



Baboon Management
Cape Town

Monthly Report

For December 2012



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A. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

This month's report covers the four week period from 24 November to 20 December 2012.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Manager Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

December thus far has been a very good month for the Smitswinkel Troop in terms of raiding. The troop spent only 0.1% of their time in a 'residential area'. Despite fears that the start of the festive season would lead to an increase in the number of raids, the field rangers have been able to keep the troop, and more particularly SWB3, under control. It has been the best month thus far with regard to SWB3 and he only entered the residential area twice and on both occasions was quickly moved out of the area before he could raid.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																
SECTOR SE BABOON TROOP: Smits MONTH: December YEAR: 2012			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
			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																													
BABOON ID	Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		TOTAL		
SWB3	M	1										1																		2		
SWB1	M																								5					1		
SWB4	M	1										1									1	1				1				5		
SWB5	M																													0		
UnID M	M																									6				1		
Troop			2																											1		

Fig.1 Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

SWB4 still poses a serious problem as he often breaks the line and has to be pushed back to be with the troop. He managed to get through the line on five occasions however the field rangers did succeed in getting him back to the troop before he could raid.

SWB1 raided an unlocked, unoccupied vehicle where he grabbed a backpack and ran into the bushes. The rangers were able to retrieve the backpack and push him back to the troop.

It was also reported to the rangers that, on the same day, a male (who could not be identified by the resident) had entered a guest cottage whilst the guests were sleeping although he did not manage to raid. He had presumably entered through an open door.

The success during December thus far can be attributed to the increase in the number of field rangers per team and the shifts being extended until 18:30 in the evenings. The Smitswinkel team now comprises 2 Senior Supervisors, 1 Junior Supervisor and 7 Field Rangers and there are 5 members of the team on duty most of the time whereas previously there were only 3 on duty.

On 17 December one of the residents at Castle Rock placed two boxes of Rattex poison outside her house and, although there was no visual confirmation, both boxes disappeared. The troop is therefore being monitored closely for any symptoms of poisoning.

2. Waterfall Troop

As before, most of the conflict that took place occurred in the early mornings and the late afternoons when the rangers were not on site. We therefore decided to extend the shifts so that they extended started at 06:00 and ended at 19:00 at night with effect from the 10th of December.

Raiding of bins at the Barracks continued however. It cannot be stressed enough that the poor waste management at the Barracks is hampering efforts to keep the baboons out of the area as the rewards of being able to get food easily encourages them to come down to the Barracks.

In addition, many of the residents still leave windows open despite ongoing baboon management education, posters and talks with residents where they are requested to keep windows closed when they are not there. Furthermore, the doors to the bin room still remain unlocked and the bins are not baboon-proof. We have repeatedly asked the Warrant Officer in charge to address this issue as soon as possible.



Fig.2 Waste management and open windows at Waterfall Barracks

- (a) The bin room door which is not lockable.
- (b) Mess due to the lack of baboon-proof bins in the bin rooms.



Waste tossed by baboons after gaining access to bin room.



(c) Bins left outside, no lids etc.

(d) Windows of flats left open.



RH2 also got into a routine of coming down to the area at 19:15 to raid a bakkie that collects the leftover food/slop from the Happy Valley Home to take to a pig farm. The back of the vehicle is open and RH2 therefore has easy access to the food.

In addition, during a meeting at the Happy Valley Home residents of the shelter admitted to feeding the baboons. It was stressed to them that it is illegal to do so and if they were caught they would be fined.

An unidentified female baboon gained access to the kitchen at Happy Valley on two separate occasions and it was requested that the residents keep the door of the kitchen closed at all times.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																		
SECTOR			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
SE			1 In urban area												4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food															
BABOON TROOP:		Waterfall	2 Raid bins												5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property															
MONTH: December		YEAR: 2012	3 Non malicious damage												6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																			
BABOON ID			Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		TOTAL		
WF2			M																2									2				2		
WF1			M																			1										1		
UnID Female			F							6									2	2	1	6						2				6		
RH2			M		2							2	2	5	5	2			2	2	1											9		
UnID Juv					1														2													2		
TROOP												2	2	2					2								2		2	2		7		
			%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS		
Troop			0.8								5	15	20	10							15	5					20		20	10		2.00		
Males			1.4		5							15	20	20	15	15			10	10	15		10				20	20	20	10		3.42		
Roost:			AM	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	4	2	1	4	1	1	4	1,4	4	4				
Roost:			PM	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1			
Roost Sites				1 Waterfall Cliff				2 Happy Valley Mnt				3 Signal School				4 Waterfall Barracks				5 Mountain Residents side														
				6 Admiral footpath				7 Not found				8 Happy Valley Home																						
ID Features of Baboons				WF2 - always with WF1, WF2 - yellow tag. RH2 - double yellow tags, adult male																														
General remarks																																		

Fig.3 Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet



3. Da Gama/Glencairn

During the end of November and the beginning of December, raiding was minimal as the Big Troop (BT) spent their time in the mountain between Misty Cliffs and Witsand. The Small Troop (ST) did enter the residential area but there was also minimal raiding during this period.

On 26 November the ST ended up at Baskloof behind Scarborough. They then retreated from there and went back to Da Gama where they slept. However the Slangkop Troop was with them and they proceeded into Scarborough and raiding was reported at around 19:00 that night. The troop was moved out by 9am the following morning.

On 28 November the decision was taken to encourage the troops to go back to where they had come from. The decision was made as a precautionary measure to prevent the BT from raiding Soetwater camp site over the festive season. DG8 unfortunately broke the line in the early morning and was raiding at the camp site where there was a large school group and the situation became potentially dangerous. By that evening all three troops were in Da Gama but there were a number of skirmishes between DG1 and DG5. The Slangkop Troop and ST stayed in the alien vegetation behind the Naval Flats until 20:00 and only returned to the area once the brawling had ceased.

