



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

# Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

April 2015

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the four week period from 28 March to 24 April 2015.

The Cape Fires remain the most significant event affecting the baboons this month. In the south western region the Klein Olifantsbos Troop are still foraging further north than normal, and therefore this is having a knock on effect on the troops to the north, encouraging the Misty Cliffs Troop to leave the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) reserve and raid Scarborough.

The northern troops were clearly the most affected by the fire and will remain so for several months at least. Cape Town has experienced one of its driest autumns in years, so the regrowth of vegetation after the fire has been much less than anticipated. The new shoots that have sprouted have been welcomed and readily eaten by the baboons, but there has been a surprising lack of fresh green vegetation since the fire. This is particularly evident in the lower plantation areas. This may be because the extreme heat of the fire in these plantation areas burnt most of the organic material in the soil, therefore leaving very few seeds and little organic material to feed them in the upper levels of the soil.

The felling of pine trees is continuing unabated, and is therefore providing an abundance of pine nuts and seeds for the baboons to eat. Nevertheless the baboons are not finding the anticipated abundance of fresh Fynbos vegetation to feed on. It may be for this reason that the Zwaanswyk troop is foraging ever higher up the mountain and even going across into Silvermine where the regrowth is much more apparent.

Similarly, the Tokai, Mountain and Constantia Troops are all spending long periods of time foraging on the wine farms, particularly Buitenverwagting and Klein Constantia. Here they are feeding on the unburnt forests, unharvested grapes (raisins) and on the barley seeds that are sown as a winter crop. The split in the Constantia Troop is becoming ever more apparent, and despite it being a very large troop (75 baboons), this split is most probably also being driven by the lack of food since the fire.

## B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

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

#### 1. Smitswinkel Troop

The Smitswinkel baboons continue to spend the majority of their time in the northern section of their home range, predominantly between Castle Rock and Rockland's farm. Above Rockland's farm the cliffs that they use as sleep sites are very high up the mountain, and when they sleep there, they often do not come down. If they do come lower down, they spend a considerable amount of time feeding on a thicket of invasive alien plants above Rockland's farm (see Figure 1). The area with invasive plants is extremely dense and baboons can move through it without problems, but it is extremely difficult for the rangers to follow, so monitoring is predominantly done by using VHF telemetry.



Figure 1: Smitswinkel Troop Home Range and dense invasive alien plant thicket.

SWB8 still remains a problematic individual and often attempts to go off and raid by himself or go with SWB6. The collaring of this individual has helped significantly as many of his attempts to leave the troop have been pre-empted and rangers were able to block him. He does make several attempts to get to the campsite at Miller’s Point or to get to the Black Marlin Restaurant. Since he’s been collared it has been easier to manage him, however he seems to be intent on raiding and shows very little fear of humans, especially women. Despite being collared SWB8 has still managed to raid on six occasions this month.

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:	SMITS	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH:	YEAR: 2015	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL
SWB6	M									2	2																		2	
Troop																													0	
UnID Individuals																													0	
UnID Fem	F									2						1													2	
SWBF1	F																												0	
SWB8	M					2			2	2					6		1			1									6	
UnID Male	M																												0	
UnID Juveniles																													0	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS			
Troop		0.0																											0.00	
Individuals		1.5				20			15	180	10						30												4.92	
Roost:	AM	5	2	2	2	2	5	5	5	5	5	6	3	6	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	3	5	5	5		
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	2	6	5	5	5	5	6	3	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	6	5	5	5		
Roost Sites		1	Smits Caves	2	Partridge Point	3	Bluegums	4	Millers Point	5	Rocklands Farm																			
		6	Castle Rock	7	SANParks	8		9		10																				
ID Features of Baboons		SWB6 - red/blue tags + collar. SWB8 - purple/orange tags + collar.																												
General remarks																														

Figure 2: Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

SWB8’s behaviour does seem to influence the behaviour of SWB6. At times SWB6 was seen to follow SWB8 and has also, over the last two weeks, been seen going off on his own to raid.

## 2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall troop has still maintained 100% of their time out of town during the reporting period. This is mainly due to the fact that they follow the males towards the farms and they do not enter any residential area, but they also do not all raid the farms, they mainly stay on the mountain feeding on fynbos or the invasive alien vegetation.

This month the Waterfall Troop raided the Cape Farmhouse on several occasions, it is difficult to say how many times, as rangers were not allowed on the property and we only have anecdotal data from the staff at the farmhouse. The farmhouse (vineyards and restaurant) is at the foot of the Klaasjagerberg Mountain, which is currently the troop’s favourite sleep site. The only other sleep site the troop used this month was the Red Hill Sleep Site, which they used for one night.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SOUTH EAST		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding											
BABOON TROOP:	WATERFALL																													
MONTH:	YEAR: 2015																													
BABOON ID	Sex	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL
Troop																														0
RH2	M										2	2																		2
WF2	M										2																			1
WF3	M										2,5	2																		3
WFF3	F																													0
WFF4	F																													0
UnID Females	F										2																			1
UnID Juveniles																														0
UnID Male	M																													0
UnID Individuals											2																			1
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	0.1										10	10																		0.33
Roost:	AM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Roost:	PM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Roost Sites	1	Waterfall Cliff					2	Happy Valley Mtn					3	Signal School					4	Waterfall Barracks					5	Mountain Residents side				
	6	Admiral footpath					7	Cape Farm House					8	Happy Valley Home					9	Red Hill					10	SANAD				
	11	Mountain CoGHN					12	Gate 3 - Plateau Road					13	Rocklands Farm					14	North Peak					15	Bungalow				
	16	Rocklands Valley					17	Shamballah Pines					18						19						20					
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks		Red text indicates raides that occurred within SANAD																												

Figure 3: Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet

At the Cape Farmhouse, the troop started by raiding the grapes and then the males RH2 and WF2 started raiding the restaurant. Raiding of this property is facilitated by the steep terrain, the cover provided by the thicket of invasive alien plants, as well as the fact that the troop becomes active at first light and can run straight down to the farm.

