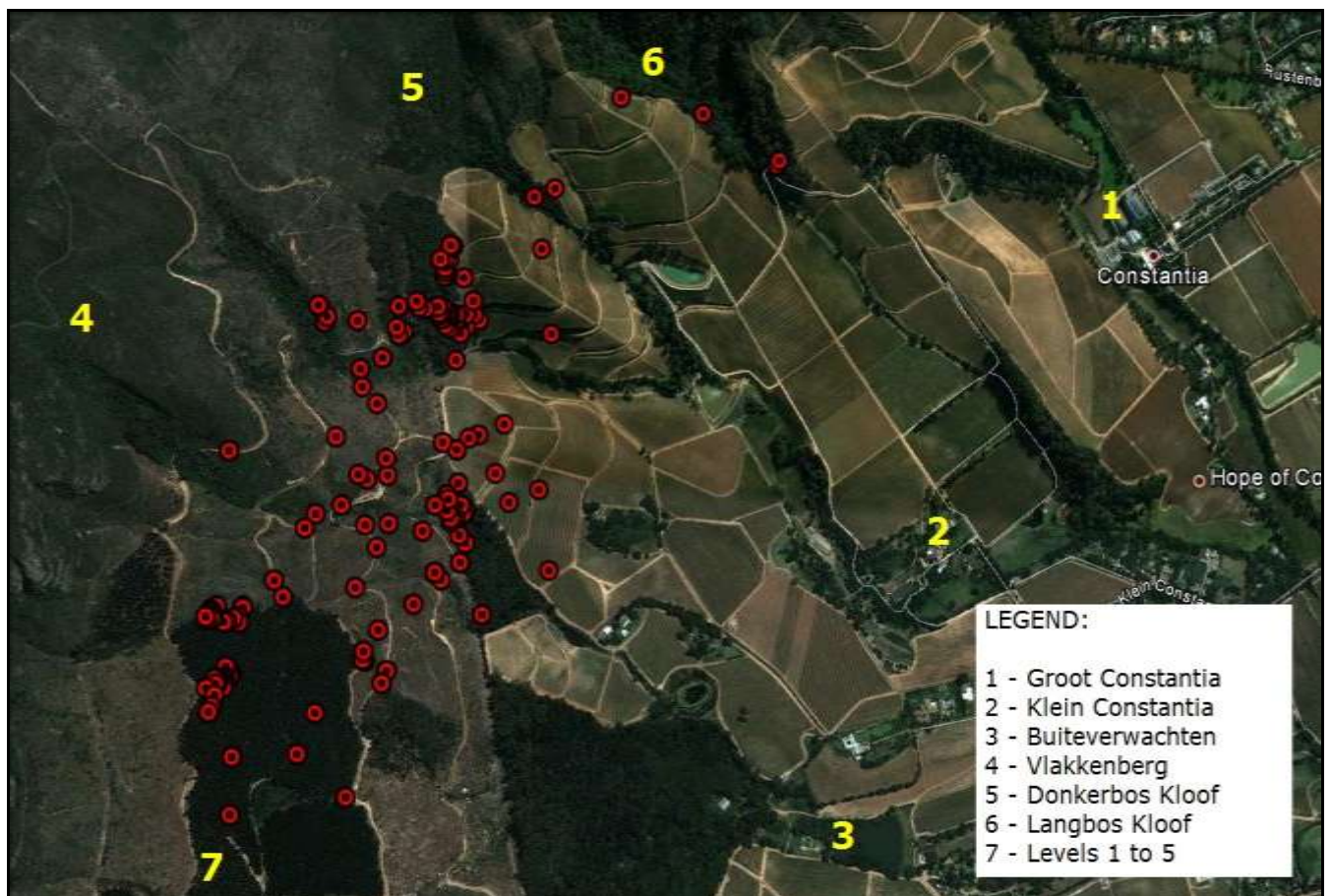


Figure 22: The daily spatial ranging of the Constantia Troop from 23 February to 22 March 2013.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
BABOON TROOP:	CON	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: March	YEAR: 2013	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
N/A																														0
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS			
Males	0																													0
Troop	0																													0
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	2	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	2	1	
Roost Sites	1	Level 1 Plantation behind Klein Constantia													2	Level 3 Plantation														
	3	Eucalyptus stand behind Klein Constantia																												
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 23 : Constantia Troop Raid Report for March

3. Ghost / Mountain Troop

With the vineyard grapes in season, this month the troop spent a better part of their time attempting to enter Buitenverwachting and Uitsig. They entered predominantly through the old Eucalyptus plantation in the steep Kloof which is adjacent to the two farms at the South West corner of the fence. Once they enter the farms it is impossible for the rangers to follow them on foot and they usually need to wait for them to return.