For the first few days that the BT was back at Da Gama, all three troops remained mainly in the dense alien vegetation and were extremely difficult to push out of the area. On the evening of 30 November, John de Jager, an HWS supervisor, was getting ready to leave the area but noticed that the baboons were heading into town. He attempted to move them back to the flats but they broke through. John also noticed that they were eating something on Da Gama Road and along 5th Avenue and on closer inspection he found popcorn kernels and bread that had been scattered along the road. Only John and a junior ranger were available at the time and unfortunately attempts to push the three troops back were futile. John continued to monitor the troops until 21:15 when they moved into the 2nd Avenue pines. The food appeared to be have been deliberately spread along the road and no empty packets were found.

Between the 5th and 12th December there was raiding by both the Da Gama BT and ST. DG5 regularly broke away from the troop to raid in Da Gama. Due to his frequent breaks the decision was taken on 10 December to fit him with a VHF collar.

By the 12th of December the BT was pushed out of town towards Witsand and the result was that there was no further raiding. The ST was only involved in one severe raid when it broke into a house in Capri by breaking the window latch and raiding the kitchen. The male baboon from the Slangkop Troop, which has now joined the ST, entered a house on one occasion and stole a bag of potatoes while the residents were in the house.

It has become evident that the ST is once again a fully functioning splinter troop with the Slangkop male taking over as the alpha male. Numerous attempts at pushing the ST towards the BT or the Slangkop Troop have failed although they seemed to be more comfortable in close proximity to the Slangkop Troop.



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
SOUTH EAST		1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																		
BABOON TROOP:		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																		
MONTH: December		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																							
BABOON ID	Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			TOTAL
Big Troop								1	1								2	2													4
DG8	M					2		1					2	1	2		2	2		2											8
DG8 splinter								1	1								2	2													4
DG1	M							1	1							2	1	2	2												6
DG5	M							1,7	1				1	6	5	2	2,7	2	1												9
2x Sub-ad males	M							1									2	2													3
DGF3	F							1					2	2	2		2	2	1	2											8
DGF4	F							1					2	2	2		2	2	1	2											8
DG7	M							1	1						2		2	2													5
UnID Sub-adult	M							1										6													2
UnID Female	F							1					2	2						1											4
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																											HRS	
Big Troop	4.3							90	90				30	180	40		30	240	90	40											13.83
Males	5.0					60		90	90				30	180	60	40	40	240	90	40											16.00
Roost:	AM	12	12	12	12	12	12	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	1,2	2	2	2	2	2	2	11	11	11	12	11	11	11	11		
Roost:	PM	12	12	12	12	12	1	1	3	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	11	11	11	12	11	11	11	11			
Roost Sites		1	Flats				2	Pines - Flats				3	Pines - Da Gama				4	Pines - Welcome Glen				5	Sport Fields Stables								
		6	Compass Bakery				7	Pines - Outspan				8	Jacks Shop				9	Elsie's Peak				10	Rotary Camp								
		11	Misty Cliff				12	Slangkop																							
ID Features of Baboons		DG5: red yellow tags + Collar, DG1: Collar, DGF3: Three legs, DGF4: Crooked tale + old.																													
General remarks		27/11 - GPS in DG1's collar failed																													
		13/12 - New born baby in Big Troop																													

Fig. 4 Da Gama Big Troop Raid Sheet

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SOUTH EAST		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
BABOON TROOP:	DA GAMA ST	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
MONTH: November	YEAR: 2012	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL	
Small Troop			1					1	1	1					8			1	1			1				2			9	
DGF1	F							1	1	1					8				1			1				2			7	
DGF2	F							1	1	1					8				1			1				2			7	
UnID sub-adult	M							1		5											5								3	
ST Male	M							1			1				8			1	1			6		2		2			8	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS
Small Troop	2.9		15					90	90	60					30			30	20			200				20			9.25	
Males	3.0		15					90	90	60	10				30			30	20		10	200		10		20			9.75	
Roost: (Small)	AM	1	3	1	1	1	2	3	3	5	8	6	6	6	6	5	5	3	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1		
Roost: (Small)	PM	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	8	6	6	6	6	5	5	3	3	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1			
Roost Sites		1	Flats			2	Pines - Flats			3	Pines - Da Gama			4	Pines - Welcome Glen			5	Sport Fields Stables											
		6	Compass Bakery			7	Pines - Outspan			8	Jacks Shop			9	Elsie's Peak			10	Rotary Camp											
		11	Misty Cliff																											
ID Features of Baboons		DGF1 - Female with collar + blue/white tags																												
		DGF2 - Female with crooked hand																												
General remarks																														

Fig.5 Da Gama Small Troop Raid Sheet

Births and Deaths

No deaths occurred during this month. One new infant was seen with the Da Gama BT on 13 December.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) It has become more apparent that the BT and ST suffered from thirst during the past few weeks due to the hot weather conditions at their respective localities. They were not prevented from going to areas where we are aware that there is water available for them but as summer progresses this resource will become sparser. The supplementary provisioning of water with a tank system is becoming critical if we are to achieve our goal of keeping the baboons in the mountain.

- (b) Intensive alien clearing is still needed along the water courses and more particularly behind the Naval flats.
 - (c) The water drain pipes on the Naval flats need to be baboon proofed in order to stop the baboons from gaining access to the newly renovated flats.
 - (d) Law enforcement is crucial during this festive season along the Millers/Smitswinkel route to discourage and prevent the feeding of baboons.
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South Western Region – Manager Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

The GOB troop has been in the Cape of Good Hope Reserve for the period 24th November to 20th December. The troop has moved between the areas of Groot Olifantsbos and the cliff site (C2) on the Bonteberg ridge.

On both the 9th and 14th of December the troop attempted to enter Scarborough from the Reserve fence. The rangers were able to push the troop back on both occasions and the troop did not enter Scarborough on any day during December.

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs splinter troop spent the last week of November in the Cape of Good Hope Reserve. On the 2nd December the troop managed to break the line past the rangers and headed back to the Misty Cliffs roost site (C1).

On 4th December the rangers were able to push the troop back into the Reserve but only for one night. The troop subsequently managed to get past the rangers again and back into Scarborough and the Misty Cliffs sleep site. However on the 14th December the rangers were successful once again in pushing the troop into the Reserve where they have been until 20th December.

December Raids:

On the 30th November GOB5, along with MC1 and a female, entered Scarborough and raided bins for half an hour before returning to the troop in the Reserve.

