



Baboon Management Cape Town



**Monthly Report
September 2012**



A. General Management

Our management style in September has remained largely unchanged from August, so I will not report on this again. The one change is that I have decided to make our report go from the last Friday of one month to the last Friday of the next. This months report (September), therefore goes from 1 – 28 September 2012.

B. Baboon Management and Raid Reporting

We have now standardized our raid reporting system and have decided to include only 8 categories of raids. These are specified in the raid sheets for each troop.

South Eastern Region – Manager Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

Smitswinkel had no major incidents from 1 – 9 September. SWB4 raided bins six times during September, and on three of those occasions he was joined by SWB3.

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: September		YEAR: 2012	3	Non malicious damage												6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																																																		
BABOON ID		Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL																																	
SWB3		M				1						1		2							5	2				2				5	5				8																																
SWB1		M				1					1																							2																																	
SWB4		M	2						2	2	1		2									2		2	6	2								9																																	
FINGESWB5RS		M				1					1																			1				3																																	
Troop						1					1													1										3																																	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																															HRS																																	
Troop		0				15					15																							0.5																																	
Males		2	60			15			30	30	15		30									15		10		30								3.92																																	
Roost:		AM	4	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	1	1	3	2	3	3	2	4	5	6	6	2	3	2	2																																				
Roost:		PM	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	5	6	6	2	3	2	3	5																																				
Roost Sites			1	Smitswinkel bay												2	Bluegums												3	Partridge Point												4	Castle Rock												5	Millers Point											
			6	Rocklands												7													8													9													10												
ID Features of Baboons			SWB3 - collar; SWB4 - double white tag + collar; SWB1 - Blue&white tags + collar; SWB5 - green tag																																																																
General remarks			19 September - new born baby seen																																																																
			TOWN/URBAN AREA = Miller's Point boat launching area & Caravan Park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses																																																																

Figure 1. Raid sheet for the Smitswinkel Troop.

On 18 September, SWB3 got into a vehicle parked at the Smitswinkel bay parking. On 27 September, SWB3 again raided a car at Partridge Point at 13:30pm. 28 September, SWB3 entered a caravan through one of the windows. He raided the fridge and was sitting behind the fridge door, so one couldn't see him through the open window. We banged against the window next to him where he was sitting, but it didn't seem to bother him at all. I then



proceeded to empty a pepper spray canister into the caravan but still got no reaction from SWB3. I then shot a pepper ball into the caravan and he exited shortly after that. I couldn't use the pepper ball as SWB3 was behind the fridge door. I then proceeded to follow and track SWB3; on three occasions he came back onto the road attempting to go down to the fishermen's parking area. Every time he got onto the road, we used paintballs markers. SWB5 was following him and both where both chased back to Castle Rock where the rest of the troop was.

2. Waterfall Troop

On 1 September there was raiding of the bins at the Military Police by the troop and on 3 September at the Navy Barracks. From 4 – 6 September the troop did not come down from the mountain.

On 10 September, RH2 and some of the adult females were already at the Waterfall Barracks raiding bins by 7am. They were chased up the mountain and the troop slept in the mountain on the 10th. On the 11th 2 Sub-adults raided bins between 7:35 – 7:45 at the Barracks, they were chased up the mountain and remained there until Thursday 13 September. On the morning of 13 September, 2 sub-adults raided bins and flats at Waterfall Barracks. 2 Females and 5 juveniles raided bins at Happy Valley between 15:20 – 15:40.

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:		WATERFALL		2	Raid bins					5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																		
MONTH:	September	YEAR: 2012		3	Non malicious damage					6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
BABOON ID		Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL	
RH2		M	2		2								2																					3	
RH3		M	2		2								2		2							2												5	
RH4		M	2		2						2		2		2							2												5	
2F 5JUV											2				2							2												2	
TROOP			2		2					2		2								2														3	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														HRS		
Troop		0.6	15		30					10		30							5															1.5	
Males		0.9	15		30						10	30	10		30						10													2.25	
Roost:		AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost:		PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roost Sites				1 Mountain					2					3					4					5											
				6					7					8					9					10											
ID Features of Baboons		RH2 - double yellow tag; RH4 - yellow tag; RH3 - always with RH4																																	
General remarks		Town/Urban area - Simonstown, Admiralty Heights, Waterfall, Naval barracks, Military police station																																	

Figure 2. Raid sheet for the Waterfall Troop.

On 22 September, when the rangers arrived, the troop was attempting to go down to the Waterfall Barracks. The rangers successfully prevented them from entering the barracks. The troop was driven back up onto the mountain. From 22 – 28 September there was no



raiding recorded. They slept at the Waterfall cliffs all week except for the 24th when they slept on the mountain behind Happy Valley.

3. Da Gama/Glencairn

During September the two main troops sometimes combined and occasionally split into 4 troops. The baboons would split into the main troop with DG1, the small troop with DG4, DT5's splinter troop and a female with 2 sub-adults. Raiding occurred at different locations and different times by the four different splinter groups. Because of this all these baboons have been listed together on one raid sheet for Da Gama.

During the first four days of September the Da Gama troop spent their days in the mountain and only returned to the flats to sleep there. DG1 however, did raid a house in No. 7 Dalgleash, Da Gama Park. He entered through an open window.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																			
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																	
SOUTH EAST																																			
BABOON TROOP:		DA GAMA																																	
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2012																																	

Figure 3. Raid sheet for Da Gama Main Troop and the splinter troops.

On 25 September, at 19:00 a sub-adult and an unidentified adult female raided a flat. They broke into No. 01 Kroonseil Court, again through the shaft which leads to the bathroom window. A lady and her child were inside when they broke in. The lady (Andiswa) was very traumatised and threatened to poison a baboon. This flat was raided on a previous occasion by an adult female, coming in through the same entrance up the access shaft (photo below).



Figure 4. No. 01
Kroonseil Court, Naval
Flats:

(Left) Raided flat

(Right) Open access
shaft which baboons
use to enter flats.



On 28 September, we decided that the dominant female in the small troop should be caught and collared with a VHF radio collar in order to be able to track and cut them off when they tried to return to Elsie's Peak or Fish Hoek. DGF1 was successfully caught and transported to Dr. Hamish Currie's practise where she was collared and tagged – blue and white. DGF1 was released at 18:00pm on the sports fields and re-joined the troop.