The steep terrain and dense vegetation makes it very difficult for the rangers to block the troop, especially the males, from entering the farm. Over the past few months, HWS also did not have the permission to enter the Cape Farmhouse property and were therefore unable to prevent the males from raiding the restaurant. A meeting to discuss the situation with the Cape Farmhouse and other

affected landowners in the area has been scheduled. Because of the lack of access to the farm, not all raids were recorded.

There have also been some raiding incidents at South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD). This is usually initiated by the two adult males, but other individuals can also access the facility. Unfortunately, a section of the fence below the sleep site is not electrified and this led to some baboons gaining access. However, RH2 also goes through the boom gate or over the roof at the security offices.

The Waterfall troop is a known raiding troop, but it has also been shown from November 2013 till end of April 2014 that they can be a non-raiding troop. However, the readily available attractants at SANAD as well as the Cape Farmhouse have unfortunately led to the troops, especially the two adult males, increased raiding behaviour. On a few occasions solitary individuals have followed these males or have raided by themselves. It would therefore suggest if all attractants were removed (fruit trees at SANAD) or baboon-proofed, the troop could possibly be managed as a non-raiding troop again.

### 3. Da Gama Troop

The management of the Da Gama troop has been particularly difficult over the past month. As mentioned in the March report, SK3 sustained a serious injury to his face and it is believed that he might also have sustained an injury in the lower abdomen.

SK3 has been the alpha male of the troop since May 2013. He has been a good leader in terms of raiding, because his raiding behaviour decreased significantly after he became the father of some offspring. He also tends to be good at moving the troop from the flats up to the firebreak and in the evenings he preferred staying in the fynbos much longer than other individuals in the troop.

It is believed that the injuries were caused by blunt force trauma, and that it might have been inflicted by a human that could have hit him with an object like a baseball bat or a thick pole. This however is just speculation and the cause for his injuries is not yet known.



Figure 4: SK3 resting in the bushes close to Da Gama Park.

SK3 was first seen looking unwell on 18 March. He deteriorated rapidly and Dr. Breed and Dr. Jordan spent a lot of time out in the field with the rangers and managers in attempts to dart him. However, he always managed to get away and hide in such dense vegetation that darting was not an option. He was also not attracted to a cage and therefore close monitoring continued.

He spent the majority of his time from 18 March till 1 April around the urban edge, never going very far from town. He was mainly sleeping under the bushes and only moved short distances. He was seen twice, during this time, to urinate blood and he lost a lot of body weight.

On 1 April, a dispersing male from Tokai, TK43, was darted in the Meadowridge area and it was decided to relocate him to Da Gama as there were no other adult males in the troop that could take over, should SK3 die of his injuries. The first two days the troop ran away from him, but by the third day he had seemed to integrate into the troop. This also seemed to spark SK3's attention and he started joining the troop again.

TK43 seemed to do very well in the troop and SK3 avoided him to a large degree, avoiding any fighting or interaction with him, but at least he started spending time with the troop again. He is currently still in a poor condition, his spinal cord is visible and the collar around his neck hangs very loose. SK3 is therefore still being monitored closely.

The introduction of TK43 has led to some turmoil in the troop, with the females spending some time with SK3 and then again on other days following TK43. DG13 has also recovered from his foot injury and some females follow him as well. Most of the time they are in close proximity to each other, at times all together, but sometimes a few raiding parties split away from the troop. TK43 has also adapted very quickly to sleeping on the flats or in town and unfortunately, due to the continued poor waste management in Da Gama and specifically by the flats, he has now started feeding on human derived foods (HDF's).



Figure 5: TK43 sitting by one of the garages at the Bluefin Flats in Da Gama.

On 2 April the majority of the troop were sleeping on the flats. An adult female came down from the flats and it was immediately clear that her vision was impaired. None of the females had had a

problem with their vision the day before, so it is suspected that something happened to her during the night and that possibly something was sprayed into her eyes.

Unfortunately she had a small infant and darting her would have been extremely complicated. After several visits to the area by Dr. Breed and Dr. Jordan, it was decided to see if she would improve without any intervention. She managed to stay with the troop and daily her vision improved. She seems to have fully recovered now.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																												
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																										
SOUTH EAST		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL		
BABOON TROOP:	DA GAMA	In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	Nocturnal Raiding																	TOTAL	
MONTH:	YEAR: 2015																											
Troop				1						2								1	2	2	2						8	
SK3	M																2	2							2	1	2	7
DG11	M									9,2																2		3
DG13	M							1		2								2	2									5
TK43 (W-W)	M							1	1																	1		8
DGF1	F									9,2																	2	3
DGF2	F																	1									1	3
DGF3	F																			1							1	4
UnID Females	F			1						9,2																	2	6
UnID Female	F									2																	2,3	7
UnID Juvs		1	1							1								2	2							2		10
TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												
		%																									HRS	
Troop		2.5																									8.17	
Individuals		11.5	5	20	185																							37.07
Roost:	AM	1	1	3	2	2,3	1,7	1,8	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	20	20	20	20	3	1,2	2	2,8	1,2	2,8	1,2	1,2	2,3	1,8	1,2
Roost:	PM	1	7	2	2	1,7	1,8	1,2	2	1,2	1	2	20	20	20	1	3	2	2,8	1,2	2	1,2	2	2,3	1,8	1,2	1,2	
Roost Sites		1	Flats				2	Pines - Flats				3	Pines - Da Gama				4	Pines - WG				5	Sport Fields Stabl					
		6	Compass Bakery				7	Pines - Outspan				8	Jacks Shop				9	Elsie's Peak				10	Rotary Camp					
		11	Witsand				12	Slangkop				13	Platkop				14	Rasta Camp				15	Ocean View					
		16	KL sleep site				17	Maylands				18	Elsies River Valley				19	Red Hill / Windford				20	Grootkop					
		21	16th Avenue, DG				22	Lewis Gay Dam				23	Pinehaven				24	Kleinplaas Dam				25	Scarborough					
ID Features of Baboons																												
General remarks																												

Figure 6: Da Gama Troop Raid Sheet

In December 2014 the first case of mange was seen in the troop. During the observations and monitoring of SK3, TK43 and the adult female, it was seen that several other females were recovering from mange. There was one infant, that was almost entirely pink, and this was possibly due to the mange. The infant is recovering well though and the hair is growing back.