On the 5th December MC1 entered an occupied house in Springbok Rd and took food out of the fridge.

On the 8th December GOB5 entered the community hall where an art exhibition was being held.

On the 9th December GOB5 entered a house in Beach Rd and on the 13th he entered an occupied house at 77 Old Camp Rd.

During the period 2nd to 13th December there were numerous raids by the whole troop in Scarborough.



Figure 6: Misty Cliffs Troop Roost Sites for October 2012

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																		
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																
		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: December		YEAR: 2012		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																								
BABOON ID		Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					TOTAL
GOB5		M							2								6	6				6												4
MC1		M							2					6				6																3
MCF1		F												2																				1
Unidentified Female		F							2					2																				2
Troop											2	2	2	1			2	2	1	2	1	1											10	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS						
Troop		5.3									120	30	90	45			155	65	55	420	30	20											17h10	
Males/Females		5.4							20		120	30	90	360			155	65	55	420	30	20											17h30	
Roost:		AM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Roost:		PM	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Roost Sites			1 Misty Cliffs				2 CofGH Reserve				3 Olifantsbos				4				5															
			6				7				8				9				10															
ID Features of Baboons			GOB 5 has a collar and double red tag																															
General remarks			The troop went back to the Misty Cliffs sleep site on the 2nd and were pushed back into the CofGH Reserve on the 4th for one night and again on the 14th.																															

Figure 7: Misty Cliffs Troop Raid Sheet

Comments and Observations

After weeks of trying, the troop finally managed to get past the rangers and back into the Scarborough/Misty Cliffs area where they continued to raid bins and houses.

There were four house raids on the 2nd December (the day the troop managed to get back into Scarborough), but because the rangers were still attempting to prevent some individuals from getting into Scarborough, it was not possible to determine which individuals were responsible for these raids.

The rangers found it very difficult to push the troop over the next 10 days as they were determined not to leave the Misty Cliffs/Scarborough area. MC1 and MCF1 consistently broke away from the troop to enter Scarborough either alone or together with a couple of other females and juveniles.

The rangers tried to retain the rest of the troop on the mountain while waiting for these raiding individuals to join the troop again but this usually took a considerable length of time and, as a result, often resulted in the entire troop managing to break the line and enter Scarborough from Hilltop Rd.

3. Slangkop Troop

From 24th November to 2nd December the Slangkop troop was in the Da Gama area.

On 3rd December the troop, together with the Da Gama small troop, were pushed to the Ocean View sleep site (C2). They have subsequently, up to and including 20th December, been at the Compass Bakery sleep site.

When the Da Gama troop went back to the Da Gama area one of the Slangkop males went with them and has remained with the Da Gama troop ever since.

On the 26th November the Slangkop troop and Da Gama small troop spent the day together at Kleinplaas Dam. The rangers left both troops there however the Da Gama small troop made their way back to Da Gama but the Slangkop troop went in the other direction towards Scarborough.

Between 19h30 and 20h00 on that same day, the Slangkop troop entered and raided houses in Scarborough. We received a report that 4 Mimosa Rd in Scarborough was broken into and raided. The troop spent that night spread between the Scarborough and Misty Cliffs area but was pushed back to the Compass Bakery cliff site the following day.

On the 12th December SK2, together with a single female and a single juvenile, broke away from the troop and headed for Kommetjie. These three individuals then slept at the Slangkop sleep site for two nights and, while they were in the Kommetjie area, raided a number of houses.

On the 14th December we managed to cage-trap SK2 in Kommetjie and returned him to the main troop at the Compass Bakery cliff site. The female and juvenile remained at the Slangkop sleep site for another night before making their way back to join the main troop.