General Comments

Splinter troops

Until about the 20th of September DT5 was difficult to manage because he consistently split off with some females and also hid from rangers. He and his splinter troop sleep in the pine trees at 2nd Avenue, Da Gama Park. This behaviour has improved during the last few days of the month because he has spent more time with the main troop. DT5 needs to be monitored however because he is an older male and may ultimately form a completely separate splinter troop.

Waste Management

On 5 September a meeting was held with Warrant Officer Lucky Sindane and Lorraine Holloway regarding the waste management at the Naval Flats. Currently the 40 bins provided to them are not being used and the bins that are being used get put out at 08h00 and by that time the baboons have already raided the bags. Inside the flats, the refuse cage door is broken, there is no light and there is a water leak so the residents do not use this facility. It was agreed with WO Sindane that this would be fixed and bins would be put out at 06h30. This however has not happened.



Figure 5. The lack of bins results in a weekly trashing of plastic bags of waste at the Naval Flats.

On 14 September, Lorraine Holloway and Ziggy attended the Navy Environmental Day at the Waterfall Barracks; we gave them a talk about the role of baboons in the environment, how they can prevent baboons from raiding their flats and how to deal with baboons when they

are in the Barracks. Approximately 60 residents from the barracks were present.

19 September, Simon Liell-Cock, a representative from city waste management and Lorraine Holloway were there to discuss the waste management at the Naval flats. The bin bays, and times when the waste gets collected was discussed. We agreed that WasteMart would make an effort to come to Da Gama early on bin day.

A bin survey was also started on 19 September, in Da Gama Park; it was conducted by Lorraine Holloway and Helene van der Westhuyzen (with 3 of her colleagues). During the survey they record whether people have a baboon proof bin and if these bins have padlocks.

Recommendations

Waste management:

Waste management at the Naval Flats in Waterfall and Da Gama needs urgent attention as the poor waste management is seriously hampering our attempts to keep baboons out of the urban area. Current bin bays should be secured behind lockable gates and under working lights. HWS suggested fitting a horizontal pole to each of the west facing wall of Kroonseil Court, and the east facing wall at Bluefin Court. Bins could be secured to these poles. HWS will unlock bins on bin day at 6:30am and after waste has been removed then HWS staff will lock the bins until the next bin day.

The Naval Flats need to be secured; i.e. windows fixed and closable, install swing doors at entrances, shafts behind the bathrooms should be fitted with doors/gates. On the refurbished flats water run-off pipes from the new gutters allow baboons to climb up to the roof. This should be addressed because the pipes hamper our efforts to keep the baboons off the flats.



Figure 6. Unsecured bins at the Black Marlin Restaurant.

Waste management at Miller's Point Caravan Park and the Black Marlin also has to be addressed. Their management had previously agreed that bins would be locked away and have padlocks. However unlocked bins were recently found behind the ablution blocks.

Containing splinter troops:

Our primary recommendation for the Da Gama troop/s is to encourage them to sleep on SANParks land. A cliff face with caves (see Figure. 7) has been identified as a good location. It is a safe distance from Da Gama, but also close enough to be able to drive the baboons from town to it. We regularly herd the baboons towards it and try to hold them there until we leave in the evenings. Our aim is that they will one day start to sleep there. We would like to start having evening shifts so that we can hold the baboons at the site until after dark, and therefore further encouraging the baboons to sleep there. In order to do this we need to request key access to the SANParks road into the region, so that we can return from the site by vehicle and not on foot in the dark.

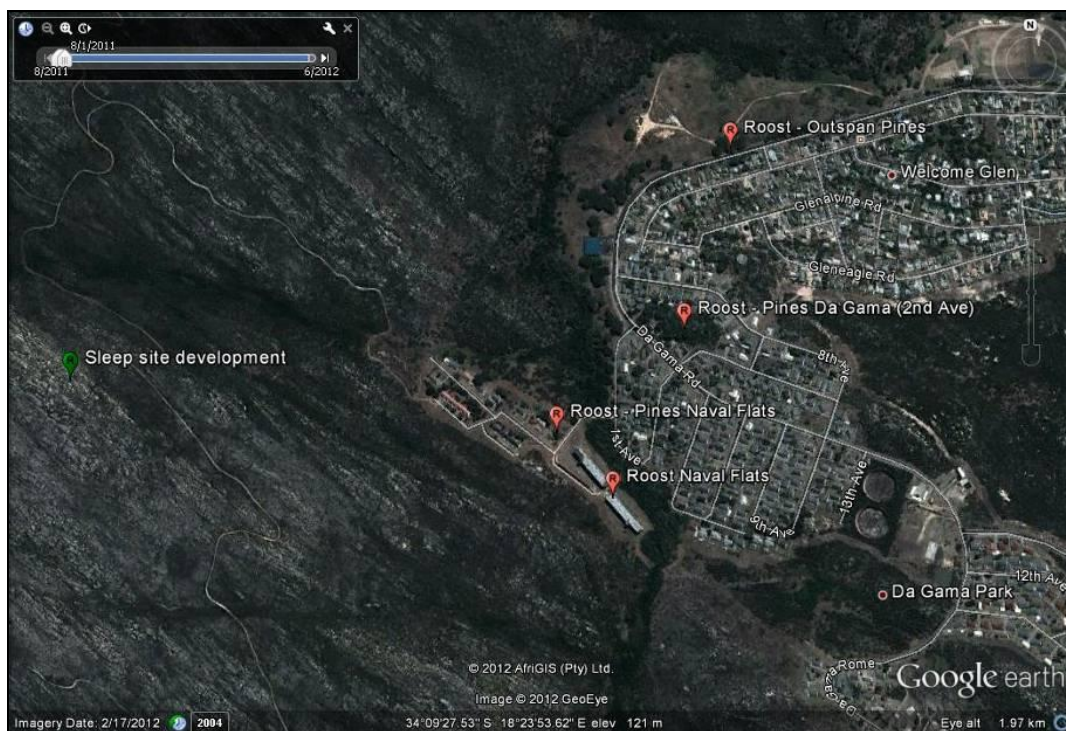


Figure 7. Proposed baboon sleep site (green pin), due west of Da Gama Park.