The troop's excursions were usually for two hours or so until there were chased back by vineyard monitors. They have, on occasion, moved high up in the levels to within a hundred meters of Elephant's Eye or in line with Vlakenberg. This could be to avoid conflict with the Constantia troop which has, on occasion, ranged up to the Buitenverwachting boundary into their home range.

Compared to the other Northern troops, this troop doesn't range far from their primary roosting site which is at the old Eucalyptus plantation in the steep kloof and adjacent to the two farms.

Although extensive habitat was lost recently as a result of forestry removing a block of pine plantations, (approximately a third of their home range), they seem to forage actively on old rehabilitating blocks of vegetation in primary succession as well as pioneer species of fynbos, sourveld and alien invasives. Presumably therefore these blocks do provide sustenance to the baboons, particularly when they cannot access the vineyards.

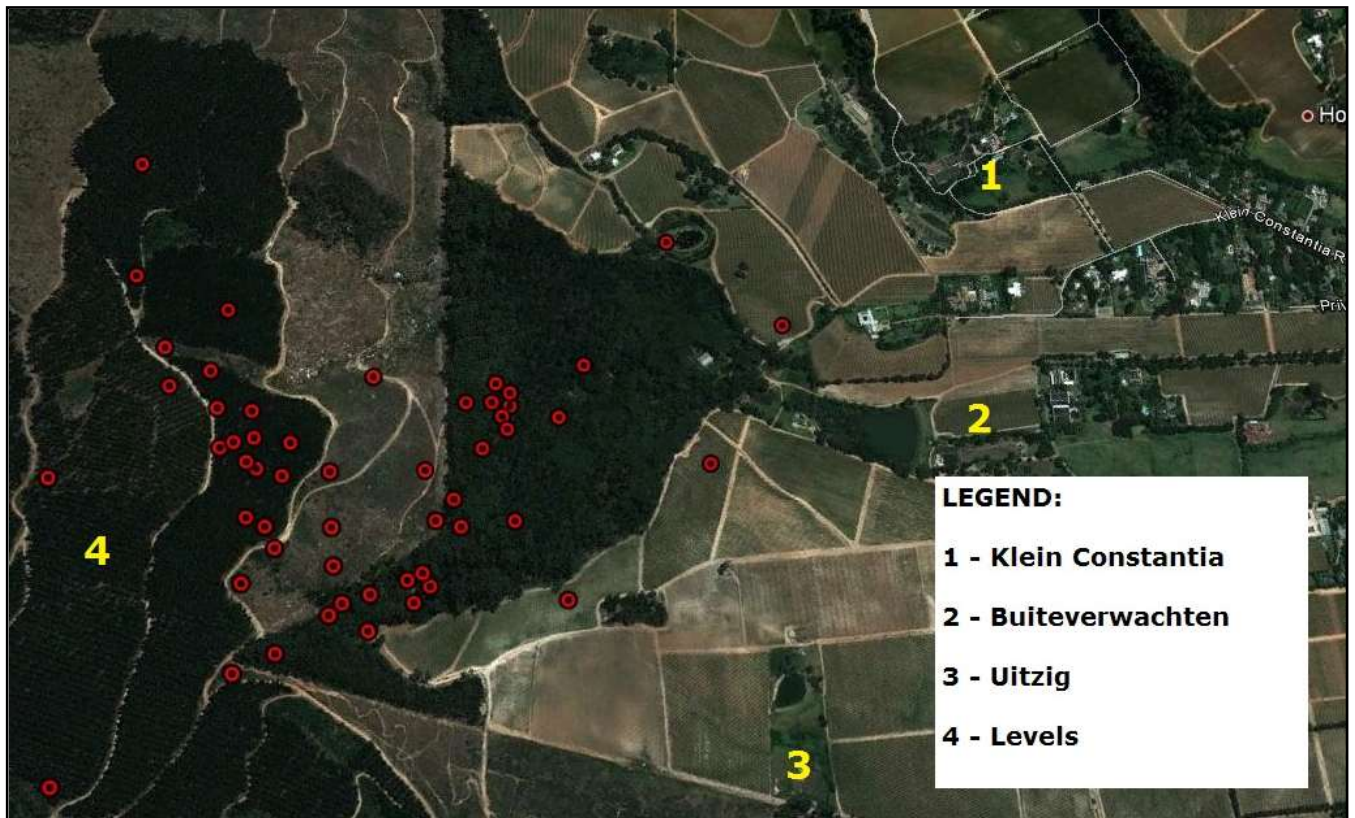


Figure 24: The daily spatial ranging of the Mountain troop from 23 February to 22 March 2013.