**Births and Deaths**

- 1 New born infant seen in the Waterfall troop – 28 March
- 1 New born infant seen in the Da Gama troop – 20 April

**Recommendations**

- **Urgent action in terms of waste management** is desperately needed in Da Gama Park. The readily accessible bin waste is a constant attractant for the baboons.
- **At SANAD the implementation of baboon proofing** recommendations and the removal of fruit trees are urgently required.



- It is also requested that **the Navy fix the hole in the eaves of the Bluefin flats**; otherwise the baboons will sleep there all winter.
- **Waste management** should be rectified at the City Water Works facility at Lewis Gay Dam and waste management at the Red Hill Settlement can be improved.
- **A new education initiative** should be started again in Da Gama Park, so that any new residents with children are made aware of the problems and are offered advice on how to deal with how to live with baboons and what not to do.
- **Random checks by SANParks law enforcement** up at Kleinplaas Dam parking area to see if dogs are on leashes, just to prevent this current trend of dogs chasing baboons up in the mountain from increasing

### South Western Region – Area Manager: Lana Müller

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

The Groot Olifantsbos Troop moved regularly in and out of the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) during this reporting period. The troop roosted mostly in the pines behind the Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre. On a few occasions the Troop roosted inside the reserve at either the Groot Olifantsbos or Kogelfontein Cliffs sleep site.

The troop spent most of the month foraging inside the reserve or inside the Protea stands between Shamballah Tea House and the Good Hope Nursery. On a few occasions the Troop was seen on the beach foraging in the inter-tidal zone. On 5, 6 and 14 April the troop foraged in the vineyards of the Cape Farmhouse and on two other occasions the troop entered the farm to drink water at the dam.

On 15, 17, 25 and 28 April the troop was found at Kogelfontein dump site raiding the Wasteman skips. The waste management at Kogelfontein is starting to become a problem as the waste is not stored correctly (Figure 7). The lids of the skips are bent and broken and are unable to be sealed. This is leading to an increase in raiding opportunities. This problem has been reported to SANParks and they have agreed to follow up with their field rangers and Wasteman.



Figure 7: Waste disposal site at Kogelfontein

On 1 April, two males, PR2 and GOB7, were seen chasing each other out of the reserve as an attempted show of dominance. Both males later returned to the troop.

On 21 April, close to Shamballah Tea House and Holistic Centre, an adult female was seen to be weak and having trouble walking. She was monitored closely by the Field Manager for the rest of the day. On 22 April the Area Manager was called in for a field assessment, because the condition of the baboon had weakened overnight (Figure 8). The baboon was then captured and taken to Westlake. Upon assessment by the City veterinarian Dr Elzette Jordan, it was determined that the baboon did not have any visible injury and the body condition was generally good.

The baboon's condition deteriorated through the night and upon inspection in the morning by veterinarian Dr Dorothy Breed, she was found to be dead. A post-mortem was conducted by Dr Breed and Dr Jordan and the cause of death was determined to be internal bleeding, due to suspected poisoning.

A follow up was made in the field to check for the possible source of the poison but nothing was found. The troop was closely monitored for the rest of the reporting period.



Figure 8: The affected female baboon from the Groot Olifantsbos Troop.

## 2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)

The Misty Cliffs Troop has spent five days of the reporting period inside the CoGH Reserve. The troop spent the rest of the month outside the CoGH Reserve using the Misty Cliffs sleep site and only used the Witsand sleep site once during this reporting period.

Most of the raids that occurred over this period were attributed to KOB1, MCF3 and MC2. Sixteen of these instances can be attributed to KOB1, of which one was a raid of an occupied house. As reported in the previous reporting period, KOB1 has become used to the urban space and has been entering town more frequently, all efforts must be made to stop his raiding activities.

Raiding behaviour of MC2 and MCF3 continued from what was reported in the March report. A total of 11 instances of raiding can be attributed to MCF3, a high ranking female of the troop. Two of these instances were a raid of an unoccupied house. MC2 raided on nine occasions. Two of these raids were on houses, one occupied and one unoccupied.

Due to the continued aggressive raiding of MC2, WAAC approval was granted for his euthanasia, which took place on 16 April.

The troop entered the urban area on 19 occasions this month. Bin raids were recorded in both Misty Cliffs and Scarborough. The troop focused mainly on fruit trees, including grape vines, and lush natural vegetation. Open compost heaps (Figure 10) in gardens have also been acting as attractants for the baboons, luring them into town.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SOUTH WEST		1	In urban area			4	Attacking pets			7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																			
BABOON TROOP:	Misty Cliffs	2	Raid bins			5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle			8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																			
MONTH:	YEAR: 2015	3	Non malicious damage			6	Raid occupied house or vehicle			9	Nocturnal Raiding																			
BABOON ID	Sex	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL
MCF3	F		2	2	2		5					2	2					2		2	5				2	2				11
KOB1	M		2	2	2	2				2	6	2	2			2	2	2		2					2		2	2	1	16
MC2	M		2	2	2							2	2	5				2	6	6									9	
Females	F		2	2	2					2	2	2	2							6						2			1	10
Juveniles			2	2	2		5				2	2	2						6	6									9	
Unknown Individuals																													1	1
Troop			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			2	2	2	2		2						2	2	2	19
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS			
Troop		19.6	255	105	173	240	180	330	120	253	194	390	185			45	250	65	182		405						205	45	160	63.03
Individuals		19.6	195	52	125	419	180			258	254	210	95	15		76	360	75	47	295	350				45	25	489	79	150	63.23
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	1	1
Roost:	PM	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1
Roost Sites		1	Misty Cliffs 1			2	Misty Cliffs 2			3	Witsand			4	CoGH Reserve			5												
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks																														

Figure 9: Raid sheet for Misty Cliffs Troop

On 9 April an unknown sub-adult male was seen on the road between Misty Cliffs and Scarborough. According to reports from the public the baboon was injured on his back. Efforts were made on 9 and 10 April, to track the baboon, but it has not been seen again.