We have noticed that when the baboons are all in the park, they tend to remain together as one troop. However when they return to Da Gama they tend to split up into several troops and go on independent raids. We hope that by getting the baboons to sleep in the park we may put an end to this splintering trend which requires much more management.

Alien vegetation removal:



Figure 8. Map indicating alien vegetation recommended to be cleared as soon as possible in Da Gama: (1) Highest Priority and (2) Second highest priority.

The thick alien vegetation behind the flats in Da Gama needs **to be removed ASAP** because it provides refuge for the baboons, when we are attempting to push them up the mountain. This makes it much more difficult to herd the baboons out of town and allows them to hide away and outflank us very easily.

The pine trees in Da Gama Park and Welcome Glen should also be removed if possible. Only the pine trees at the sports field and at the flats should be left for the time being until such time as the baboons are comfortable sleeping in the park. They should then also be removed to discourage any return to town.

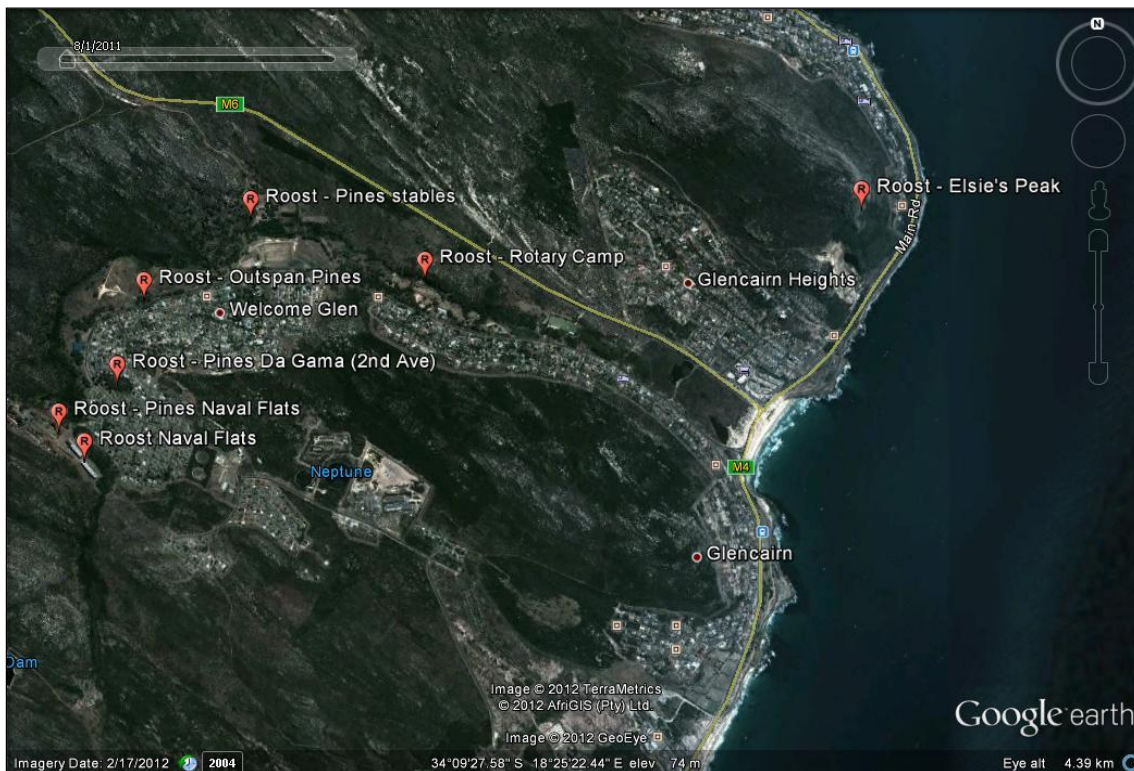


Figure 9. Roosting/Sleeping sites utilized in September by troops in Da Gama.

South Western Region – Manager Nick Shaw

Scarborough

The two troops in the Scarborough area are the GOB 1, known as the Groot Olifantsbos Troop and GOB 2 which is referred to as the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop.

Groot Olifantsbos Troop

Throughout the month of September the GOB 1 troop has remained in the Cape Point National Park. For most of the month the troop has been in the Groot Olifantsbos area. On the 25th, 27th and 28th the troop moved along the coast towards the fence at the picnic spot close to the beach and each time the rangers pushed the troop back towards Groot Olifantsbos. On no occasion did the troop enter into the residential area. On the 25th the supervisor noted that there were **two new born baboons in the troop**.



Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs splinter troop was at their usual C1 roost site from the 1st until the 7th September.

During this time there were three days when the troop entered into the urban areas. On two occasions the alpha male GOB5 gained access to unoccupied houses. The first incident recorded on the 3rd, he gained access to a house in Scarborough through an open window. In the second incident he managed to pull a sliding door off its rail at a house in Misty Cliffs.

From the 8th until the 20th the troop was kept in the park. While in the Park the troop made use of the C2 roost site. The rangers were able to keep the troop from moving back into Scarborough by patrolling the mountain ridge above the sleep site and holding the line on the ridge. This was not an easy task as the troop pushed hard to get back to Scarborough and their Misty Cliffs sleep site.

The strategy to keep them in the Park was to focus on preventing the majority of the females from crossing over the ridge to the Scarborough side of the mountain. As long as the rangers were successful in doing this, the alpha male GOB5 would stay with them. Even on the occasions when he did break the line, if the other females were held back he would return on his own. This might be due to the fact that there was a heavily pregnant female in the group that he kept close to at all times.

The biggest challenge faced when trying to keep the troop in the Park was the alpha female MCF1 and the sub-adult MC2, who regularly broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough on their own. The female would elude the rangers and make her way down towards Scarborough stopping along the way to call back to the rest of the troop to follow. Often GOB5 would follow her but would turn back when the other females did not join him. The alpha female broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough almost daily when the troop was in the Park and on most occasions MC2 would accompany her.