Births and Deaths

Troop	Births	Deaths
Tokai Main Troop	2	2
Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop	0	1
Constantia Troop	2	0
Mountain Troop	3	0
Total	7	3

Figure 25: Births and Deaths for March 2013

RECOMMENDATIONS

Significant signage needs to be erected at the Arboretum Tea Garden parking area and Tokai picnic area warning visitors not to have open food and drinks exposed. People also need to be warned to keep their vehicles locked and that baboons can cause damage to parked vehicles. On average, one vehicle a week gets damaged. This ranges from broken off side-mirrors, windscreen wipers, antennae, cracked windshields and having door and window rubbers removed.



In the Price Drive area refuse bins need to be baboon-proofed. With the grape harvesting coming to an end, certain raiding baboons will soon start to focus their attention on the urban areas and the vineyard's restaurants again.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

Since the 2012 annual baboon census, the population of the 11 managed troops has increased from 354 to 374 in only 3 months. During this time there have been 28 births and 8 deaths, of which 4 were this last month. One death was the scalped baby that was euthanised after a suspected attempted infanticide. Another was the very old male DG8, who was also euthanised after being attacked by dogs and people in Ocean View. The other two deaths were the two old habitual raiders TK9 and TK23 from the Tokai main troop who were euthanised because of increased raiding and conflict with humans.

Over the past few months the question has been asked whether paintballing baboons as an aversion technique is adversely affecting their welfare, particularly their breeding. The population data cited above would seem to suggest not. Over the past three months the managed population of baboons has increased by 5.6%. If one extrapolates these figures to one year this would be a population increase of 22.6%. This is more than double the maximum growth rate reported over the past few years. It is most unlikely that the baboons will continue to grow at this rate for the rest of the year, but these data certainly show that their breeding success has not been adversely affected by being paintballed.

Population Data for the Eleven Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula						
TROOP	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	March 2013		
	Total	Total	Total	Births	Deaths	TOTAL
Da Gama Main	42	42	43	4	1	46
Da Gama Small	12	12	12			12
Smitswinkel Bay	23	23	22			22
Waterfall	28	28	28			28
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19	19			19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	18	18			18
Slangkop	33	34	35	2		37
Zwaanswyk Splinter	25	28	28		1	27
Tokai	61	62	62	2	2	62
Mountain	33	35	36	3		39
Constantia	60	61	62	2		64
TOTAL	354	362	365	13	4	374

Figure 26: Population data for the eleven troops of the managed population of the Cape Peninsula.

A baboon's gestation period is approximately 6 months. Therefore most, if not all, the babies born this year (2013) would have been conceived after paintballing, as an aversion tool, began (July 2012) to be used for all 11 managed troops. In most animals, both captive and wild, their welfare status is quite accurately reflected by their breeding success – unhappy / stressed animals seldom breed successfully.

The exceptionally high breeding success currently being demonstrated by the managed troops of baboons do not suggest that this is a stressed population.

Hotline Data

The hotline data for March are very similar to those for February, except that the total number of calls has dropped by about one-third to a total of 57 for the month. Once again the majority of calls came from Scarborough.

Despite the fact that the rangers managed to keep the majority of the troop in the park for a spell of 20 days, they eventually always manage to get back to Misty Cliffs through desperation and determination to get a fix of human food.

Furthermore the three legged female MCF1 and the female with the young infant are so determined to go to town that they regularly leave on their own, or together, often taking GOB5 or MC1 with them.

At present almost every day sees one or two baboons in Scarborough (often hiding away and quietly feeding amongst the fruit trees and thicker vegetation). When the whole troop does eventually manage to break through then their focus is generally on Misty Cliffs, particularly by the two males which are getting increasingly bold and destructive, with GOB5 periodically breaking open sliding doors.