Figure 8: Slangkop Troop Roost Sites - December 2012

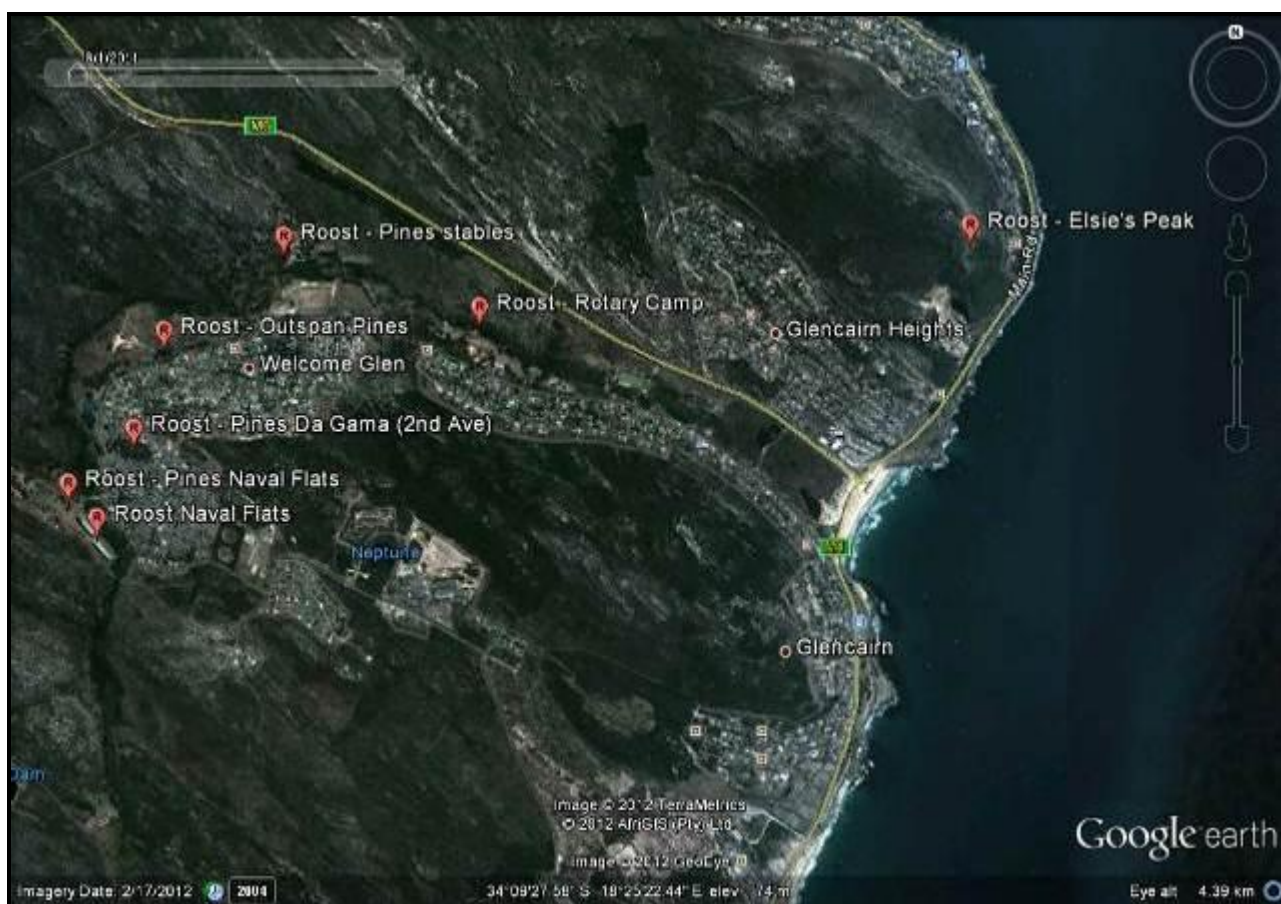


Figure 9: Slangkop Troop Roost sites in Da Gama – December 2012.

**December Raids:**

On the 26th November the troop entered Scarborough and raided 4 Mimosa Rd.

On the 2nd December the troop raided bins in Da Gama.

On the 9th December the troop managed to enter Capri where SK2 entered an unoccupied house and the rest of the troop raided bins.

On the 10th December SK2 raided an unoccupied house in Thompson Close, Ocean View.

On the 12th and again on 19th December the troop raided bins in Ocean View.

On the 12th December SK2 entered an occupied house at 9 Lighthouse Rd, Kommetjie. The owner opened the door to allow him to leave. SK2 grabbed her by the arm and held onto her, drawing blood from the lady's arm. The rangers arrived to remove SK2 from the house.

Later that same day, SK2 entered an occupied house in Nerina Ave and the rangers, who were close by, managed to get him out.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																			
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																	
		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: December	YEAR: 2012	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																														
BABOON ID	Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					TOTAL		
DG6	M																																		
SK2	M									2							5	5		6,7		1											5		
Unidentified Female	F																2					1											2		
Troop				5,6						2							1			2							2						4		
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																	HRS
Troop	0.6			40						10							30			20							20						2h00		
Males/Females	2.0			40																45	270	40										6h35			
Roost:	AM	7	7	7	4	7	7	7	7	7	7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3					
Roost:	PM	7	7	4	7	7	7	7	7	7	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3					
Roost Sites		1	Slangkop			2	Ocean View			3	Compass Bakery			4	Misty Cliffs			5																	
		6				7	Pines-Flats Da Gama			8				9				10																	
ID Features of Baboons		DG6 has a yellow cable tie SK2 has a collar and a red/green tag																																	
General remarks		The troop spent the first part of the month in Da Gama. On the third the troop moved to Ocean View and have been at the Compass Bakery sleep site since. One male from the troop has now permanently joined the Da Gama small troop																																	

Figure 10. Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – December 2012

Comments and Observations

From the 4th December the Slangkop troop has stayed at their usual roost site at Compass Bakery. It seems as though one male from this troop has now permanently joined the Da Gama small troop in the Da Gama area.

Apart from the raid in Scarborough on the 26th November and the raids in Kommetjie by SK2 when he broke away from the troop, there have been relatively few raids for the period 24th November to 20th December.



Since the removal of TK5, the troop has been much easier to manage and the rangers are able to prevent the troop from entering into the Capri/Compass Bakery/Imhoff's Gift areas far more effectively.

Births and Deaths

There were no births or deaths recorded for the month of December for the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop and the Slangkop troop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) The strategy for the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop over the next month will be to continue to hold the troop in the Reserve and prevent them from entering Scarborough and returning to the Misty Cliffs roost site. The hope is to further reduce the frequency of attempts to enter Scarborough.
- (b) With summer fast approaching it will be necessary to investigate the possibility of providing the Slangkop troop with an artificial water source on the mountain close to the C3 roost site. This will reduce the urgency for the troop to access water at the municipal treatment plant and in residential areas.
- (c) The alien vegetation on the mountain above Capri also needs to be removed to allow for better access to areas above Capri which will aid in maintaining the buffer zone.

North Region – Manager Stefan Theron

1. Zwaanswyk Troop

There have been no raids for this period from both of the Tokai troops. At the end of November the younger males from the main troop showed great interest in the Zwaanswyk Troop (ZW) which resulted in TK24 moving over permanently to the ZW troop showing protective behaviour.

There was also a young male, TK34 (not yet a tagging priority) that crossed over from the main troop and consistently attempted to interact with the ZW troop. After a couple of days it appeared that he was acknowledged by the troop as he ranged and roosted with them which indicates that he may possibly be related to TK24.

The troop's daily ranging behaviour was dominated by roosting between the tea garden level's plantations and the Zwaanswyk plantations. Their daily spatial ranging patterns could be summarized as:

- Level 3 (sleeping site) > level 4 > level 5 > 4 > level 3 (sleeping site).
- Upper plantation (sleeping site) > behind ZW > ZW Reservoir > level 3 behind ZW > ZW reservoir upper plantation (sleeping site).

An incident worth reporting took place on 15th December following a function at the SANParks corporate braai area.



Figure 11: The Zwaanswyk troop feeding of garbage

The following day the cleaning staff proceeded to collect and bag the leftover food and rubbish and placed the garbage in a pile in the middle of the braai area. The garbage lay there exposed and uncovered until the next day.

The unattended garbage was reported to SANParks personnel, but regrettably it was not disposed timeously and unfortunately the ZW troop discovered it.

The Tokai troop has been foraging naturally for the past couple of months and it is not in the interest of the troop to have access to unattended garbage. Recommendations to address waste management issues in this baboon-inhabited area will be made to the next meeting of the Baboon Technical Team (BTT) which comprises Cape Nature, City of Cape Town and SANParks baboon management.