It was not possible to send rangers after them as the rest of the troop always pushed very hard to follow them into Scarborough and it took the combined effort of all the rangers to prevent them from doing so. The alpha female has only one arm and is possibly an elderly baboon with bad teeth. This could explain why she refused to remain in Park, far away from Scarborough. On the 20th the alpha female (MCF1) moved down into Scarborough as usual but this time she was accompanied by the pregnant female. On this occasion GOB5 pushed past the rangers on the mountain and followed her into Scarborough. The rangers held the rest of the troop on the mountain but for the whole morning GOB5 barked from Scarborough to encourage them to follow. As soon as two rangers were taken off the troop on the mountain to attempt to get GOB5 and an unidentified back into the Park, the rest of



the troop managed to break the line and head down into Scarborough where they joined the others and made their way immediately back to their Misty Cliffs sleep site.

During the period that the troop was held in the park MCF1 and MC2 entered into Scarborough on their own on eight separate occasions. On the 17th both gained access into a house on Hilltop Rd through an open window.

Between the 20th and the 28th the troop entered the urban areas on 6 occasions. On the 25th GOB5 raided an occupied house in Misty Cliffs. On the 28th both GOB5 and MC2 raided an occupied house in Misty Cliffs.

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:	September	3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																										
YEAR: 2012																																		
BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				TOTAL	
Unid M	M			5		1	5,8		1												2					2,6	2	1	6				9	
Unid M	M					1			2			1	1		1			5	1					2	2	2		1	6				14	
MCF1	F					1			1		1	1	1		1		1	5	1	1	2				2	2	2		1				15	
Troop				1		1	1		2												2	2		2	2	2	1	1	1				12	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS				
Troop	94			105		150	45		90												30	15		15	30	480	15	75	45				18h15	
Males																																		
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
Roost Sites		1	Misty Cliffs				2	Park Cliffs				3					4					5												
		6					7					8					9					10												
ID Features of Baboons		MCF1 is the alpha female with only one arm																																
		Unid M is the sub adult male son of MCF1																																
General remarks		Between the 8th and the 20th the troop was kept in the Park. MCF1 and the Unid M broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough by themselves on most days																																
		There was a birth recorded on the 22nd September																																

Figure 10. Raid sheet for Misty Cliffs area.

Comments and observations:

The most important observation of the last month is that the individuals responsible for leading the troop into the urban areas are the alpha female (MCF1) and her sub-adult male son (MC2). They will frequently break away from the troop to enter the residential areas on their own. This creates a division in the troop and results in the rest of the troop pushing very hard to join them. Although the alpha male (GOB5) is a habitual raider when he enters the urban areas, he is more easily managed than the other two. If the rangers are able to manage the majority of the females in the troop, the alpha male has been prevented from entering the residential area on his own.

This observation was particularly evident in the days where the troop was kept in the Park between the 8th and 20th of the month. MCF1 and MC2 would regularly break away from the troop and spend hours on their own in Scarborough before joining the troop again.

For the month of September the troop spent a total number of just over 18 hours in the residential areas of Scarborough and Misty Cliffs. Of these 18 hours, 8 were recorded on a single day, Tuesday the 25th which was a bin day in Scarborough.

Recommendations:

It has become evident over this month that the most challenging management issue with regards to the Misty Cliffs troop is the alpha female MCF1 and her sub-adult son MC2. The alpha female is very often the leader of the troop into the residential areas and will often go on her own if the troop is held back by the rangers. This is a similar situation to what occurred in the GOB troop when the three-legged female would spend most of her time in Scarborough and would refuse to join the troop when they were pushed out of the residential area. The other similarity between these females is that MCF1 too is crippled, having only one arm. She is also an elderly baboon and may be struggling to forage normally.

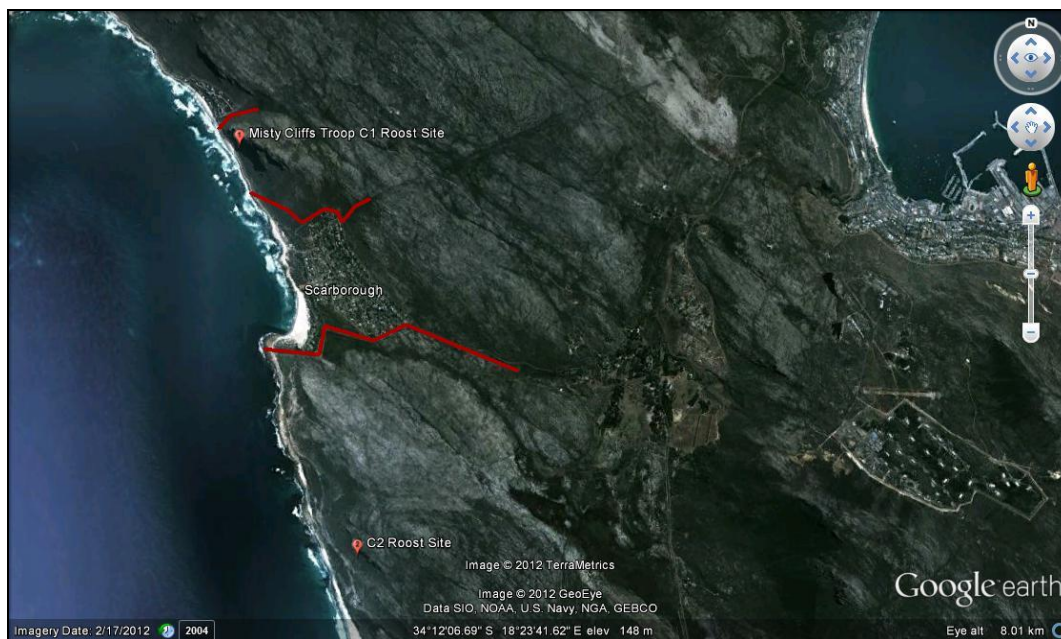


Figure 11. Misty Cliffs Troop Roost Sites for September 2012

These might be reasons for her not wanting to be with the troop and always wanting to push into the residential areas. In the absence of the three-legged female the GOB troop has made the management of that troop much easier. Without an individual female that breaks away from the troop to enter the urban area on her own the rest of the troop is happy to remain in the Park with the new alpha male.

The fact that MCF1 breaks away from the troop regularly creates tension within the troop as GOB5 will always try to follow her. When the troop is close to the urban edge and GOB5 can see the rest of the troop, he will break through the ranger line to join MCF1. This results in a



split of the troop and in order to go after these two, the rangers will have to split into two groups which weakens the line and often results in the whole troop managing to break the line.

Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop troop has spent the month of September in the Ocean View/Compass Bakery area, making use of the two sleeping sites in these areas. The Ocean View roost site (C2) is located at the pine trees above Ocean View and the Compass Bakery roost site (C3) is located at the cliffs overlooking the Compass Bakery.

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:		Slangkop		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																			
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2012		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
BABOON ID		Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				TOTAL
Collar		M		2		2,5								2				2	2,6		2	2					6						8	
Blue		M		2														2									1						3	
Troop				2		2			2		2			2				2	2		2	2					1						10	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS				
Troop	97		30		30				150		60			15				15	90		60	60					45						9hr15	
Males																																		
Roost:	AM	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2					
Roost:	PM	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2					
Roost Sites		1	Slangkop				2	Ocean View				3	Compass Bakery				4					5												
		6					7					8					9					10												
ID Features of Baboons																																		
General remarks		The collared male breaks away from the troop regularly with three to four females and juveniles which results in the rangers having manage two troops most days																																
		During the period 15th - 18th there were two births recorded																																

Figure 12. Raid sheet for Slangkop area.

The management strategy for these areas is to prevent the troop from entering Ocean View from the C2 roost site and to prevent the troop from crossing Kommetjie Rd and into Compass Bakery property and Imhoff's Gift below the C3 roost site. This is done by maintaining a buffer zone between the C3 roost site and Kommetjie Rd. The third aspect of managing the troop in is to prevent the troop from moving north from the C3 roost site and into the Capri residential areas.

The most challenging management issue faced by the rangers is the splintering of this troop into two and having to manage two separate troops on any given day. The collared male is responsible for this splinter troop. He regularly breaks away from the troop with three of four females and a couple of juveniles. He will either break away to head down to and across Kommetjie Rd where the troop will raid the Compass Bakery or Imhoff's Gift, or he will head north to enter into Capri from the Solole Game Reserve fence line. Each time the

splinter troop breaks away from the main troop the rangers have to halve the team, which makes managing both troops very difficult.

If the splinter troop makes its way across Kommetjie Rd the supervisor has to allocate three rangers to man the troop; two rangers to wave down traffic with flags and one ranger to push the troop back across the road. This leaves one ranger to manage the main troop which is very challenging and this is most often when the troop is able to break the line to enter into the Capri/Imhoff/Compass Bakery areas.

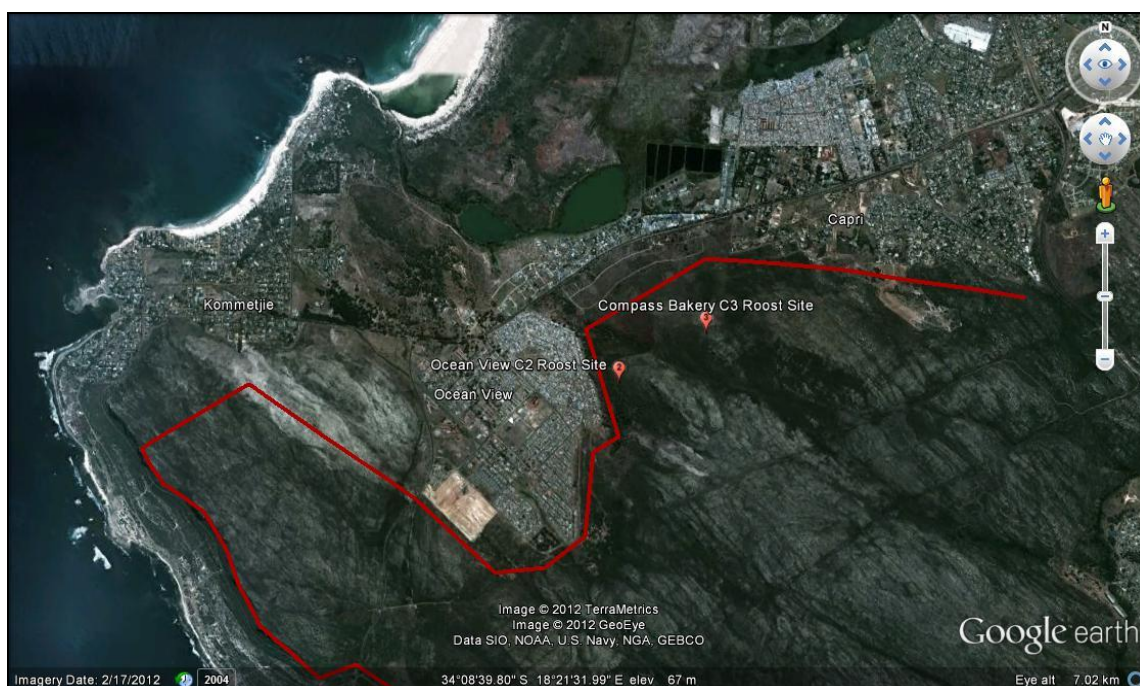


Figure 13. Roost sites for Kommetjie area.

September Raids

The troop managed to enter into Capri on the 2nd, 4th, 7th and 20th September. On all these occasions bins were raided and on the 4th, the collared male and a couple of juveniles gained access to an unoccupied house through an open window.

The troop managed to cross Kommetjie Rd and enter the Compass Bakery site on the 9th, 17th and 19th September. While there the troop raided bins on site.

On the 12th, 17th and 25th the troop managed to enter Imhoff's Gift. On the 17th and 25th the collared male was recorded raiding occupied houses in Imhoff's Gift.



General Comments

The management of the splinter troop is the biggest challenge the rangers face on an almost daily basis. The strategy employed to deal with this is to keep the troop together for as much of the time as possible. The rangers are not always successful in doing this as the splinter troop moves very quickly to out-flank them and results in the line having to spread out over a wide area which then makes it much easier for the main and splinter troop to break through. This is how most of the line breaks occur.

The Imhoff's Gift residential area has an electrified perimeter fence and a single road leading into the suburb. This area should be easily managed by stationing rangers at Atlantic Rd leading into Imhoff's Gift. Unfortunately the boundary fence with Penny Pinchers at Heron Park Industrial area has several mature Eucalyptus and Casuarina trees which the baboons frequently use to avoid the electric fence and gain access to Imhoff's Gift. On a number of occasions when the troop has been pushed out of Compass Bakery they have run through the industrial estate and jumped the wall behind Penny Pinchers and into the residential area.