The vegetation inside the CoGH Reserve is recovering after the fire and all attempts will be made to keep the Troop within the CoGH Reserve boundaries.



Figure 10: Open compost heap with fresh oranges in Scarborough.

### 3. Slangkop Troop

During this reporting period the Slangkop Troop spent 13 nights roosting at the Compass Bakery roost site and 15 nights in the pines behind Ocean View.

The troop entered the urban area, as a whole on six occasions. Bin raids were recorded in Ocean View, Capri, Imhoff’s Gift and Compass Bakery. On one occasion, while in Capri, the troop stopped to drink water from a swimming pool. The longest recorded time in town was 45 minutes on 24 April when the troop entered Compass Bakery.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR				CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																											
SOUTH WEST				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL			
BABOON TROOP:		Slangkop		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL			
MONTH:		YEAR: 2015		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL			
BABOON ID	Sex	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL	
DG6	M		2	2	2					2	6			2												2		2		8	
SKF1	F		2	2						2	2															2		2		6	
SKF2	F		2	2						2																2				4	
SK6 (young male)	M		2	2	2					2															2	2	2		7		
Juveniles			2	2	2									2													2	2		7	
Females				2										2					2							2				5	
Troop						1										2	2								2	2			2	6	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS					
Troop	0.6					10										30	5									25	5			45	2.00
Individuals	1.9	6	72	6						22	42			21				15	115						16	8	11	39	6.22		
Roost:	AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
Roost Sites		1	Slangkop				2	Ocean View				3	Compass Bakery				4	Witsand				5									
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 11: Raid sheet for Slangkop Troop

The highest number of individual raids can be attributed to DG6, the alpha male, and SK6, a young male. Seven bin raids were recorded for both DG6 and SK6 during this period and one house raid was recorded for DG6 on 6 April. The longest time DG6 and SK6 spent within the urban space was 72 minutes.

The Slangkop Troop has spent most of the reporting period foraging in the mountain above the Rasta Camp in Ocean View, and on a few occasions the troop was also seen foraging on pine cones around the Ocean View roost site.

### **Births and Deaths**

Two deaths were recorded this month.

One adult female of the GOB Troop died due to a suspected poisoning and one adult male, MC2, from the Misty Cliffs Troop on 16 April.

### **Recommendations**

- **Removal of Invasive Alien Vegetation:** Patches of invasive alien vegetation above Ocean View and below the Compass Bakery Sleep Site need to be cleared in order to improve management of the Slangkop Troop.
- **Waste Management** should be addressed again in the Ocean View area. The Slangkop Troop has a sleep site close to town and the two top rows of houses usually get raided on bin day. These houses should all be baboon proofed, and residents should also be advised on baboon-proofing their vegetable gardens or compost heaps. The Compass Bakery and Kogelfontein also need to upgrade their waste disposal sites.
- **Electric Fencing:** A hard barrier, i.e. electrification, should be put in place along the existing fence line of CoGH reserve near Scarborough. This would greatly improve the success rate of keeping the Misty Cliffs Troop inside the CoGH reserve and also increase their foraging range inside the reserve.
- **Law enforcement:** A stronger law enforcement presence is required in Scarborough, to prevent people from intentionally feeding or creating 'feeding patches'. Baboon-proofing of vegetable gardens and compost heaps should be enforced.
- **Pruning of trees:** The trees around Imhoff's Gift and Bluewater Estate need to be pruned to avoid baboons from entering the estate.

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

It has been a month since the Cape Fires swept through the Northern Troops home ranges. All Northern troops were closely monitored after the fire to ensure they found sufficient forage and did not run into the urban area to raid.

Some light rain has fallen this month, encouraging some new growth (Figure 12). New shoots are palatable and highly nutritious for baboons, and hence enough forage is once again available to sustain the Northern Troops. Additionally, the pines in Tokai Plantation are hastily being felled before they rot. This causes the pine cones to open and release seeds and nuts, which are also consumed by the baboons.

The burnt sections have been declared a disaster zone by SANParks. Public access is strictly prohibited, due to many post-fire hazards, such as falling trees, landslides, rock falls and the continual felling operations. Hence, the baboons are now able to roam freely and peacefully among their natural home ranges with minimal human interaction. SANParks are hard at work implementing stabilisation and rehabilitation plans for the burnt areas, and only once these have been completed will the area become open to the public again.



Figure 12: (a) New growth on Vlakkenberg above Tokai Plantation (b) Baboons foraging on shoots from perennial grasses in fynbos patch within Tokai Plantation.

### 1. Tokai Troop

The Tokai Troop has been spending most of their time on the northern side of Tokai Plantation, near Buitenverwachting Wine Farm. They are enjoying the new growth in this section, as well as grapes that have been left after the harvest on Buitenverwachting.

On a few occasions the Tokai Troop moved very high up Tokai Plantation, to near The Elephants Eye Cave and Silvermine Reserve. This is very positive behaviour, as it indicates the troop is investigating new foraging grounds after the fire. The fynbos higher in the mountain, and in Silvermine Reserve, is more natural than the vegetation found in Tokai Plantation, and possibly provides greater food rewards than in the pines. In addition, the higher up the baboons forage, the less human interactions they are likely to incur.

The Tokai Troops sleeping trees are currently being felled. The troop has therefore had to find alternative sleep sites. The Guest House sleep site (both upper and lower), which were used frequently, have been completely removed. The troop therefore has started sleeping near the Tea Garden, which they have not done in a very long time.

The only raiding of note this month was by a young adult male, TK43, while attempting to disperse. Dispersal occurs when male baboons reach early adulthood, and they leave their natal troop to find another troop to join. From an evolutionary perspective this is to prevent inbreeding (with sisters or mothers) from occurring. For the Northern Troops dispersal is difficult because they form an isolated cluster of troops (Figure 13), separated by about 10km and a mountain range from the southern troops. Therefore if a male is not accepted by a neighbouring troop, he will have to cross a large urban area, uninhabited by other baboons, before he will find other troops to join.