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: December		YEAR: 2012				3 Non malicious damage				6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																							
BABOON ID		Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20			TOTAL
N/a																																0	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS				
Males		0																														0	
Troop		0																														0	
Roost:		AM	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	4			
Roost:		PM	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	4			
Roost Sites			1	SANParks Tea Garden												2	Level one										3	Level two					
			4	Level three												5	Level four																
ID Features of Baboons			N/a																														
General remarks			No urban raids recorded during this time period.																														

Figure 12: The Zwaanswyk troop raid sheet.

2. Tokai Main Troop

So far this month the troop spent most of its time up in the levels of Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) only coming down on rare occasions. The troop's movements this month were mainly dominated by general roosting at the tea gardens, the guest house and upper plantation.

When they roosted at the tea garden they foraged and moved slightly down towards the snake park, the Zwaanswyk fence and from there they moved upwards. The troop has been moving slowly due to the relative heat this month with both troops spending a great amount of time above level 5 and more time than usual in the more northern parts of the plantation.

Their broad movement patterns could be summarized on a daily basis as:

- Level 1 (sleeping site) behind tea garden > level 2 in plantation > level 3 in plantation > level 4 in plantation > level 5 in plantation > elephants eye > level 5, 4, 3 > level 2 (sleeping site).
- Level 2 behind tea garden > stream level 3 > stream level 4 > stream level 5 > plantation level 4 > level 3 (sleeping site).
- Level 3(sleeping site) > level 2 behind tea garden > upper plantation > Zwaanswyk reservoir > upper plantation > guest house (sleeping site).

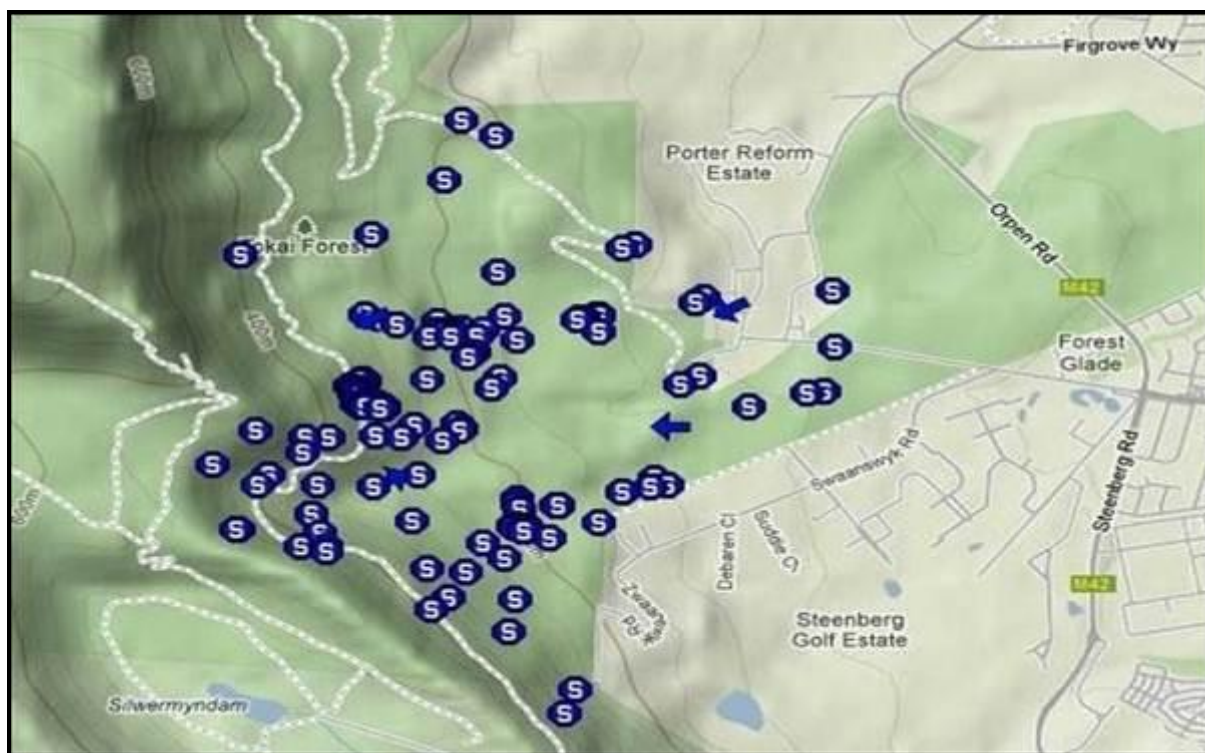


Figure 13: The spatial data from the GPS collar of TK28 recorded from 24/11/2012 to 20/12/2012 which depicts the troop's ranging behaviour

There were a handful of incidents early in the month when younger baboons worked their way through holes underneath the electric fence at the SANParks Tokai picnic site.

The defect in the fence can be rectified by installing a 50cm trench bonox wire section below ground level, between the concrete foundations of the support strut poles, and which is similar to the design of the Zwaanswyk electric fence.

The SANParks picnic area needs to be managed as a priority as thousands of visitors and tourists use the Tokai area for outdoor recreation.



The picnic site alone receives a multitude of visitors each week which generates waste and imports human food into the area.

Unless a 100% opposing fence system is installed human-baboon conflict will be inevitable in the picnic area.

Figure 14: TK24 feeding on refuse

Although there has been no raiding by the troop in the urban area this month, some of the males (TK24, TK23 & TK9) from the main and ZW troop came down on a couple of occasions to scavenge from the rubbish skip across from the Tokai research centre.

This skip is more often than not left open or is not secured down and is next to the parallel section of staff/family housing units.

This unrestricted access to human food reinforces the habituation process in the animals and as a result of the fact that human's highly nutritious and fattening food can be obtained with minimal foraging effort per unit of time spent and energy expended when compared to the effort per unit of time it should have taken foraging on wild vegetation.

It is therefore logical that these animals target these artificial consistent "feeding stations".