The restricted access to the Solole Game Reserve makes it hard to maintain a buffer zone along the Capri urban edge. It is from here that the troops most often gain access into Capri.

The thick stands of alien vegetation on the mountain between the C3 roost site and the area above Capri makes it difficult to manage the troop and maintain a buffer zone above the urban edge. The troop uses this thick vegetation as cover to move close to the urban edge and enter Capri from the mountain or through Solole Reserve.

The lack of an adequate water supply on the mountains in this area means that the troop often accesses the municipal waste water treatment facility behind Compass Bakery. As summer approaches it is very likely that the troop will be forced to seek out this only source of water more frequently which will make the management of the troop very difficult and will mean that the strategy of maintaining a buffer zone between the mountain and Kommetjie Rd will be near impossible.

Recommendations

With summer fast approaching it will be necessary to investigate the possibility of providing the troop with an artificial water source on the mountain close to the C3 roost site. This will eliminate the urgency for the troop to access water at the municipal treatment plant and in residential areas.

It would be a great help if the alien vegetation on the mountain above Capri could be removed to allow for better access to areas above Capri and to aid in maintaining the buffer zone.



North Region – Manager Stefan Theron

There was a period of five days, after the removal of the Zwaanswyk small troop TK20 on the 6 of September 2012, that both troops ended up merging together. This drew the Tokai main troop into the upper levels of SANParks's property for this period. After this ~~did~~ TK21 and TK22, large robust males, moved into the Zwaanswyk small troop and mated with some females. No infanticide was reported. Their actions resulted in splitting the troops up again. Their raiding behaviour is recorded here under the Zwaanswyk small troop sheet because their excursions originated from this troop's home range. They are now considered to be the two dominant males. Their crossover into the Zwaanswyk small troop resulted in them spending a lot of time in this troop's home range next to the Zwaanswyk electric fence.

There is a third male in the troop named TK24, which also moved across from the Tokai main troop. TK24 is not regarded as a raiding male at present, so should make a good alpha male.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																			
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																	
		1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																						
BABOON TROOP:		Zwaanswyk		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2012		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL		
TK20 - Collar/No tag	M	1		7		7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3		
TK22 - Collar/No tag	M																									1	2	2,6					1		
TK21	M																									1	2	2,6			2,6	2,6	5		
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS				
Males		6.6	150		200		180																			240	120	250			70	130	22.33		
Troop		0																														0.00			
Roost:	AM	1	1	2	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Roost:	PM	1	1	2	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Roost Sites		1	SANParks Tea Garden												2	Level one												3	Level two						
		4	Level three												5	Level four																			
ID Features of Baboons		TK21 has a vertical scar slit on his nose from previous fights.																																	
General remarks		X - Mortality																																	

Figure 14. Raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Troop



Immediately inside the Zwaanswyk electric fence is a number of houses with fruiting trees, including ripe guavas, and vegetable gardens. These visual and olfactory stimuli resulted in the males searching for weaknesses' in the electric fence. For about a week these two males managed to cross the fence by using the tall eucalyptus trees overhanging the fence at the municipal reservoir. These trees were scheduled for felling on Monday 1 October 2012. Both these males were given rigid opposition at these trees when they tried to cross over. On a few occasions these males just dashed for it, taking multiple body shots with paint and pepper balls as they crossed over.

After a couple of days of hard harassment at these trees these two males changed their tactic and tried to enter via the bottom of Zwaanswyk but with very limited success. The males seemed to alternate going on raids, one staying behind while the other raided. Only on rare occasions do both of them end up in Zwaanswyk Road. Raiding by these two males is not a new development, because according to some old NCC staff they have been raiding for at least two years. TK22 can be recognised by his collar and TK21 by his split nose. We plan to radio collar these two males in October in order to be able to head them off before they attempt to raid the urban areas.

Births

There have been four births in this troop over the past three months – 3 at the end of July and now 1 at the end of September.

2. Tokai Main Troop

Earlier in the month were there still some single males that regularly tried to raid. The TK17-yellow tag and TK18-White tag were the most problematic baboons in the Tokai area and attempted to raid on a daily basis. They wandered off far from the troop, mostly to Firgrove Road, in the Constantia Hills area. These two males would split up when they came into the urban area and were constantly breaking and entering into both occupied and unoccupied houses and raiding bins. On the numerous occasions when these males broke into and raided occupied houses, they showed no fear towards humans whatsoever and often displayed threatening behaviour towards people in their determination to access food.

The yellow tagged male was responsible for a majority of the raids that took place in the Tokai / Constantia area with the white tagged male being a close runner up. Neither of the two males responded to the field staff's efforts to move them out of the urban area and they continued raiding persistently. These males also raided buildings on SANParks's property, Porter Estate, Chrysalis Academy and the stables in the area.



The most recent event of this nature occurred on 10 September 2012. The residents of the Constantia Hills area, especially Firgrove Road were very dismayed about the baboons. The yellow tag and white tag baboons were the most persistent raiders and they were also the most frequent raiders.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																				
SECTOR			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																	
North			1	In urban area										4	Attacking pets										7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food										
BABOON TROOP:		Tokai Main	2	Raid bins										5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle										8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property										
MONTH:	September	YEAR: 2012	3	Non malicious damage										6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																					
BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL			
TK9 - Green/White, Collar	M					2,7								2																			2			
TK17 - Yellow	M					6,7			2,6				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3			
TK18 - White	M		6,9										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1			
Unid M - Collar only	M		1											1												2			2				4			
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																	HRS
Males	4.8		180			240			120					120												150		150					16			
Troop	0																																0			
Roost:	AM	2	2	1	2	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
Roost:	PM	2	2	1	2	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
Roost Sites		1	Cryssilis Academy										2	Plantations										3	SANParks Picnic Site											
		4	Zwaanswyk Back plantation										5	Levels																						
ID Features of Baboons		N/a																																		
General remarks		X - Mortality																																		

Figure 15: Tokai large troop.

Births

There were three births at the end of August 2012 and no births in September 2012.