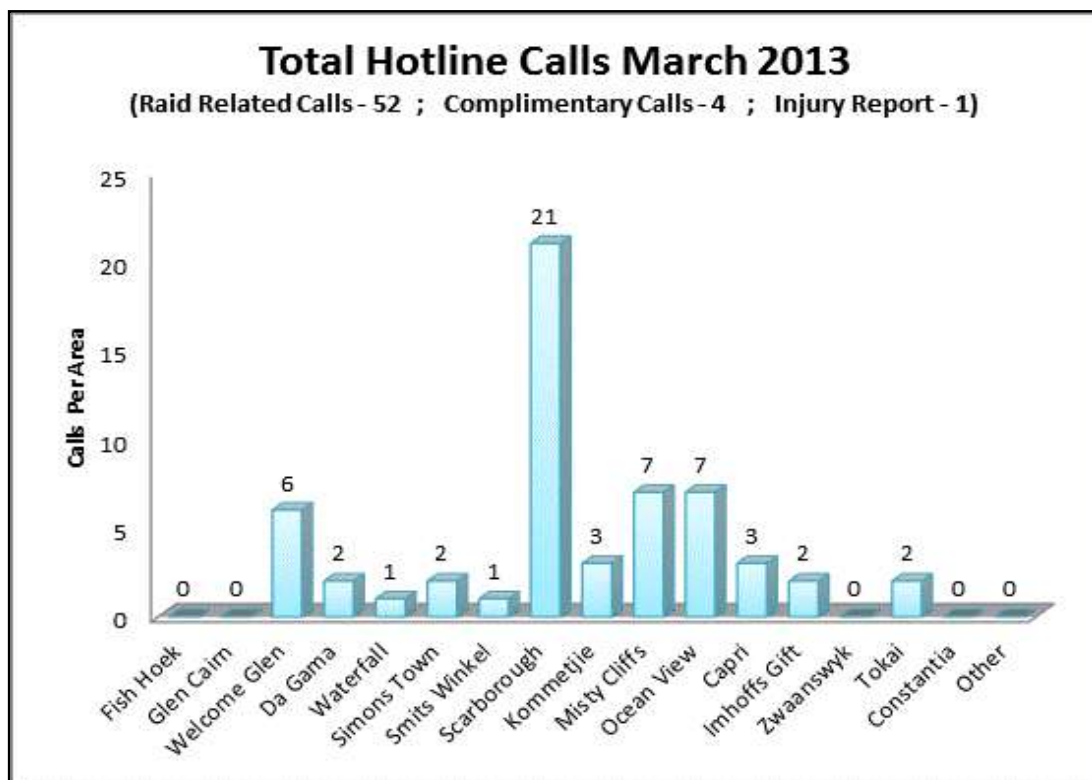


Figure 27 : Hotline Call Report Per Area – March 2013.

The Da Gama troop is the other splinter troop that is regularly causing trouble and raiding in town as individuals or small groups. Between these two splinter troops alone, they were the cause of 36 (72%) of the 57 hotline calls this month. In terms of baboon numbers however, they represent only 8% of the managed population.

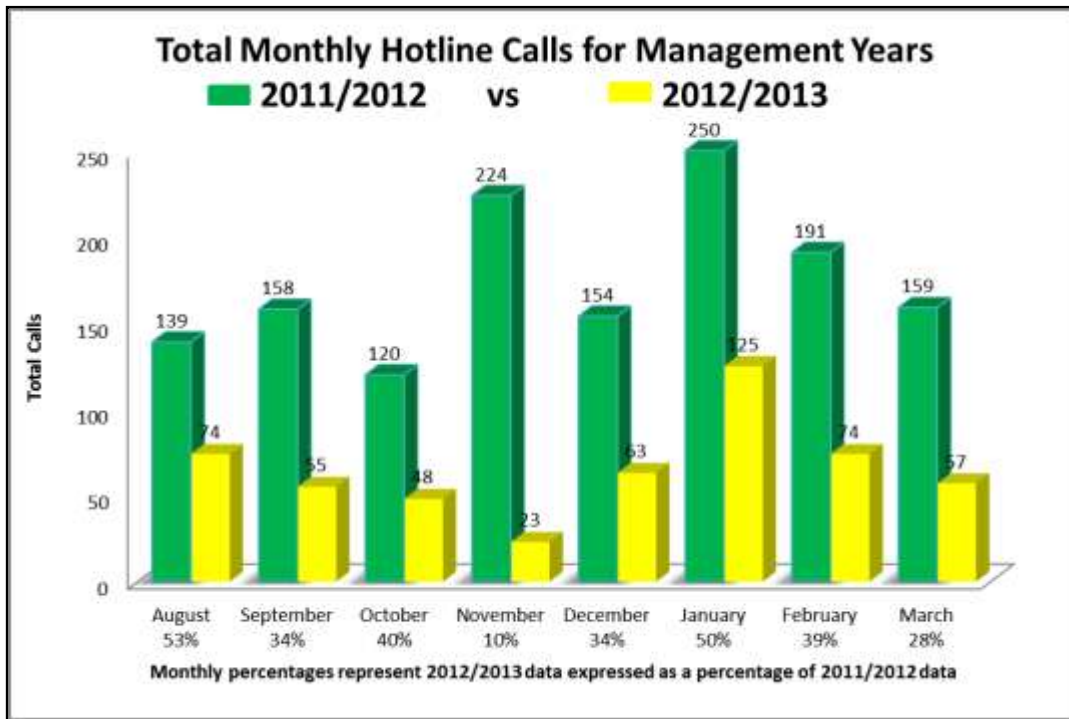


Figure 28: Total Monthly Hotline Calls for Management Years

The total hotline calls for March are again proportionately much less than for the corresponding period last year, and they also reflect the seasonal trend of decreasing calls as summer comes to an end and rainfall starts to increase.

A very pleasing trend in the hotline data is that for March 86% of all calls were merely reporting baboons in town, only 4% were bin raids and 10% were baboons raiding occupied houses. This last figure is clearly 10% too high, and bears looking at in more detail. Most of the raids on occupied houses were by a few well known habitual raiders - TK9 and TK23 from Tokai (both now dead), GOB5 and SK2.

The most disturbing feature however, is that 3 raids on occupied houses were made by the two sub-adult males in the Slangkop troop and they have only just started this behaviour within the last few weeks under the influence of SK2.

In the Da Gama splinter troop another three raids on occupied houses and one breaking and entering were conducted by the three juvenile baboons that were already raiding raiding houses in August under the guidance of Peter and Carpenter. These data illustrate the hugely detrimental affect a bad raider can have on the rest of its troop.

The percentage time each troop spent out of town averaged 99% this month, with only the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop dropping below 95% (94.3%). Raiding males spent an average of 97% of time out of town. These are very pleasing trends and hopefully will get even better with the arrival of the winter rains.

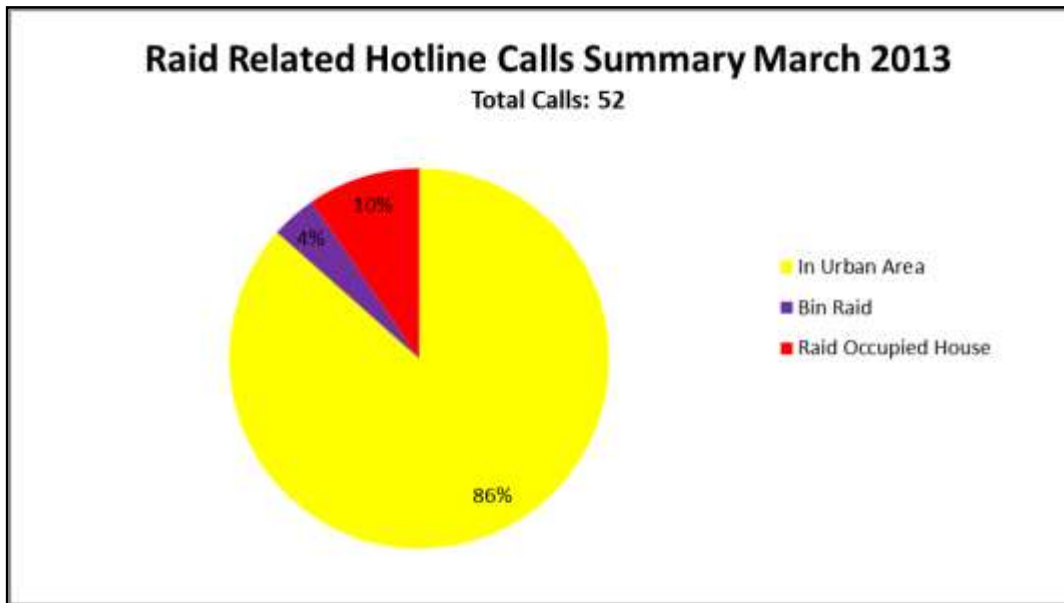


Figure 29: Hotline Calls Summary – March 2013

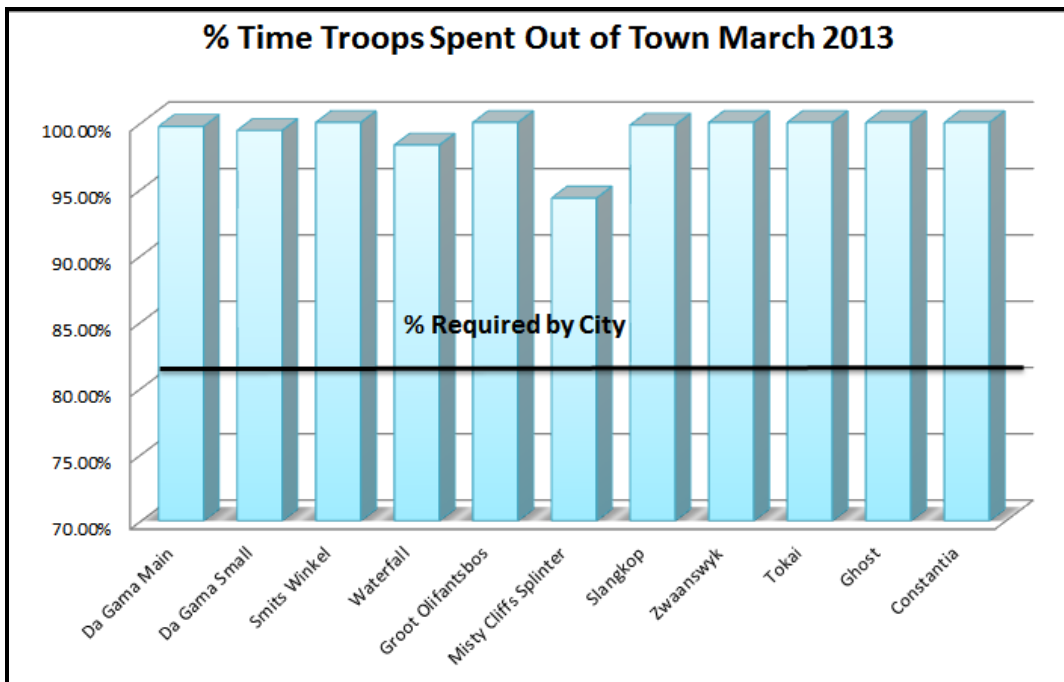


Figure 30. Percentage Time Troops Spent Out Of Town – February 2013

General Summary

Last month we mentioned the importance a few strategically placed water points may have on baboon management. This point has been born out again this month with the ‘experimental’ Slangkop troop making only one raid as a troop into town, and drinking at the new artificial waterhole on 11 days of the month and drinking rain water on another 7 days.

Another point worth noting, is that artificial water holes do not stop baboons from raiding in town. What they can do however, is remove the motivation for baboons to go into town purely for water. If baboons do go to town for water, then once they are there, they are obviously well placed to raid for food. Easy access to water out of town should keep most troops out of town and only individuals desperate for food



(well seasoned raiders, handicapped individuals or lactating females) are likely to challenge the paintball barrier in order to raid in town.

It is most probably because of their origin that the splinter troops on the peninsula seem to possess the most individuals desperate to raid for human food. Splinter troops are generally created by deposed / subordinate males taking low ranking females away from the main troop. In the wild such troops are seldom, if ever, successful. Deposed and/or low ranking animals are generally in a weakened state and/or less efficient foragers. These groups are also invariably quite small (not many individuals are prepared to leave the safety of a larger well protected troop) and so the odds are stacked against them being able to forage efficiently and protect themselves against predators at the same time.

On the peninsula these troops are safe from predation by large carnivores, but still only seem to be able to survive efficiently if they have reasonable access to human food. It comes as no surprise therefore that in March, at the end of the hot dry summer when access to food is at a premium, 72% of all hot line calls were made in response to raids by two splinter troops who together represent only 8% of the population under observation. It is therefore clearly worth keeping a close eye on the splinter troops on the peninsula.

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