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: December		YEAR: 2012		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																															
BABOON ID		Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20			TOTAL								
N/a																																	0								
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS										
Males		0																															0								
Troop		0																															0								
Roost:		AM	1	5	3	3	6	6	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	4	4	4	1	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5									
Roost:		PM	1	5	3	3	6	6	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	4	4	4	1	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5									
Roost Sites			1	SANParks Tea Garden												2	SANParks Wood Owl Cottage Guesthouse												3	SANParks Research Centre											
			4	Zwaanswyk Back plantation												5	Levels												6	Crysallis Bottom Plantation											
ID Features of Baboons			N/a																																						
General remarks			No urban raids recorded during this time period.																																						

Figure 15: Tokai Main troop raid sheet

3. Constantia Troop

Since HWS took over baboon management and to date no males have been removed from this troop. The troop has responded well to the use of paintball markers with only marginal incursions of males into the urban area taking place.

The added discouragement and effort by the vineyard staff has added extra reinforcement of the marker conditioning.

The Constantia electric fence is not yet 100% complete although the current is on – there remain numerous access points which need to be attended to for the fence to be completely effective.

The troops daily spatial ranging this month can be summarized as:

- Table mountain National Park bordering Klein Constantia- Donkerbos Kloof, (sleeping site) > Constantia vinyards border > Vlakkenberg > Langbos Kloof up to Silver Trees > Donkerbos Kloof (sleep site).
- Klein Constantia – Tree thicket (sleep site) > Castle – Groot Constantia vinyards > Table mountain National Park bordering Klein Constantia – Langbos Kloof > Donkerbos Kloof or Klein Constantia (sleep site).

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																	
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
		1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																				
BABOON TROOP:		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																				
MONTH: December		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
YEAR: 2012																																	
BABOON ID		Sex	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20			TOTAL
TK13		M				1								1										2									3
TK19		M											7																				1
TK32		M				1				1				1		2							2	1	1		1						8
TK33		M								1	2		2			2																	4
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																											HRS			
Males		4.5				60				60	30		60	60		60								60	30	30		30					8
Troop		0																															0
Roost:		AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Roost:		PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	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		TK13 - Orange/Green tagged and collared. TK19- Red/White tagged. TK32 - Limping back leg, no tags. TK33 - Red/Orange tagged.																															
General remarks																																	

Figure 16: The Constantia troop raid sheet

The biggest current issue in the area is the occurrence of dispersing males entering the urban edge. The troop has a high number of adult males and skirmishes are therefore common within the troop. Their current home range is already restricted by rival troops in the East, the vineyards and suburbia in the North-West, and the mountainous terrain in the South.

The adult males that have been inclined toward dispersing and raiding behaviour over the past couple of months are TK11 (Orange/White tag), TK 13 (Green/Orange tag), TK19 (Red/White tag), TK29 (No tag – Damaged left eye), TK30 (No tag – Large slashed lip scar), TK32 (No tag – Limping back leg) and TK 33 (Red/Orange tag).



Figure 17: Raiding records for the past five months for Constantia according to hotline reports

4. Mountain Troop

This small troop's home range seems to be limited to the large block of plantations behind the Buitenverwachten estate's vineyards. Their daily spatial ranging has been dominated by movement up and down the mountainside but they are ranging progressively higher up in the mountain during the past couple of months as summer has settled in. This seasonal shift in higher ranging patterns has also been observed in the other Northern area troops.

No raids or attacks have been reported with regard to this troop which could also be attributed to the fact that they appear to be more wary of humans and vehicles when compared to the other troops in the area.

The troop's home range is encroached on by the Tokai main troop in the East and the Constantia troop in the West however the alpha male, TK3, seems to be focused on leading the troop away from potential conflict with the other troops.

Births and Deaths

On Saturday 1st December 2012, the red tagged female (TKF1) from the ZW troop, was seen carrying a dead juvenile. The cause of this mortality is unknown.

There was also another juvenile mortality in the Tokai main troop and internal fighting between males is the suspected cause of death.

TKF3 was removed on the 11th December as it had been identified as a female that was unable to suckle young due to a possible underlying hormonal disorder which resulted in her young starving to death.

There was only one birth in the Tokai main troop.

Tagging and collaring



On the 30th of November was TK24 darted and fitted with a VHF collar, tagged White/White. This is an old male which crossed over into the ZW troop from the main troop. On the 13th of December, TK13 was captured and fitted with a GPS/VHF collar for research and management purposes. He was subsequently retagged, once again with Orange/Green tags, but the new tags are more visible. He is currently the alpha male and a infrequent raider with low score raiding behaviour such as raiding garage bins and fruit trees.

Figure 18: TK13 retagged Green/Orange and GPS/VHF collared



Figure 19: Spatial ranging data from the GPS collar of TK13 from 14/12/2012 to 20/12/2012, overlaid onto satellite map imagery

The first week's movement data for TK13 (since he was collared) is illustrated in Figure 19. It is clear that, for the moment, he is mainly moving to the north west of the Constantia wine farms and seldom straying onto the farms.

The boundary is still being maintained by the new and old electric fences and by farm workers that have paintball markers. Visual evidence suggests that the troop is with him virtually all of the time and therefore this data can also be seen as representing the movements of the Constantia Troop.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Hotline Data

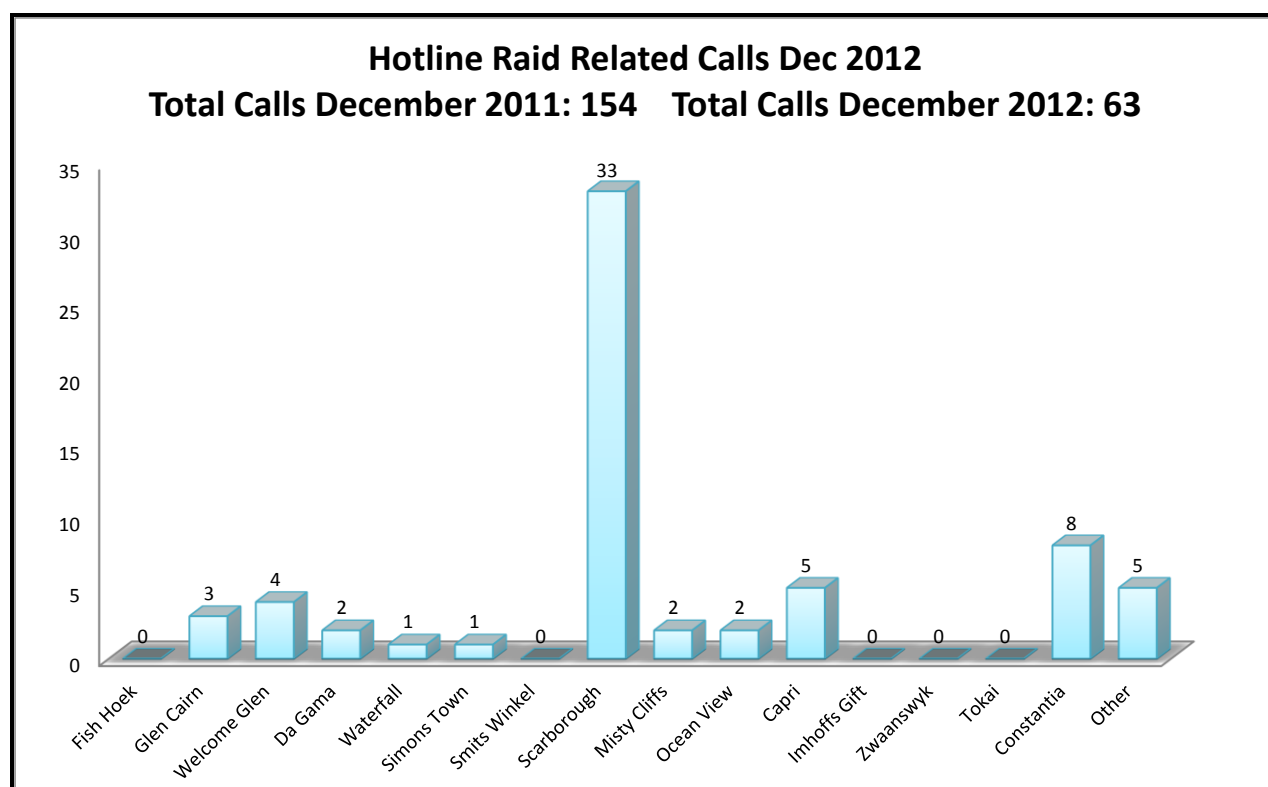


Figure 20. Hotline Call Report Per Area – December 2012.

This month the hotline data again shows some significant trends in terms of baboon management:

- a) The most obvious trend is the very high number of calls we have received from Scarborough (over half the total) relative to the other suburbs (Figure 20). This trend by no means reflects the frequency with which baboons visited Scarborough relative to the other affected suburbs.

The two Scarborough troops' times in town were GOB 0.0% and Misty Cliffs 5.3% versus an average of 2.5% for all the other suburbs. I do however suggest that these data do reflect the perceptions/attitudes of a large proportion of the Scarborough residents.

Despite the GOB troop being held out of town without exception since the beginning of August, and the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop being held out of town at least 94% of the time every month since September, the residents generally suggest that this is not unusual but rather the norm for this time of year.

Furthermore many say that they are reluctant to call the hotline for fear of the offending baboon/s being targeted and killed by the authorities. These arguments fly in the face of our data for December, when whole baboon troops (Slangkop one evening and Misty Cliffs Splinter a week later) suddenly arrived in Scarborough for the first time in months and the hotline started ringing off the hook.

- b) Another noticeable feature of Figure 20, is that the sudden increase in the number of hotline calls from Constantia. These all relate to adult males going on raids.

Fortunately at present most of the calls are just reporting baboons being in town, raiding a few bins, or raiding fruit trees, but these may escalate again as the summer progresses.

Most of the males are also gaining access to the urban area not via Price Drive, but via the wine farms, making it much more difficult for us to control them.

- c) The third feature of the hotline call data is that, despite the relative flurry of baboon activity in Da Gama, Scarborough and Constantia this month, the total number of calls is still well below half of that for the corresponding period last year.

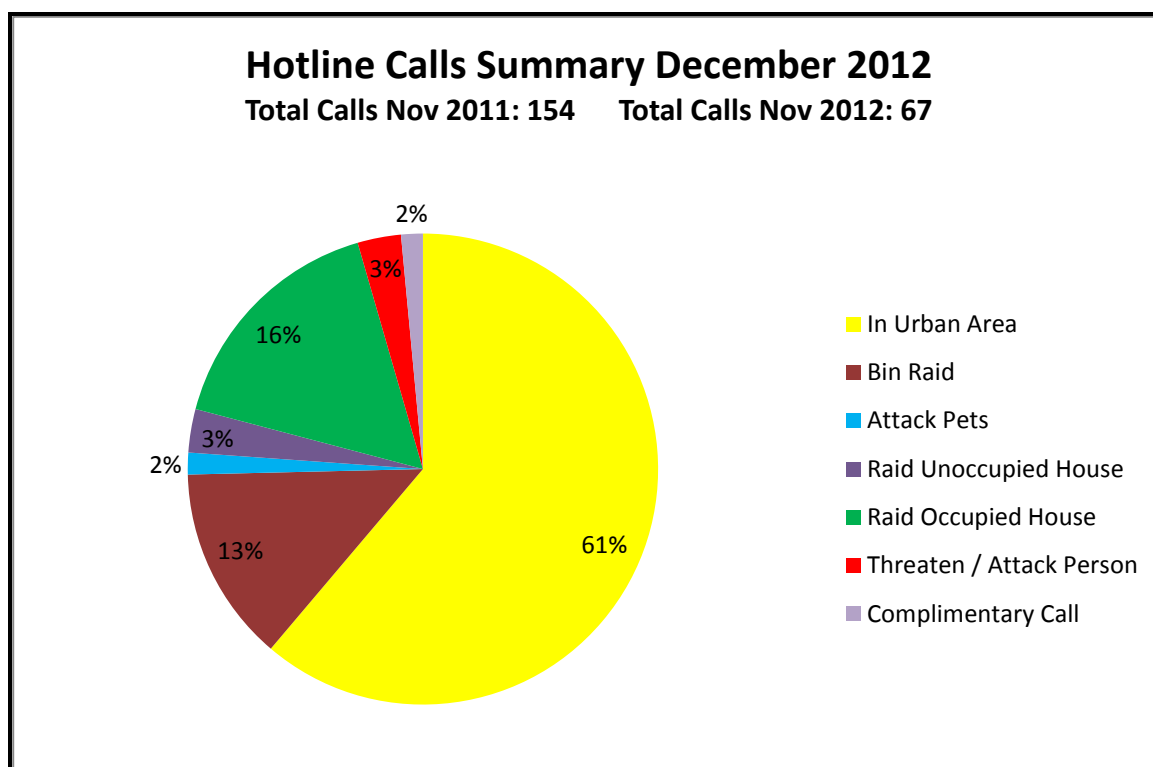


Figure 21. Hotline Calls Summary – December 2012

The analysis of the raid types illustrated in Figure 21, again shows a pleasing trend in that about 74% of all hotline calls were merely reporting baboons being in town (61%) or raiding bins (13%).

The only really disconcerting feature is the 16% of calls reporting breaking into occupied houses. About half of these relate to the two males in the Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop, GOB5 and the rapidly maturing MC1.

Both these males are aggressive raiders, and have only been quiet over the past two months because the troop has mostly been held in the Park and had not been able to break through to Scarborough. They will need to be watched closely.

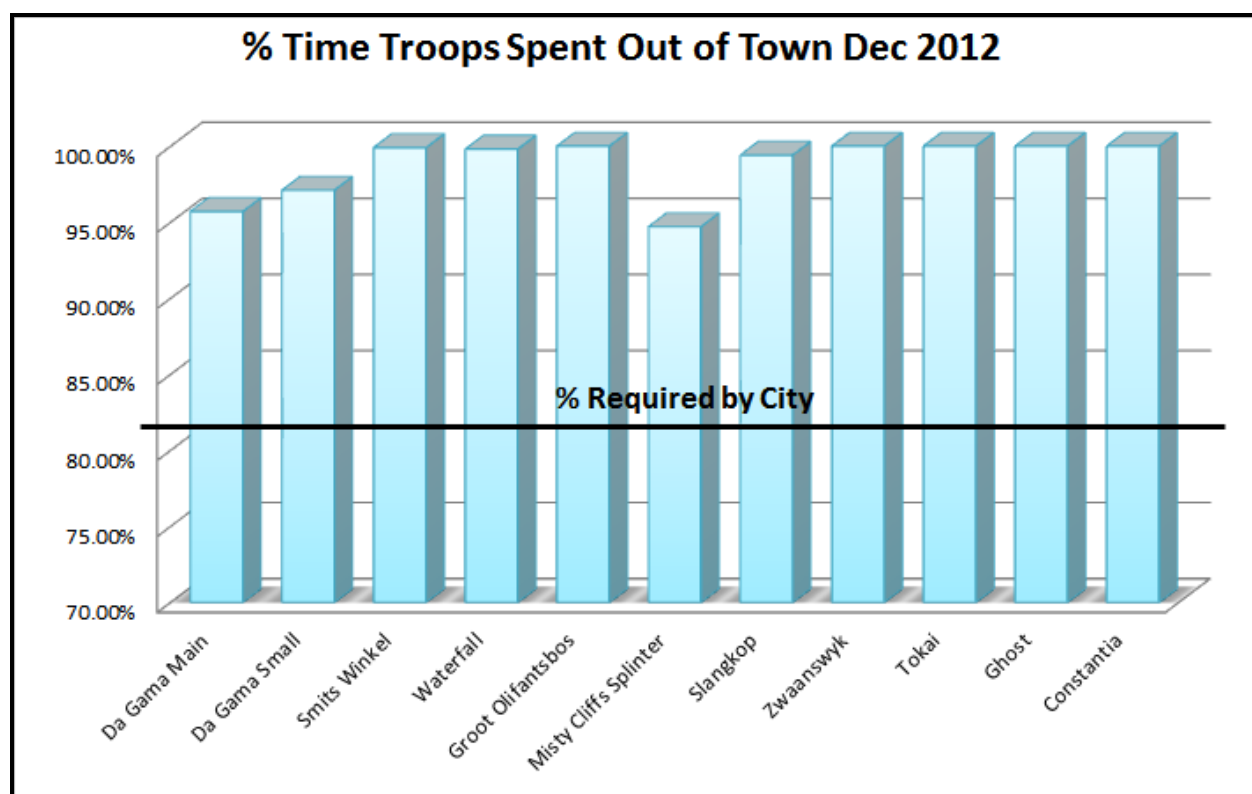


Figure 22. Percentage Time Troops Spent Out Of Town – December 2012

The data for the amount of time each troop spends in town, show a similar trend to the past two months, with five troops being 100% out of town, another four being more than 97% out of town and the remaining two being more than 94% out of town. These data are not as good as last month (all troops out of town >98% of time), but considering the various upheavals we had within the baboon troops, I think we did well to contain the troops as much as we did.

The data for adult males is very similar, with the males from three troops (Zwaanswyk, Tokai MT, Ghost Troop) not entering the urban area at all, and the worst being the Misty Cliffs Splinter troop where the males spent 5.4% of their time within the urban area. Between them the two males did 5 house raids (occupied houses) and two bin raids.

General

In summary, although our data are not quite as impressive as for November, I believe our management strategies are still successful because we have managed to keep all the baboon troops and adult males out of town at least 94% of the time. With baboon troops being very dynamic socially, we have had to make some strategic changes in how we manage them, and for the moment the upheavals of late November and early December have subsided.



Since mid December we have stationed extra staff at Millers Point and Plateau Road to accommodate the extra pressure of tourists utilizing these sites and potentially feeding (either directly or indirectly) baboons there. To date this strategy seems to be working and we have not recorded any incidents of raids at these sites. It has however become noticeable that with the increase of tourists around the peninsula, many bins which were seldom utilized before are now being filled and therefore provide additional enticement to baboons to come down and raid them. This is particularly relevant in the Tokai area, so we should anticipate additional baboon activity around sites like the Arboretum.

Dr. Philip Richardson
Human Wildlife Solutions