Mortalities

The two males TK17-yellow tag and TK18-White tag were euthanased by the BTT. Both males were persistent and problematic raiders, breaking into buildings and attacking people for food.

3. Constantia Troop

Working in conjunction with Groot/Klein Constantia, resulted in great results for the Constantia vineyards area as a whole. The procedure being applied to alter the baboon troop movement directions is working efficiently.

We utilize one ranger to track the baboons, and be with them when they are pushed in the direction of the silver trees. The Constantia vineyard employees push the baboons up to the mountain and the HWS rangers hold the line at the silver trees area at the top of Price Drive area.

Raids have been less frequent on the lower section of Price Drive but raids at no. 42 still happen on occasions. The last week has brought about some new happenings within the troop, an unidentified male has been reported by the rangers (not verified) and has now



challenged the dominance structure. This has resulted in the troop splitting into two groups during the day but still roosting together at night.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																				
SECTOR			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																	
			1	In urban area										4	Attacking pets										7	Threatening behaviour /attack /stealing food										
BABOON TROOP:		Constantia	2	Raid bins										5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle										8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property										
MONTH:		September	YEAR: 2012		3	Non malicious damage										6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																			
BABOON ID		Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL		
Unidentified												6	6	6	6															5					5	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																															HRS		
Males		1.9										60	60	60	60														140						6.3	
Troop		0																																	0	
Roost:		AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
Roost:		PM	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
Roost Sites			1	Castle										2	Klein Constantia										3	Dead Trees - Klein Constantia										
			4	Behind Klein Constantia																																
ID Features of Baboons			N/a																																	
General remarks			The information recorded for the troop movements was not the troop natural ranging behaviour, as their movements are manipulated by Constantia vineyard monitors.																																	

Figure 16: Raid sheet of the Constantia troop.

As mentioned above, the teaming up with the vineyard staff is proving effective in keeping the baboons out of the vineyards. Hopefully, the fence that is being erected will mean we no longer have to chase them up into the mountain and they can continue to act naturally.

General Comments:

Births

Three births in August 2012 and one birth end September 2012.

Mortalities

No mortalities have been reported for the Constantia troop during September 2012.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

During August we received 79 hotline calls from 5-31 August, with over a third in the first 5 days. There were therefore probably over 90 calls during August as a whole. Over the whole of September we received 52 calls, with 9 being complaining or complementary calls, leaving 43 being related to baboon raids. We have therefore received approximately half as many raid related calls in September when compared to August. Over half of these calls relate to the raiding males of Tokai, and the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop. The dramatic increase in calls from Scarborough for the second half of September, is accounted for by the return of the Misty Cliffs troop from the Cape Point Reserve on 20 September. Despite the results for these two troops, there has been a steady decrease in incidents of baboons in urban areas and this is reflected in these data. The number of calls is approximately one third of the number received in September 2011.

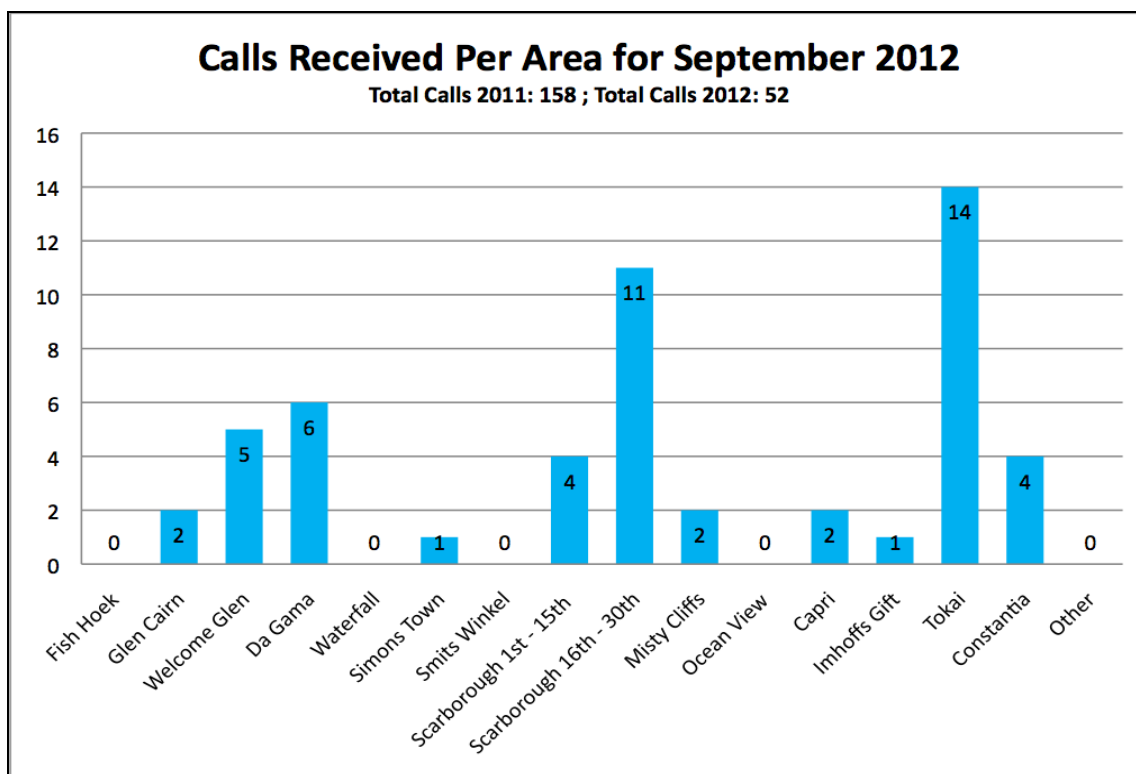


Figure 17: Frequency of hotline calls in the southern peninsula suburbs.