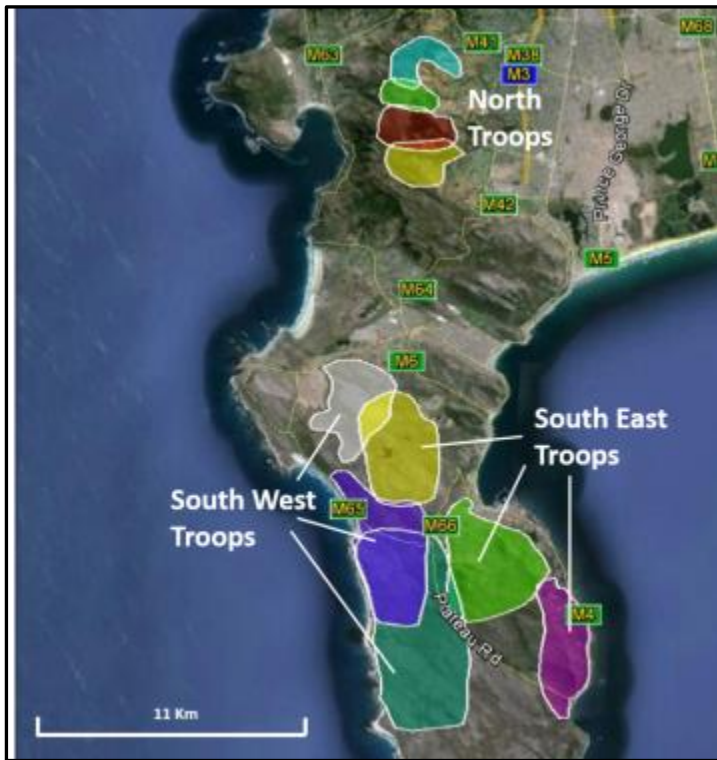


Figure 13: Home Ranges of the Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula. Note that the Northern Troops are completely isolated from the Southern Troops.

On the 30 March 2015 TK43 headed east from the Tokai Troop home range in an effort to disperse. TK43 crossed the M3 highway towards Bergvliet. HWS Rangers attempted several times to push him back over the M3 towards the Tokai Plantation, but were unsuccessful. For three days TK43 attempted to disperse further east and cross Main Road but he was prevented from doing so.

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	21	22	23	24	TOTAL																	
BABOON TROOP:		Tokai		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL																	
MONTH:		Mar-Apr 2015		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL																	
BABOON ID	Sex	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL															
TK28 (B-G)	M																													0															
TK40 (P-Y) VHF Collar	M																													0															
TK41 (Single P)	M																													0															
TK43 (Single White)	M			2,6	2,6	2,5	Relocated South																																						6
TK42 (B-Y)	M																													0															
MT3 (Pu-B)	M																													0															
Uni Male	M																										1			1															
Uni SA Male x 2	M																													0															
Uni Female	F																													0															
Uni Juve																														0															
Tokai Troop																														0															
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS																			
Troop	%	0.0																												0.00															
Individuals	%	9.4			600	720	480																				20			30.33															
Roost:	AM	6	12	5	5	6	6	9	9	1	8	8	8	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	9	9	9	8	8	8	5	9	5																
Roost:	PM	12	5	5	6	6	9	8	1	8	8	8	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	9	9	9	8	8	8	5	9	5	5																
Roost Sites	1	Tea Garden				2	Level 1 ZWK gums				3	Level 2 stream				4	Level 2 pines				5	Level 4 pines																							
	6	Guest House				7	Level 1 TK Clearing				8	Level 1.5 Quarry gums				9	Level 1 new clear gums				10	Picnic site 1																							
	11	Picnic site 2				12	Upper Tea Garden				13					14					15																								
ID Features of Baboons																																													
General remarks																																													

Figure 14: Raid Sheet for Tokai Troop

On 30 March TK43 slept on the roof of a block of flats in The Close, Tokai. On 31 March he slept on the roof of the Bergvliet High School. During his days in the urban space the only reported raids were, three bin raids and three house raids (Figure 14), as he managed to find food from fruit trees and other vegetation in gardens.

An attempt to dart TK43 occurred on the 31 March 2015, however this was unsuccessful. He was finally darted on 1 April 2015 in the residential area of Bergvliet. It was decided that due to the poor condition of SK3 (see Da Gama Troop in South East section of this report), TK43 would be relocated to the Da Gama Troop to give him an opportunity to join another troop, and to safeguard against the Da Gama Troop being left without an alpha male. See Da Gama Troop in South East section of this report for details of his behaviour after being relocated.

## 2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop has spent this month foraging around both the upper and lower sections of Tokai Plantation. They have been pushing onto Chrysalis Academy, on Porter Estate, to raid the unsecured bins whenever they had the opportunity.

HWS rangers worked hard to prevent these raids throughout the reporting period. However, the campus is large with many unsecured bins, so some raiding was inevitable. In addition to bin raiding, MT2, the alpha male, raided the occupied kitchen and dining hall on the 4 April 2015.

HWS Management has been in discussions with Chrysalis about the situation, and they are now in the process of baboon-proofing their new recycling system.

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	21	22	23	24	TOTAL			
BABOON TROOP:		Zwaanswyk		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL			
MONTH:		Mar-Apr 2105		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL			
MT2 (Alpha Untagged)	M																											3			
TK45 (Untagged SA)	M																											2			
TKF4 (Grey)	F																											0			
TKF5 (Green)	F																											2			
TKF7 (Red)	F																											1			
Uni SA Male	M																											1			
Uni Adult female	F																											0			
Uni Juvenile																												1			
Uni individual																												1			
Zwaanswyk Troop																												5			
		%		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS			
Troop		0.1																										20		0.33	
Individuals		0.8																										145		2.42	
Roost:		AM	9	8	5	1	8	9	8	9	9	8	8	8	6	9	8	1	1	12	12	9	1	1	2	2	5	8	5	1	
Roost:		PM	8	5	1	8	9	8	9	9	8	8	8	6	9	8	1	1	12	12	9	1	1	2	2	5	8	5	1	5	
Roost Sites		1		Tea Garden				2		Level 1 ZWK gums				3		Level 2 stream				4		Level 2 pines				5		Level 4 pines			
		6		Guest House				7		Level 1 TK Clearing				8		Upper Tea Garden				9		Manor House				10		Tokai bridge			
		11		Picnic site 2				12						13						14						15					
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 15: Raid Sheet for Zwaanswyk Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place in non-urban areas.



The Zwaanswyk Troop has also been venturing high into the mountains in search of the fresh post-fire shoots. Towards the end of the month the troop even went up into The Silvermine Reserve a few times to forage on fynbos shoots around the dam.

The Zwaanswyk Troop has also been foraging on the southern side of Tokai Plantation, in the new growth above Steenberg Estate. On 19 April, 2015 the troop entered Steenberg Estate by jumping over the Steenberg Fence using an adjacent pine tree. HWS rangers managed to get half of the troop out (within 20 minutes) before they entered Zwaanswyk. The other half managed to enter Zwaanswyk and two baboons, TKF5 (an adult female) and an unidentified individual, raided an occupied house. This group was pushed back into Tokai Plantation within 45 minutes.

An old female in the Zwaanswyk Troop was euthanized this month for humane reasons, following an eye injury. The female was already blind in the right eye, and was then injured in a baboon-on-baboon fight, which partially blinded her in her left eye. She was not able to keep up with the troop or forage efficiently, and lost weight rapidly following the injury. She was euthanized on 7 April, 2015.

### **3. Constantia Troop**

The Constantia Troop has continued to forage on the upper sections of the Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms, as well as in the fynbos shoots above the farms. The baboons eat raisins (grapes that were left after the harvest and have now dried up) and barley on the wine farms, and forage on the vegetation that did not burn in the fire.

No raiding of any kind was reported for the Constantia Troop this month, however considering that they are foraging primarily on raisins and barley seeds this is not surprising.

The Constantia Troop has been splitting this month, more so than ever before. The split seems to be the start of a natural fission. This is when a troop becomes too large and splits in two. This is distinct from a splinter troop, which occurs when a small group of low ranking individuals split off to gain status, and often end up raiding. The split in the Constantia Troop is almost a 50/50 divide, indicating that this is not a small group of low ranking individuals forming a splinter troop.

On several occasions these sub-troops slept at different locations, specifically the Buitenverwachting Gums and the Bike Trail Gums. During the day the sub-troops went through several phases of coming together and splitting again, indicating the split is not a finality, but is becoming more prominent.

In conjunction with the split, an increase in fighting within the troop has been noticed. This is possibly one of the factors that are driving the split.

The numerous males in this troop are fighting on a daily basis for dominance over available females. This has caused many injuries to both males and females. To date, all injuries have been small and have not required veterinary intervention. It has also been noted that several females are missing hair. This is from the males grabbing the females by the hair while fighting, and subsequently pulling patches out.

As a likely result of the fighting within the Constantia Troop, one female was found dead on 5 April, 2015. From the state of decomposition it looked like she had been dead for several weeks. The

female was sprawled out on her back, with no obvious signs of external injury (however due to the decay it was difficult to see this properly). The suspected cause of death is that the female fell out of a tree while being chased by a male, and broke her back upon impact with the ground, causing instantaneous death.

#### 4. Mountain Troop

This month the Mountain Troop mainly foraged on Buitenverwachting Wine Farm, in the gum plantation above the farm, and in the upper sections of Tokai Plantation. The Mountain Troop came into contact with both the Tokai and Constantia Troops on several occasions this month. All the troops were moving around more than usual in an effort to find better forage, and so more encounters occurred. During most of these there was initial fighting, but soon the troops relaxed, and on some days spent the remainder of the day together in peace.

#### Births and Deaths

There were 7 births reported in the North this month:

Two in the Tokai Troop

One in the Zwaanswyk Troop

Four in the Constantia Troop

An old female in the Zwaanswyk Troop was euthanized for humane reasons following an eye injury on 7 April 2015.

One female from the Constantia Troop was found dead this month. Suspected cause of death is falling out of a tree.

#### Recommendations

- **Steenberg Fence:** The upper Steenberg Fence acts as a weak spot where baboons can enter Steenberg and then jump across into Zwaanswyk. The Steenberg Fence should be increased in height and all nearby trees felled to ensure baboons are unable to cross this fence. The Zwaanswyk Association of Property Owners is currently in negotiations with Steenberg Estate in order to carry this out.

### C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

#### Population Data

The most notable feature of the population data this month, is that despite losing 13 animals to the fires, the population of baboons in the northern troops has almost recovered (only five short) to what it was at the end of last year. There were seven births in April in the north, compared to two births in southern troops. These data confirm the trend noted in previous reports that the baboons in the north are breeding at a much higher rate than those in the south and this is most probably due to them having much greater access to human derived foods (HDF's) than those in the south.

The abundant accessibility of farm (grapes and barley) and plantation (pine nuts and seeds) foods is presumably the driver of this trend.

TROOP	Total Dec 2012	Total Dec 2013	Total Dec 2014	April Births	April Deaths	Total Births 2015	Total Deaths 2015	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	45	43	1		5	2	46
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	22			3	1	24
Waterfall	28	30	30	1		2	0	32
Groot Olifantsbos	19	13	17		1	0	0	17
Misty Cliffs	18	16	14		1	1	4	11
Slangkop	33	32	36			0	1	35
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>165</b>
Zwaanswyk	25	26	28	1	1	2	4	26
Tokai	61	65	72	2		3	12	63
Mountain	33	44	48			1	0	49
Constantia	60	63	70	4	1	6	1	75
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>378</b>

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

The causes of baboon deaths are illustrated in Table 2. These data represent just the first third of 2015, but there does seem to be a significant change in trends from 2012 to 2015. In 2012, when baboon management became much more pro-active and the use of assertive tools was introduced, management deaths were by far the largest category of deaths, with a total of 16 for the year. There were surprisingly few natural deaths recorded, but this may have been under reported.

In 2013 management deaths stayed at much the same level (17), but a dramatic increase in natural deaths (33) was recorded. However, almost of half of these deaths was as a result of a new male (SK4) joining the Da Gama Big Troop and killing 13 infants and juveniles within a month.

Deaths	2012*	2013	2014	April	2015
Management	16 (6)	17	7	1	2
Human Induced	3	5	10	1	3
Natural	6 (1)	33	19	2	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>

Table 2. Causes of baboon deaths since 2012. (\* Data collected prior to HWS taking over baboon management in August 2012 included in brackets).

In 2014 management deaths decreased to less than half (seven) that of previous years (16 & 17), and to date this year there have only been two management deaths. In 2014 and 2015 most deaths were as a result of natural causes, with fire clearly being the greatest factor this year. In 2014 human induced deaths were surprisingly high (10), but half of these were from electrocutions along a short section of power line near Miller's Point.

Mitigating factors are being introduced to prevent this from happening again.

Given the trend of the major causes of baboon deaths changing from being management induced to natural, the management of baboons does seem to be heading in the right direction, because ideally all baboons deaths should be natural.

### Hotline Data

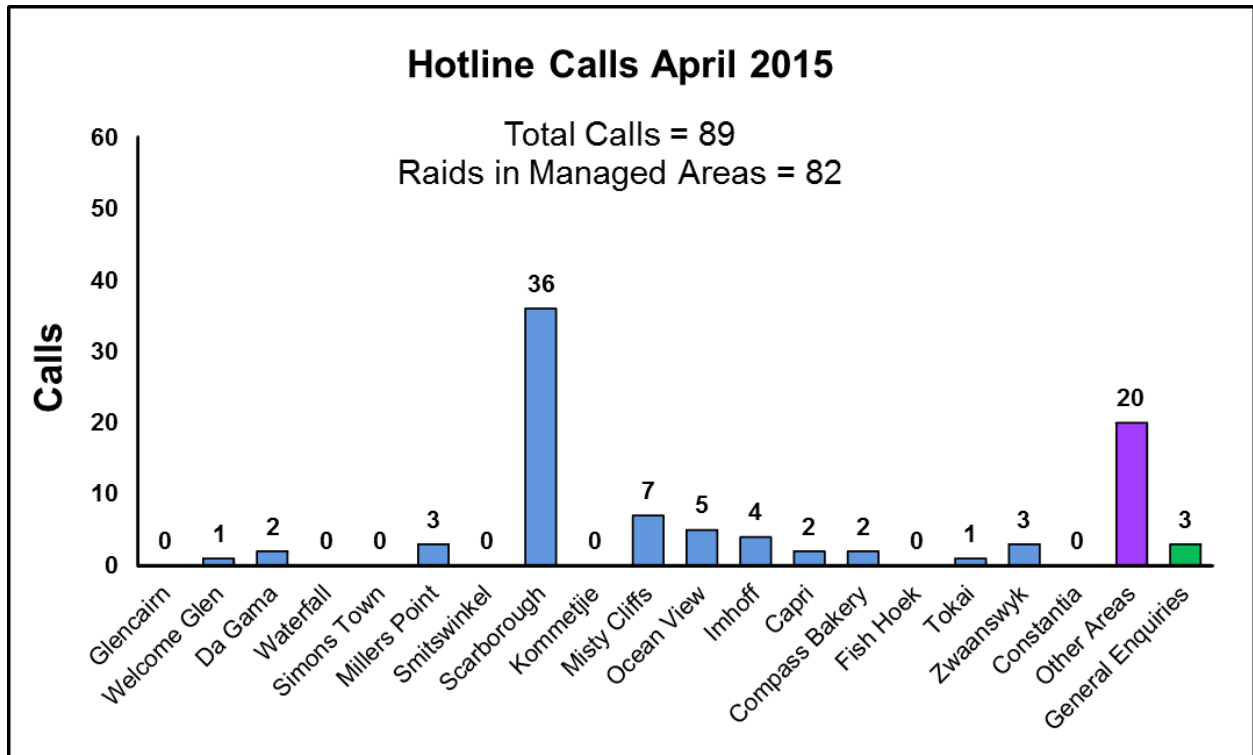


Figure 16: Hotline calls summary per urban area

This month, like last, the vast majority of hotline calls came from Scarborough. This can be attributed to the CoGH fire and troops moving north to find unburned foraging grounds, as well as to the raiding behaviour of the three most dominant animals in the Misty Cliffs Troop, namely KOB1, MCF3 and MC2. Because of his excessive raiding, MC2 was euthanased.

There were a high number of hotline calls reporting baboon's in 'other areas', which is a result of TK43 dispersing, and moving through Bergvliet at the end of March.

In terms of the composition of the hotline calls, this month there was still a very high percentage of calls only reporting baboons in town (82.4%), although two thirds of actual raiding calls were for baboons in occupied houses.

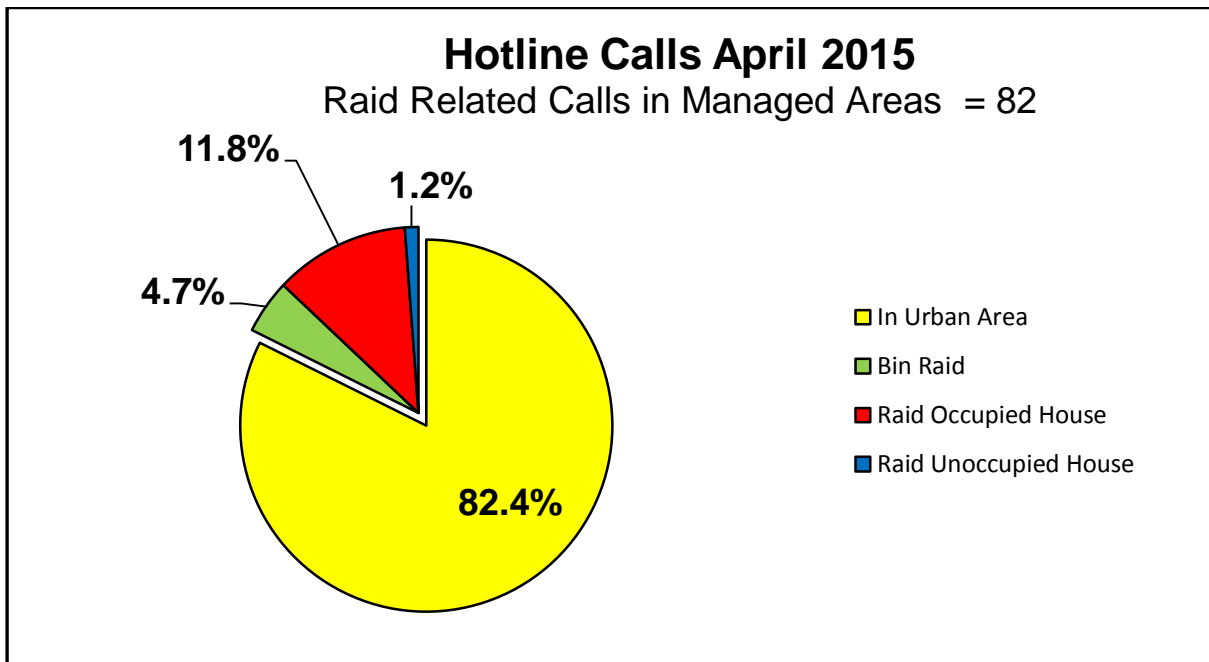


Figure 17: Composition of raid-related hotline calls

#### Percentage Time out of Town

The pattern reflected in the hotline data for Scarborough is again clear in the graph depicting time the baboons spent out of town. Most troops spent close to 100% of their time out of town, with the exception Misty Cliffs, Da Gama and, to a lesser extent, Slangkop. With the removal of MC2, and his habit of pulling the troop into town, hopefully next month the Misty Cliffs Troop will spend more time out of town.

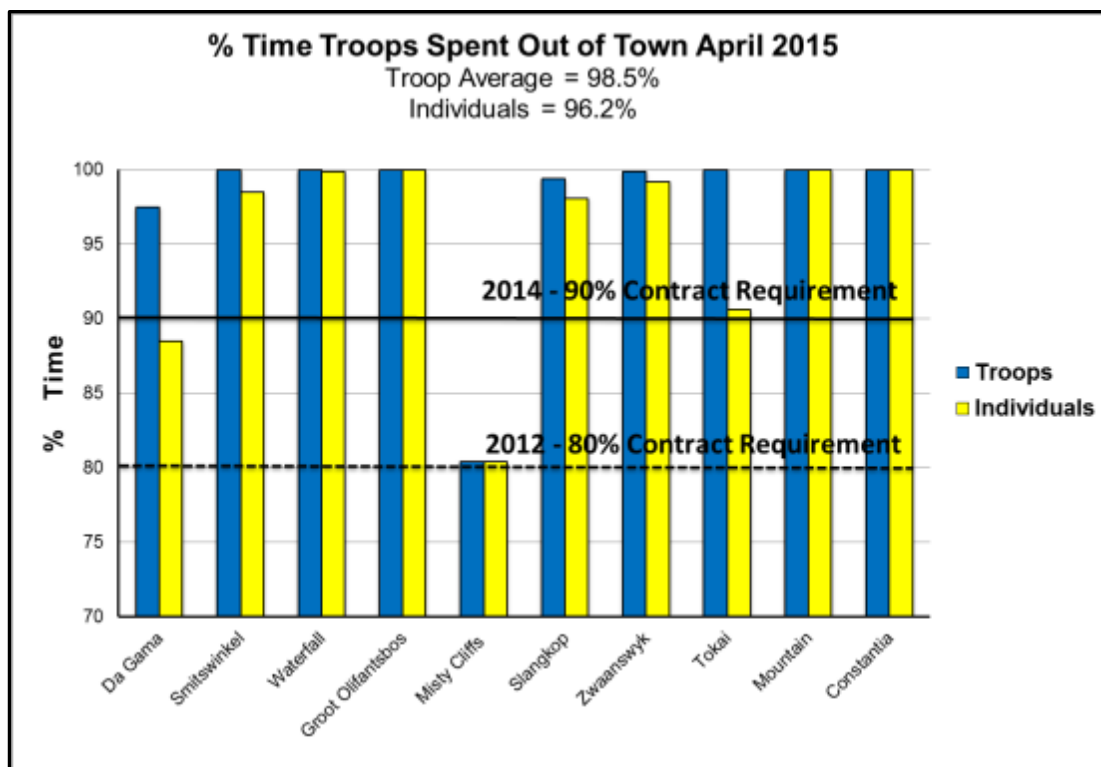


Figure 18: Percentage time troops spent out of town.

## Conclusion

Many of the baboon troops in both the north and the south of the peninsula are still suffering the after effects of the Cape Fires. Most of the fynbos in many of the troops' home ranges has been severely burnt and will take a long time to recover. This recovery is taking longer than anticipated because of the very dry autumn Cape Town is currently experiencing. In addition, in many areas, particularly those which were recently forested with pines, the fires were particularly hot and the regrowth of vegetation seems to be slower than one would have anticipated, even given the low rainfall since the fire. It will be interesting to see how these areas recover when the winter rains come in earnest.

The troops in the north have consistently been growing at a faster rate than those in the south for the past few years. This has been attributed to their access to the HDF's on the wine farms and in the pine forests in the north. Now with the fires having burnt virtually all the fynbos in their home ranges, and most of the pines, the food source for the baboons has dramatically changed in a very short period of time. The most immediate effect of this change in food supply has been that those farms that are not well protected with electric fencing are being targeted heavily.

In addition, the Zwaanswyk Troop seems to be seeking out alternative foraging areas by travelling high up the mountain to Silvermine. The Constantia Troop is also extending its range, and at the same time there seems to be a fission occurring in the troop, with the troop splitting into more or less two equal halves. Whether this split will go to completion, and where the different halves will go, is a scene that still needs to be played out. The coming winter rains may well determine the outcome.

Dr Phil Richardson

**Human Wildlife Solutions**