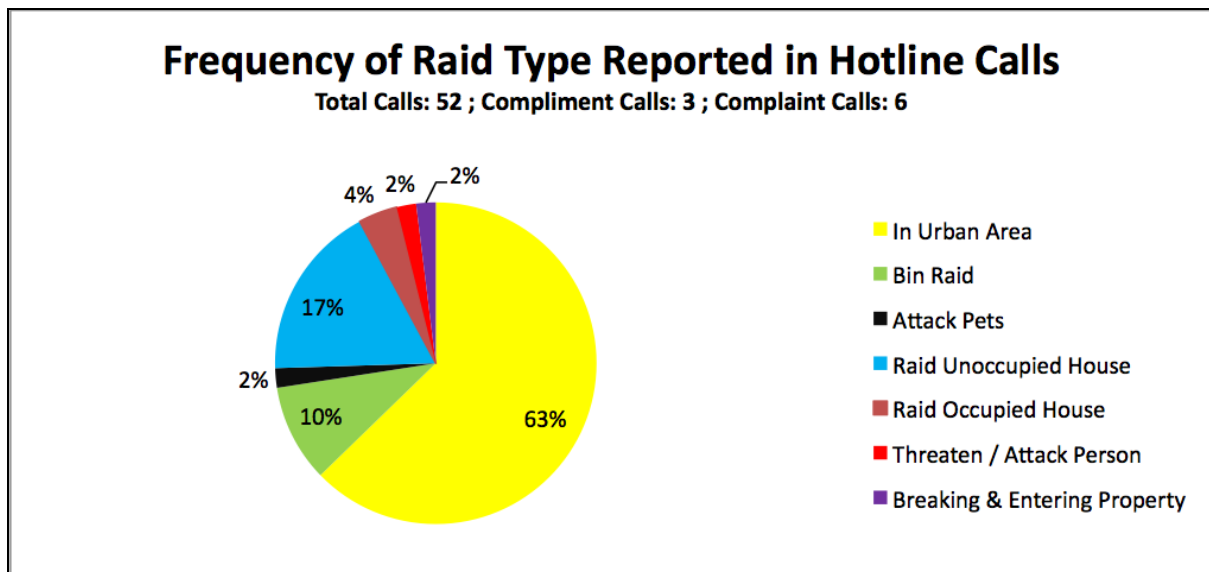


Figure 18: Frequency of hotline calls by raid type.

Almost three quarters of all hotline calls, are for baboons in the urban area or for raiding bins. The majority of raids (17%) are for raids on unoccupied houses, but there are still another 10% which are related to relatively high levels of aggression by baboons – attacking pets, raiding occupied houses, attacking people or breaking and entering into properties. I suggest this level is unacceptably high and we should aim to reduce all of these types of raids to zero.

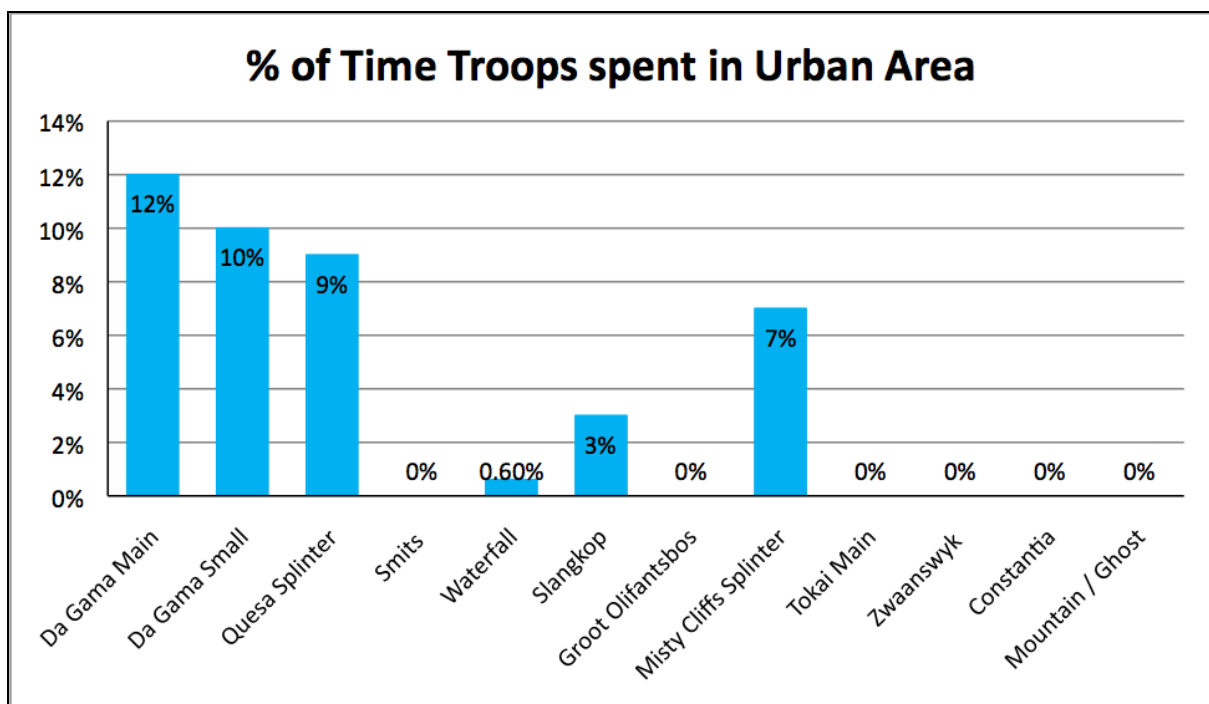


Figure 19: The percentage time each baboon troop spent in the urban area.



Human Wildlife Solutions

One of the requirements of our tender was that we keep all baboon troops out of the urban areas for at least 80% of the time. We calculated time in the urban area from when our rangers arrive on duty until they leave again. This is considered reasonable because our teams arrive to be in time to manage the baboons as soon as they leave their roosts until they return again. In the figure above it is evident that no troop was in the urban area for more than 12% of the time. In Da Gama, if we add the data for the Da Gama main troop and the DT5 splinter troop together, their total urban time increases to 14%. This is because they tended to raid together or at least at much the same times.

For September 2012 we can conclude that all troops were out of the urban area for at least 86% of the time and we have therefore met our tender requirements in this regard. It is evident from the raid sheets for each troop that this trend is also true for all the raiding males, none of which was in the urban area for more than 12% of the time.

In conclusion, the data for frequency of hotline calls and the percentage time baboons have been recorded in the urban areas both suggest that there has been a steady decrease in the rate at which baboons are raiding. This success is largely attributed to our use of paintball guns and the proactive approach of our managers, supervisors and rangers.

Philip Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions