



Photo: Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

March 2016

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A. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period 27 February to 25 March 2016. Although this period is now towards the end of summer, the baboons foraging behaviour still reflected their traditional summer patterns. Nevertheless, some of the troops have already started to show a preference for their winter sleep sites lower down the mountain.

In general, baboon behaviour was largely uneventful this month. There were only 47 raid related hotline calls from managed areas and all troops (Misty Cliffs included) averaged 99.7% of their time out of town. These data were very pleasing for this late in the summer season. The most notable events this month were the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops foraging less at Silvermine and starting to raid quite intensively in lower Tokai. By contrast, the Misty Cliffs Troop was relatively well behaved this month. As a troop these baboons spent only 1.1% time in town this month.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Bay Troop

The Smitswinkel Troop continued the trend from the previous month (see HWS February 2016 report) and predominantly utilised sleep sites in the northern section of their home range. They spent 18 nights at the northern sleep sites as opposed to only 10 nights at the southern sleep sites this month.

They concentrated their forage efforts to the vegetation around the Millers Point, Rocklands and Castle Rock sleep sites. The post fire mountain slopes were showing a positive regrowth pattern, with new growth visible above Rocklands Farm and Murdock Valley. On 20 March, the Smitswinkel Troop moved to Murdock Valley and foraged among the new growth on the mountain slopes.

The troop also foraged along the coastline. On 16 March, they spent the afternoon on the rocks feeding on mussels and limpets. Baboons prefer to feed from the intertidal zone during low tide, when they can access a variety of organisms, which occurred at 16h40 on that day. This could have been a determining factor for their prolonged presence on the coastline that day.

The Cape Argus Cycle Tour was held on 6 March, the route took the cyclists along the M4 past Rocklands, Millers Point and Smitswinkel Bay. Throughout the day, the troop fed on the mountain above Castle Rock,

and did not attempt to move down to the coastline. There were no incidents between the cyclists and the baboons during the event.

On 15 March, SWB9, a young adult male baboon, was collared and tagged (figure 1). When assessed by veterinarian Dr Dorothy Breed, he was deemed to be in a fit and healthy condition. SWB9's VHF collar will greatly assist in the management of the Smits Troop as SWB6's collar's battery is no longer working. SWB6's collar will be replaced as soon as possible.

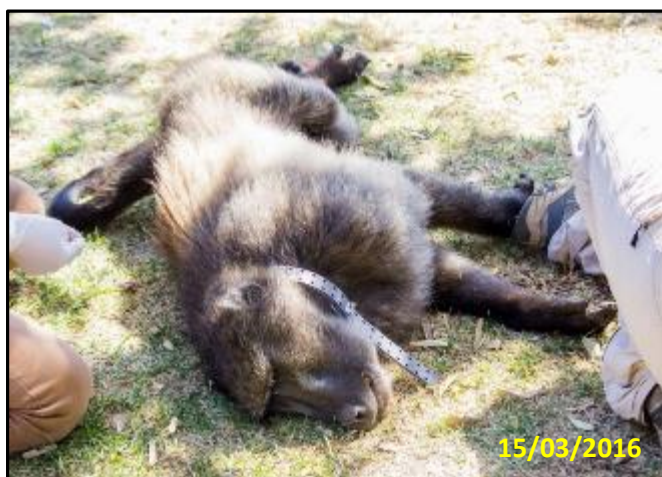


Figure 1: SWB9 tranquilized with the collar fitted.

The percentage time out of 'town' remained very similar to the previous month, with the troop spending 99,9% of their time out of town.

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: March		YEAR: 2016		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding															
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL
SWB6 (R - B)	M			1																									5	2
SWB9 (Y - W)	M																		1											1
Troop					1								1								2									3
UnID Individuals							1																							1
UnID Fem	F																													0
SWBF1	F																													0
UnID Male	M																													0
UnID Juveniles																														0
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS				
Troop	0.1				10								8																	0.30
Individuals	0.2			22			3												3									5		0.55
Roost:	AM	1	6	6	5	3	3	6	2	3	6	2	3	6	6	5	3	5	5	4	1	1	2	4	5	5	6	4	5	
Roost:	PM	6	6	5	3	2	6	2	3	6	2	3	6	6	5	3	5	5	4	1	7	2	4	5	5	6	4	5	4	
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; SWB9 - Collar & Yellow/White tags																										
General remarks				Red Italics - raid at the tented camp at SANParks																										

Figure 2: March 2016 raid sheet for the Smitswinkel Troop

2. Waterfall Troop

The Waterfall Troop continued to sleep predominantly at the South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD) sleep site. On three nights, they slept on the southern side of the Klaasjagersberg Mountain, at the Cape of Good Hope Nursery (CoGH) sleep site. The troop spent no time in town during March. However, they did have a few raids and incidents on the farms and at SANAD.

Over the last two years there has been communication with the staff at SANAD with regards to waste management and baboon-proofing. For several months the situation at the facility improved. However, from 17 March to 25 March, there was a noticeable change. Bins were left outside at the kitchen area and the security offices. These bins were not baboon-proofed, and often contained food items. This acted as a major attractant for the baboons. It is for this reason that some individuals entered SANAD for seven out of the nine days from 17 March.

The first half of the month proved difficult for baboon management in terms of time spent in the vineyards. The vines were laden with ripe grapes and the baboons attempted to access the vineyards to feed on the grapes. HWS rangers worked hard and managed to keep the baboons out for the majority of the time. However, some individuals accessed the vineyard, but they were pushed out quickly. On one occasion, the troop spent a maximum of 20 minutes in the vineyard before being pushed out. From 18 March, all the grapes were harvested and the baboons, including the males, stopped pushing for the vineyards.

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:				3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																			
BABOON ID				Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL	
Troop																																	0	
TK19 (R - W)				M									2											2			1		1		1		5	
TK42 (B - Y)				M																							2	1	1				2	
CON4 (B)				M										6												1		1	1	1	2		6	
WFF3				F																										1		1		
WFF4				F																													0	
UnID Females				F																				2			1		1	1			4	
UnID Juveniles																												1		1			2	
UnID Male				M																													0	
UnID Individuals						1																									1	2	3	
				%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS				
Troop				0.0																													0.00	
Individuals				0.0																													0.00	
Roost:				AM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	11		
Roost:				PM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	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				TK42 - Collar & Blue/Yellow tags; TK19 - Collar & Red/White tags; CON4 - Collar & Blue Tag																														
General remarks				Red and Italics indicates raiding inside the South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD). <i>Black, Italics indicates raiding on farms</i>																														

Figure 3: March 2016 raid sheet for the Waterfall Troop

The troop concentrated their forage efforts to the pine stand behind Shamballah and on the slopes of the Klaasjagersberg Mountain. They fed mainly on pine cones, invasive alien vegetation, between the Cape Farmhouse and Shamballah, and on the indigenous fynbos vegetation on the mountain slopes. They predominantly drank water from a natural stream on Shamballah, but also occasionally drank from the cement dam at the Cape Farmhouse.



Figure 4: Waterfall Troop movement during March 2016.

3. Da Gama

March was a good month for the Da Gama Troop in terms of time out of town. The troop spent 99.3% of the month out of town. However, management of individual animals, especially the males, was difficult throughout this reporting period. Individuals spent 90.5% of their time out of town.

The male structure within the Da Gama Troop consists of the alpha male, TK43, with SK3 being the beta male. The four young sub adults are: DG14, DG15, DG16 and DG17. TK43 still monopolized the majority of the high ranking females, only one female spent her time with SK3. DG14 and DG15 are in the early stages of adulthood and have attempted to challenge the two older males for females. DG16 and DG17 challenged the other males for females and occasionally formed raiding parties, that split off from the troop, to raid in town

On 27 February, SK3 and TK43 were fighting over a female, who was in oestrus, on top of the Kroonseil flats. When TK43 came down from the flats he was seen to have sustained an injury to his front leg and he had blood on his legs and body. However, his injury did not seem serious as he walked without limping. Fighting between SK3 and TK43 has increased over the past two months. SK3's body condition has improved and he seems to be challenging TK43 for his former position as alpha male. Overall there has also been a noticeable increase of fighting between SK3 and the rest of the troop.

On 2 March, SK3 chased a female on top of the Kroonseil flats, she lost her footing and fell from the roof to the ground a height of five floors. The Field Manager was notified and monitored her condition. She moved slowly towards the dense riverine bushes and climbed a tree. A short time later, she moved down from the tree and ran, without any problem, towards the Bluefin Court Flats. She was monitored over the next few days and appeared not to have sustained any long lasting injuries.

On 18 March, SK3 fought with DG15. DG15, sustained an injury to his front right leg. The injury was not serious and DG15 healed well. On 25 March, SK3 chased DG14, on this occasion DG14 was able to evade SK3's advances. SK3 is clearly attempting to assert himself and regain his status as alpha of the Da Gama Troop.

The troop spent the majority of the month in the indigenous fynbos vegetation above the Naval flats and around the Khayalitsha sleep site. They moved to Lewis Gay Dam on eight non-consecutive days. While there, the troop spent the day grooming each other and foraging on the new post fire growth. They also foraged in the natural vegetation behind Jack's Shop and while in the area, they drank water from the Elsie's River. On 25 March, the Da Gama Troop were left at their Grootkop sleep site for the first time this year.

The raiding parties and individual males that entered Welcome Glen regularly target the same area. The three roads from which the most hotline calls were received were Gleneagle, Glenalpine and Glenoak Roads. The baboons were pushed away from these areas on at least 11 occasions. Several problems have been identified in the area such as, vegetable gardens that are not baboon-proofed, bird aviaries with unsecured bird food, fruit trees bearing fruit, houses that are not baboon-proofed and baboon-proof bins which are not utilised in the correct manner (keeping locks on the bins and/or keeping the bin upright).



Figure 5: Da Gama Troop movement during March 2016.

On 14 March, a meeting was held with the City Electricity Department. Representatives of the City of Cape Town (CoCT), HWS and Electricity Department attended the meeting. The main conclusion of the meeting, were that the power line that runs between Miller's Point is the next power line to be placed underground. Following that the power line along the Elsie's River Valley, up to the Brooklands water works, will be put underground within the next nine to twelve months.

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	25		
BABOON TROOP: DA GAMA				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		
MONTH:Feb- March YEAR: 2016				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		
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL
Troop					1										1					1	1				1	1	2			7
SK3	M			1			6	1				1			1	1	1				1			1,2	1,2	1				13
DG14 (O-G)	M			1			6											1			2	2		1		1				7
DG15 (R-W)	M	1				2,2	2	1				1			1			5	1				1	1	1	1				12
DG16	M					2		1								1	1						1		1					6
TK43 (W-W)	M	1				2	5								1	1,2						1			1					7
DGF1	F														1															1
DGF2	F														1															1
DGF4	F			1								1				1														3
UnID Females	F						1								1			1			1		1	1						6
UnID Female	F	1		1			1,5			1				1				1	1											8
UnID Individuals			1	1			1	1		1,5		1	2		1		1	1				2		1						13
UnID Juvs							1,5	1										1												4
	%																											HRS		
Troop	0.7				10										15					20	10					14	60			2.15
Individuals	9.5	140		65		60	211	245		240		85	25	25	35	135	110	100	33		80	3	40	85	80	41				30.63
Roost:	AM	1,2	2	1,2	3	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2,4	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	2	2	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3	1,3	1,2	1,2,3	1,2
Roost:	PM	2	1	2	2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	2	2	1,2	1,2	1,2	2	2	3	1,2	2	2	20
Roost Sites					1	Flats				2	Pines - Flats			3	Pines - Da Gama				4	Pines - WG					5	Sport Fields Stables				
					6	Compass Bakery				7	Pines - Outspan			8	Jacks Shop				9	Elsie's Peak					10	Rotary Camp				
					11	Witsand				12	Slangkop			13	Platkop				14	Rasta Camp					15	Ocean View				
					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: March 2016 raid sheet for the Da Gama Troop

Births and Deaths

There were three births in the South East this month, two new born infants were seen in the Smitswinkel Troop on 14 and 17 March 2016 and one new born was seen in the Da Gama Troop on 22 March 2016.

No deaths were recorded in the South East section during March.

Recommendations

- South African Navy to enforce the rule to residents at the Naval flats in Da Gama park to **store their bins inside their garages at all times** and only put them outside on bin day.
- **Broken garages** at the Naval flats in Da Gama Park should be fixed, because the baboons are climbing in through the openings to gain access to the bins.
- **Keep locks, on baboon-proof bins, locked at all times even on bin days**, as the trucks are able to open bins with the locks being locked.
- **Baboon-proofing** of the entrances, air vents and windows of the Navy flats in Da Gama Park is still an urgent requirement.
- All **vegetable gardens to be baboon-proofed** and residents should refrain from growing fruit trees in baboon affected areas, or remove fruit from trees.
- **Waste management and the security office kitchen, at SANAD** should be baboon-proofed, as this attracts baboons into the facility.
- Electric fencing around SANAD should be kept on if possible, **and if it is off, security guards should inform the rangers or alert the hotline.**

South Western Region – Area Manager: Cath Shutte

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)

The Groot Olifantsbos (GOB) Troop remained within the Cape of Good Hope Reserve (CoGH) for the majority of the month. HWS rangers continued to monitor the GOB Troop through the use of telemetry equipment, obtaining a signal from GOB7's collar.

The signal showed that they were deep within the reserve for 26 days of the month. While the troop was in the reserve, they moved predominantly around the Olifantsbos, Blackwater's and Perdekloof Wetland areas.

There was only one occasion this month where GOB7, the alpha male, and a few females left the reserve. On 16 March, they climbed the reserve fence on the southern side of the Klaasjagersberg Office and moved south down Plateau Road. They were out of the reserve for 40 minutes before being pushed back over the fence. Once back in the reserve, they ran quickly in the direction of Blackwater's. They remained within the reserve for the remainder of the month.

2. Misty Cliffs Troop (MC)

The Misty Cliffs Troop spent the majority of the month within the CoGH Nature Reserve. While in the reserve they utilised the Bonteberg Cliff sleep site for 17 nights and concentrated their forage activity on the indigenous vegetation around the Bonteberg Cliffs, Blackwater's and the Perdekloof wetland.

Following on from the previous months, the troop's time out of town has improved yet again. In January 2016, the troop spent 88.5% of their time out of town. This increased to 97.4% in February 2016 and again to 98.9% in March 2016. HWS rangers have done well this month by keeping the troop out of town for 98.9% of the month, this is a positive trend for the Misty Cliffs Troop.

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: March	YEAR: 2015	3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																	
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL
Unld Females	F																			6	2,2,2								2	3
MCF5	F	1	1	1	1	6	6*	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1											18
Juveniles																														0
Troop																			1		1			2						3
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS			
Troop	1.1																		180		30			5						3.58
Individuals	72.2	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	600	10	55								30	232.58
Roost:	AM	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	
Roost:	PM	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	
Roost Sites		1	Misty Cliffs 1				2	Misty Cliffs 2				3	Witsand				4	CoGH Reserve				5	Other							
ID Features of Baboons																														
General remarks		Bold Italics numbers with a * afterwards donate raids recorded via hotline calls																												

Figure 7: March 2016 raid sheet for the Misty Cliffs Troop.

MCF5, her brown yearling and the orphaned infant continued to utilise an un-occupied house on Hilltop Road as their sleep site for part of this month. She continued to move through the houses during the day and foraged, opportunistically, on a variety of plant items found in gardens (see Figure 8).

On 10 March, the Misty Cliffs Troop was seen, by HWS rangers stationed on the CoGH Reserve fence line, to be moving in the direction of the GOB Troop. They moved from the Bonteberg Cliffs, along the ridge towards Blackwater's before HWS rangers lost sight of them. This was a very positive sign for the Misty Cliffs Troop, because if they joined GOB they would have the protection of an alpha male as well as the benefits of a larger troop and the associated social dynamics. On 11 March, it was noted by HWS rangers that MCF6, a medium juvenile female, had left the Misty Cliffs Troop. It is assumed that she has joined the GOB Troop.

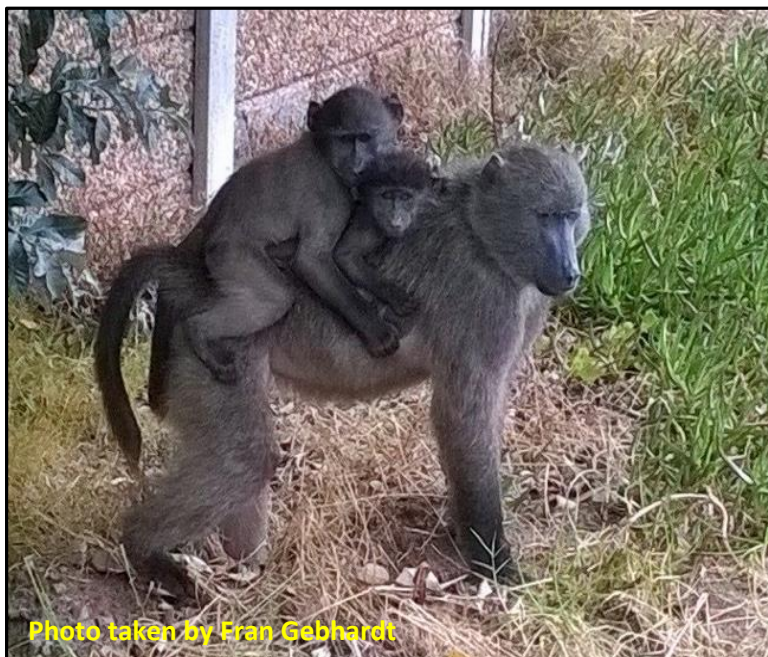


Figure 8: MCF5 with her brown yearling and the orphaned black infant.

On 15 March 2016, the Misty Cliffs Troop managed to exit the reserve via the wetland. They moved up through the lower streets of Scarborough and met up with MCF5 on Hilltop Road. The rangers moved the troop (including MCF5) to the northern side of Hilltop Road. The troop exited Scarborough and moved onto the slopes of the mountain. While they made their way to their sleep site above Misty Cliffs, the troop foraged on bulbs and other new post fire growth. The troop slept above Misty Cliffs that night.

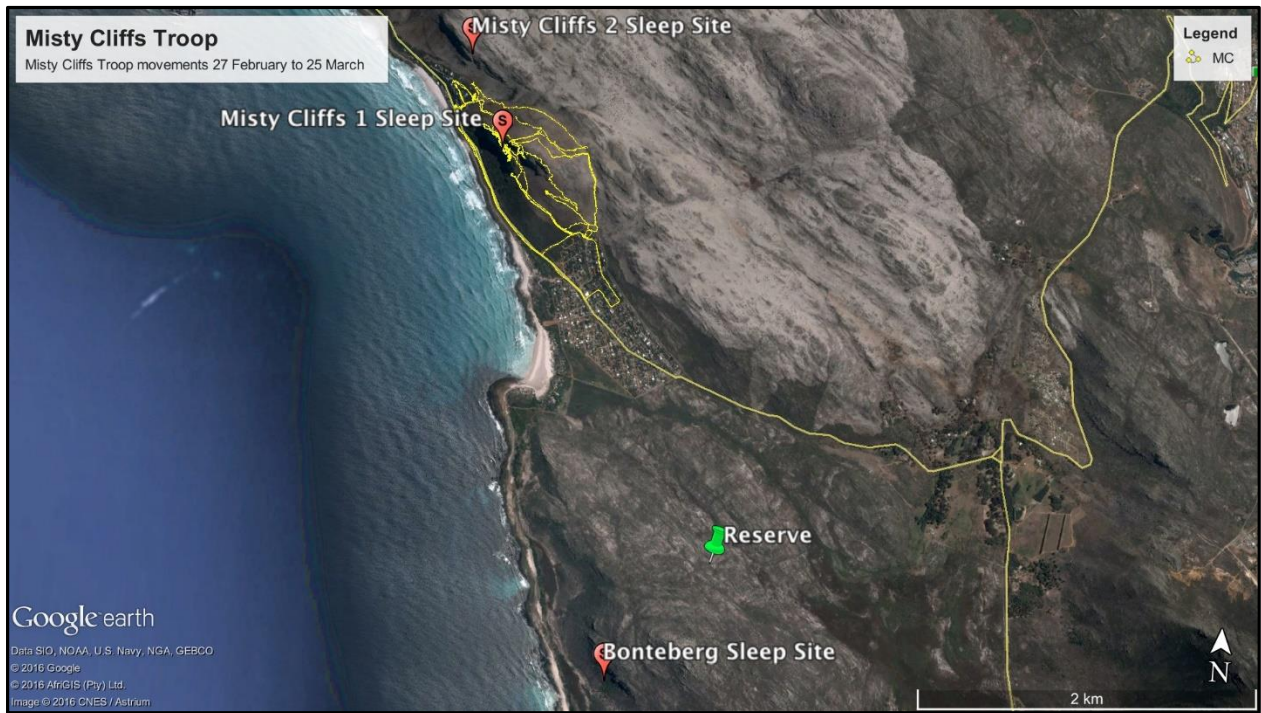


Figure 9: Misty Cliffs Troop movement for the March reporting period.

The Misty Cliffs Troop spent the next 11 nights out of the reserve. Once out of the reserve, they concentrated their forage efforts above the Misty Cliffs village. They fed on the new shoots and bulbs that began to push through after the January 2016 fire and drank regularly from the small stream that runs down the valley, alongside Misty Cliffs (see Figure 10).



Figure 10: Fresh new growth alongside the stream running next to Misty Cliffs.

There was an increase in house raids this month. Three of these house raids can be attributed to MCF5 who entered the same house on Mountain Rise on all three occasions. The final house raid can be attributed to an unidentified adult female who entered a house in Misty Cliffs. The troop only raided bins on one occasion this month. They entered Scarborough under the cover of a thick blanket mist and raided three bins on Hilltop Road. HWS rangers managed to move them out of town and back onto the mountain after they spent only five minutes in the village.

3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop continued to utilise their preferred sleep site, the Compass Bakery Cliffs, for the majority of this month. They spent 19 nights sleeping on the cliffs and nine nights sleeping in the pine trees behind Ocean View. There was a noticeable increase this month in the troop's use of the lower lying pines behind Ocean View as a sleep site. This change could be attributed to the temperature decrease, as we move closer to winter. Generally, the baboons prefer to sleep lower down in the colder winter months.

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: March		YEAR: 2016		3	Non malicious damage								6	Raid occupied house or vehicle								9	Nocturnal Raiding																				
BABOON ID		Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL												
DG6		M	1											1							1	1			2						4												
SKF1		F																													0												
SKF2		F																													0												
SK6 (Sub-adult)		M	1											1		2					1	1			2						5												
UnID Large Juvenile		M										3				2															2												
UnID Juveniles			1											1							1	1									0												
UnID Females		F	1											1		2									2						5												
Troop				2	2		2					2									1							2	2		7												
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS																
Troop		1.2	33	52	10						45															50	20		20	3.83													
Individuals		0.5	10								11		15		15						20	19			5					1.58													
Roost:		AM	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3													
Roost:		PM	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3													
Roost Sites			1	Slangkop								2	Ocean View								3	Compass Bakery								4	Witsand								5	Other			
ID Features of Baboons																																											
General remarks																																											

Figure 11: March 2016 raid sheet for the Slangkop Troop.

The Slangkop Troop is now feeling the effects of the January 2016 fire (see Figure 12). Due to the vegetation loss and subsequent lack of forage, the Slangkop Troop entered the urban area more regularly this month. The troop raided bins on seven occasions, all raids took place at the old Compass Bakery (now a new establishment called In 2 Foods). Despite the increase in time in town for the Slangkop Troop, they still managed to spend 98.8% of the month out of town.



Figure 12: The extent of the fire damage to the Slangkop troop's home range.

The troop concentrated their forage efforts under the pines, above Ocean View, where they fed on pine nuts, cracked out of the pine cones. Their other chosen forage areas for the month were along the stream between Ocean View and the Compass sleep site, and on top of the plateau above the Compass sleep site. Here they fed on a combination of invasive alien species and indigenous fynbos.



Figure 13: Post fire re-growth above The Rasta Camp.

Even though there was significant re-growth (figure 13) to the fire damaged areas around the Rasta Camp, the troop only foraged there on two occasions this month.



Figure 14: Slangkop Troop movement for the March reporting period.

Births and Deaths

There were no births or deaths in the South West this month.

One juvenile female emigrated from Misty Cliffs and joined the GOB Troop.

Recommendations

- **Removal of Invasive Alien Vegetation:** The patches of invasive alien vegetation situated above Ocean View and below the Compass Bakery sleep site need to be removed in order to improve management of the Slangkop Troop. This issue has been addressed with SANParks and is pending.
- **Baboon-proofing bins and homes:** Scarborough residents are requested to baboon-proof their bins and homes and remember that access to human derived foods act as attractants to baboons.
- **Fruit Trees and Vegetable Gardens:** Scarborough residents are requested either to remove their fruit trees, or to remove all their fruit, so that it does not act as an attractant to baboons. Similarly, all vegetable gardens should be securely fenced.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury

1. Tokai Troop

During March, the Tokai Troop spent the majority of their time in the lower sections of Tokai Plantation, around Chrysalis Academy, Porter Estate, the Tea Garden, the Range, Tokai Picnic site and SANParks Offices (see Figure 15).

As opposed to last month (see HWS February report), this month the troop only foraged in Silvermine Reserve on four occasions. This is not surprising, as baboons tend to shift focused foraging areas every few weeks. This allows the forage to recover in different areas before they move back. It is also possible, that as winter approaches, the cold, wind and cloud made Silvermine a less favourable place to forage.

The levels of Tokai Plantation, (Level 1-5), that were once pine plantations, are now almost completely covered in alien invasive vegetation. In some areas, the invasive vegetation was over 2m tall. The baboons were unable to find forage in this vegetation, hence they focused their foraging efforts in the lower lying areas of Tokai.



Figure 15: Tokai Troop movements for March 2016.

The lower sections held an abundance of raiding opportunities which the males, specifically, took full advantage of. The main area of raiding was Chrysalis Academy. Baboons raided the kitchen, the hostels,

bins and were even actively fed by students and staff at Chrysalis Academy. These issues were raised with the management of Chrysalis Academy by HWS staff.

Baboons gaining access to Steenberg Estate and Zwaanswyk was another concern this month. Individuals from the Tokai Troop were in these urban areas on nine different occasions this month (see Figure 16). The Steenberg Fence is not baboon-proof, hence the troop leapt easily over the fence to access Steenberg. On 14 March, the most concerning incursion occurred when the majority of the Tokai Troop gained access into Steenberg via the southern fence. The troop moved to the residential section of High Steenberg. Here they raided occupied and unoccupied houses, as well as bins.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																														
SECTOR				CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																										
NORTH																																														
BABOON TROOP:		Tokai		1	In urban area								4	Attacking pets								7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
MONTH: March		YEAR: 2016		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 ID	Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL																
TK28 (B-G)	M	5	2, 2				6		6													1								6																
TK16 (W-W)	M															2		2				4							2, 6	5																
TK 47 (White)	M										2					6						2								3																
TK48 (RED)	M	5										5				6						1								4																
MT3 (Pu-B)	M																													0																
TK 45 (Untagged)	M						2																							1																
Uni Male	M																		2, 2, 2	6								2		5																
Uni SA Male	M																										2			1																
Uni Female	F																	2	2, 2, 2			1						2		6																
Uni Juve																						1						2		3																
Tokai Troop		2	2															2, 5, 6		1										6																
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS																				
Troop	0.4							15		20								45		30										1.25																
Individuals	1.1		10					15		20							35		40			65							20	3.42																
Roost:	AM	10	1	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	7	7	11	11	14	14	14	14	7	7	14	7	7	7	7	7	7	7+8	7																
Roost:	PM	1	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	7	7	11	11	14	14	14	14	7	7	14	7	7	7	7	7	7	7+8	7	7															
Roost Sites		1	Tea Garden								2	Lev 1 Zwk Gums								3	Lev 2 stream								4	Lev 4 Pines								5	Upper Tea Garden							
		6	Manor House								7	Picnic site 1								8	Picnic site 2								9	Middle Plantation								10	Chrysalis							
		11	Sivermine pines								12	Level 3 Mixed plantat								13	Level 3 Pines								14	Other								15								
ID Features of Baboons																																														
General remarks		Bold and italics indicate raides that took place in non-urban areas.																																												

Figure 16: March 2016 raid sheet for the Tokai Troop.

From Steenberg, individual baboons are also able to access Zwaanswyk. HWS Managers inspected the Zwaanswyk/Steenberg fence boundary to determine where the weak points lie (Figure 17). As previously suggested by HWS, razor wire was added around the poles near the fence. This was undertaken by the Fence Committee of the Zwaanswyk Association of Property Owners (ZAPO) (refer to Figure 18a). However, the razor wire was spiralled around the poles and the baboons were still able to climb up these poles by placing their hands and feet between the razor wire.

A more pressing concern however, is the new electrical box erected by Steenberg, which is situated alongside the Zwaanswyk Fence (see Figure 17b and c). This acted as a launching pad for individual baboons to enter Zwaanswyk. Despite this, the Zwaanswyk Fence is still an excellent example of a

baboon-proof fence. The Steenberg fence is not baboon-proof and it unfortunately connects to the Zwaanswyk fence, hence the baboons can just move to the Steenberg section of fence to gain access into Zwaanswyk. Ultimately, to completely prevent baboon incursions into Zwaanswyk (and Steenberg) the southern Steenberg Fence, that borders the natural area of Tokai Plantation, should be upgraded to a baboon-proof fence.



Figure 17: HWS Manager, Devin Heuwel, inspecting the Steenberg Fence. The poor design of the fence allows baboons to jump onto the fence poles from the Steenberg side, and then into Zwaanswyk.

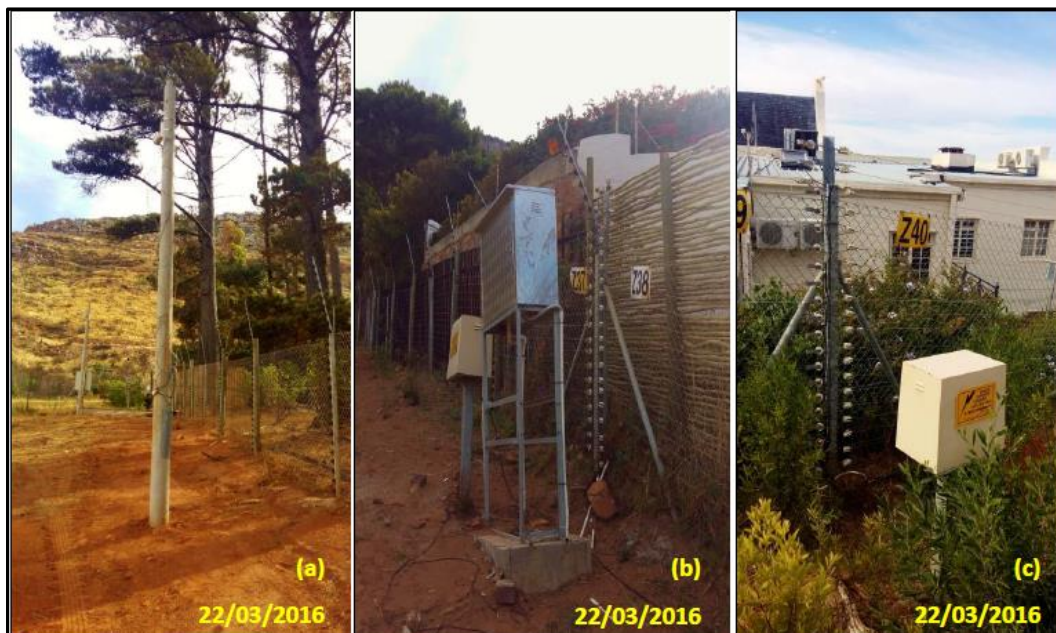


Figure 18: Weak points on the Steenberg Estate side of the Zwaanswyk fence that allow baboons access into Zwaanswyk. (a) Telephone pole with spiralled razor wire. (b) New electrical box installed next to the Zwaanswyk Fence acted as a launching pad for baboons. (c) Old electrical box acted as a launching pad for baboons.

Two births were reported in the Tokai Troop this month. One infant was seen dead after a massive fight in the troop, hence the suspected cause of death was infanticide. The responsible male was unknown.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop and Tokai Troop occupied the same home range during March. Their foraging patterns were similar, they focused on the lower sections of Tokai Plantation. Hence, the same issues (noted above) for the Tokai Troop were also issues for the Zwaanswyk Troop during March.

Due to the lack of forage in the levels of Tokai Plantation (due to the alien invasive vegetation), the Zwaanswyk (and Tokai) Troop was foraging in the very lower sections of Tokai, including the Chrysalis Academy.

While the majority of the Zwaanswyk and Tokai Troops sat on the fields or in the vegetation on Chrysalis Academy and foraged without raiding, the assertive individuals within these troops preferred to raid rather than forage. This resulted in many raids occurring in the Zwaanswyk Troop (see Figure 19). HWS rangers were kept exceptionally busy on a daily basis trying to prevent these raids.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																										
SECTOR				CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																						
NORTH																																										
BABOON TROOP:		Zwaanswyk		1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																											
MONTH: March		YEAR: 2016		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 ID		Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL											
MT2 (Yellow+collar)		M		5,5,5,5	6		6					2							2				6	7	2		6				12											
Untagged Adult		M				2	2												2,2										2	2,5	7											
TKF5 (Green)		F		5																											1											
TKF7 (Red)		F																													0											
TK49 (unatgged)																							7	7							2											
Uni female		F				6						2							2												3											
Uni Adult female		F																	2					7							2											
Zwaanswyk Troop																											2				1											
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS															
Troop		0.0																													0.00											
Individuals		0.2					30																13								0.72											
Roost:		AM	11	6	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	11	8	12	12	11	15	11	11	15	8	12	11	8	11	11	11	8	6	6												
Roost:		PM	6	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	11	8	12	12	11	15	11	11	15	8	12	11	8	11	11	11	8	6	6	11												
Roost Sites			1				Tea Garden				2				Level 1 ZWK gums				3				Level 2 stream				4				Lev 4 Pines				5				Upper tea Garden			
			6				Manor House				7				Picnic 1				8				Picnic 2				9				Middle Plantation				10				Chrysalis			
			11				Tokai Bridge				12				Silvermine pines				13				Level 3 mixed plantatio				14				Level 3 Pines				15				Other			
ID Features of Baboons																																										
General remarks			Bold and italics indicate raides that took place in non-urban areas.																																							

Like the Tokai Troop, the Zwaanswyk Troop only spent a few days in Silvermine during March. On 8 March while in Silvermine, the Zwaanswyk Troop as a whole moved over Noordhoek Peak and into Cape Point Vineyards (see Figure 20). HWS Rangers responded efficiently and moved the troop out of the vineyards within half an hour. The rangers spent the rest of the afternoon slowly moving them back up the steep cliffs to Silvermine.

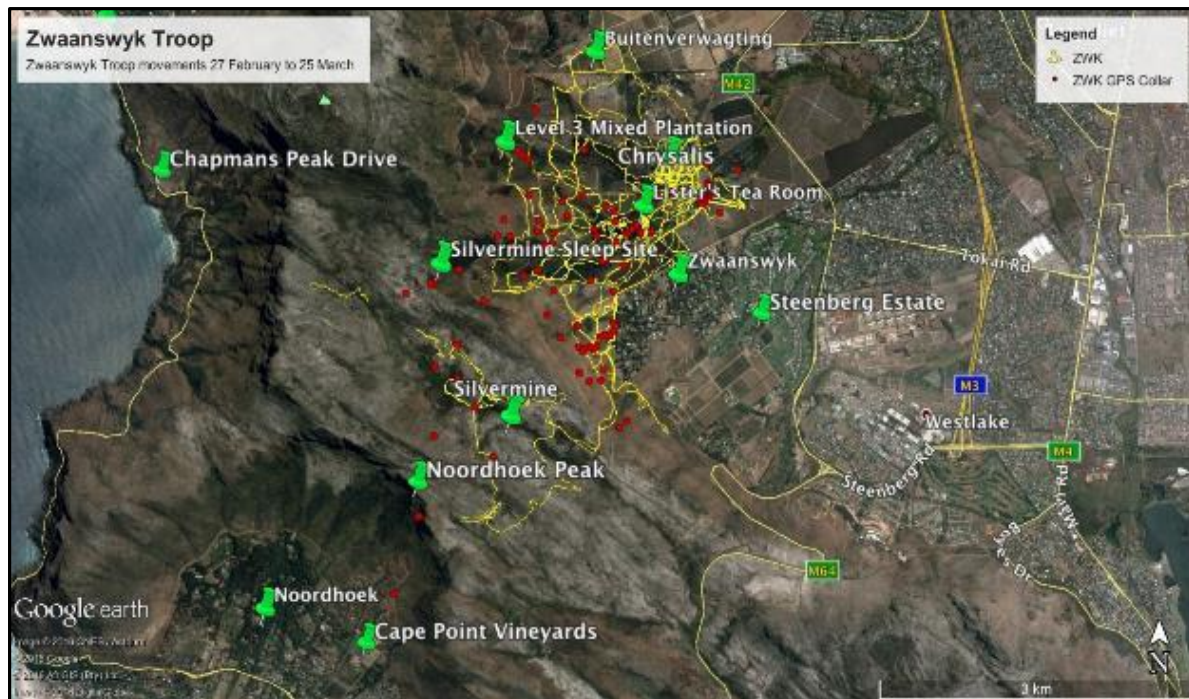


Figure 20: Troop movements of the Zwaanswyk Troop in March. Red dots indicate the GPS collar on MT2, the alpha male. Yellow lines indicate ranger movements monitoring the Zwaanswyk Troop.

3. Constantia Troop 1 (CT1)

The CT1 Troop spent the first half of the month above Buitenverwachting Wine Farm and Klein Constantia, and then shifted, in the second half of the month, northwards towards Price Drive and Groot Constantia. There were no raiding opportunities when the CT1 Troop was above Buitenverwachting and Klein Constantia. Thus, the management during March was largely left to the farm rangers on these respective farms. Hence, there is no recorded movement data for this troop for March 2016.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
NORTH			1	In urban area				4	Attacking pets				7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																	
BABOON TROOP:			CT1			2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property														
MONTH: March			YEAR: 2016			3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding														
BABOON ID	Sex	27	28	29	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	TOTAL	
TK33 (R-O)	M																			1										1	
CON1 (untagged)	M																														
CON2 (B-O)	M																														
CON5 (G-G)	M																														
CON6 (O) Collar	M																														
CON7 (P-G)	M	6																												1	
CON 8 (Purp)	M																														
CON 9 (B-Y)	M																														
MT1 (G-W)	M																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS				
Troop	0.0																													0.00	
Individuals	0.1	15																		5										0.33	
Roost:	AM	1	1	3	3	3	6	3	1	3	3	6	6	3	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1		
Roost:	PM	1	3	3	3	6	3	1	3	3	6	6	3	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	
Roost Sites		1 Upper Gums				2 Lower Gums				3 Bike Trail Gums				4 Middle Plantation KC				5 McKenzies													
		6 Buiten gums				7 Block 10 gums				8 Castle gums				9 Veels-te-ver				10 Other													
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 21: March 2016 raid sheet for the CT1 Troop.

There are 12 adult males in the CT1 Troop. At least five of these males were sub-adults last year, and hence were not tagged. On 15 March, Dr Dorothy Breed, the CapeNature appointed veterinarian, assisted HWS staff to dart and tag two adult males in the CT1 Troop.



Figure 22: Constantia males that were tagged. (a) CON8 being treated by Dr Dorothy Breed. (b) CON9, in good condition, supporting an impressive canine.

CON8 was tagged with a single purple tag. It was clear from both his behaviour and the veterinary check that CON8 was a low ranking male. CON8 had lacerations on this leg, wrist, face and shoulders from multiple previous baboon-on-baboon encounters (see Figure 22). Dr Breed cleaned and treated the

wounds, and indicated that they will all heal in time. CON8 was monitored in the following weeks to ensure he was healing well.

The other tagged male, CON9, was a higher ranking male, and was in excellent condition. CON9 was tagged blue and yellow (see Figure 22).

While on the Price Drive side of the mountain HWS rangers held the Price Drive line and prevented baboons from entering the urban area. The thick alien invasive vegetation along Price Drive made watching the troop along this line incredibly difficult. Removal of this vegetation would aid management hugely.

4. Constantia Troop 2 (CT2)

The CT2 Troop, sandwiched between the CT1 and Mountain Troops, was not seen regularly this month. The troop was pushed out from their sleep site in the blue gum trees at the top of Buitenverwachting in the mornings. The troop would then spend their days foraging in the natural vegetation on Constantiaberg Mountain.

No raids were reported from this troop for the month of March.

5. Mountain Troop

The Mountain Troop slept at the Veels-Te-Ver Woods, and in the blue gums at the top of Buitenverwachting during March. The rangers on Buitenverwachting pushed the troop off and away from the farm every morning, and held the farm boundary until the late afternoon. The Mountain Troop would try throughout the day to re-enter Buitenverwachting to forage on the vineyards, and required active management by farm rangers throughout the day to keep them away.

The Mountain Troop was territorial this month. On the occasions when the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troop's attempted to enter Buitenverwachting, the Mountain Troop proceeded to chase them away from the farm. However, this went both ways. The Mountain Troop was not seen in the lower sections of Tokai Plantation this month (as they were in previous months) because the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troop occupied this area for most of March.

There were no raids by the Mountain Troop during March.

One infant was reported dead in the Mountain Troop on 17 March 2016. This was seen by a resident from the area and reported to HWS. HWS staff looked for this individual, but it was not found. Cause of death is unknown.

Births and Deaths

Two births were reported in the Tokai Troop.

One death was reported in the Tokai Troop from a possible infanticide.

One dead infant was reported in the Mountain Troop, cause is unknown.

Recommendations

- **Steenberg Estate** should upgrade their southern fence, (that borders Tokai Plantation) by adding an additional meter of electric wiring along the top. This would make the fence baboon-proof and prevent incursions into Steenberg and Zwaanswyk.
- **Chrysalis Academy** should monitor their students to ensure they do not feed baboons while at the Academy because this entices the troop back to the area. Chrysalis Academy should also ensure that all bins are baboon-proof, and that students use these baboon-proof facilities.
- **The Kitchen at Chrysalis Academy** should keep their facility closed to ensure baboons cannot enter the kitchen to raid.
- **The alien invasive vegetation along Price Drive** should be removed immediately. This vegetation provides cover for the baboons enabling them to head into town undetected.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

There were five births and two deaths this month. Both the deaths were of babies, one being a suspected infanticide and the other died of unknown causes. The most interesting event in terms of population numbers this month, was the juvenile in the Misty Cliffs Troop that chose to abandon her troop and join the GOB Troop.

TROOP	Total December Populations				March 2016			Total Births	Total Deaths	Emigration/Immigration	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
	2012	2013	2014	2015	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration	2016	2016	2016	
Da Gama Troop	54	45	43	49	1			5	3		51
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	22	23	2			5	1		27
Waterfall	28	30	30	32				0	0	+1	33
Groot Olifantsbos	19	13	17	16			+1	0	0	+1	17
Misty Cliffs	18	16	14	11			-1	0	0	-1	10
Slangkop	33	32	36	41				0	0		41
SUB TOTAL	175	157	162	172	3	0	0	10	4	1	179
Zwaanswyk	25	26	28	30				0	2		28
Tokai	61	65	72	62	2	1		4	2		64
Mountain	33	44	48	49		1		0	1		48
Constantia 1 & 2	60	63	70	77				2	3	-1	75
SUB TOTAL	179	198	218	218	2	2	0	6	8	-1	215
TOTAL	354	355	380	390	5	2	0	16	12	0	394

Table 1: Population data for the eleven managed troops on the Cape Peninsula (March 2016).

Deaths	2012*	2013	2014	2015	Mar-16	2016 to date	TOTAL
Management	17	16	8	7	0	0	48
Human Induced	8	7	10	24	0	3	52
Direct	8	6	6	8	0	1	28
Indirect	0	1	4	16	0	2	21
Natural	7	30	19	20	1	4	80
Unknown	1	3	0	4	1	5	13
TOTAL	33	56	37	55	2	12	193

Table 2: Causes of baboon deaths since 2012 (*Data collected during the first half of 2012 provided by Baboon Research Unit, UCT).

Hotline Data

This month there was a pleasing decrease in hotline calls from managed areas. What was most notable however, was a decrease in the number of hotline calls from Scarborough. This was no doubt because the troop was out of town for virtually the whole month (98.9% of time). Thus, most calls were presumably in response to the female MCF5, which spent almost 100% of her time in town until she joined the troop for the last ten days of the month. This was after the troop had left the CoGH Reserve and started foraging between Misty Cliffs and Scarborough.

The only other area with a relatively high number of calls (nine), was Zwaanswyk. These calls were all in response to the Tokai or Zwaanswyk Troops breaking into Zwaanswyk from over the Steenberg fence.

This fence is not baboon-proof, hence it was easy for the baboons to jump over from Steenberg into Zwaanswyk. Once the baboons were within the Steenberg farm there were poles, and an electricity box, just outside the Zwaanswyk fence, so the baboons could use these as launching pads from which to jump into Zwaanswyk.

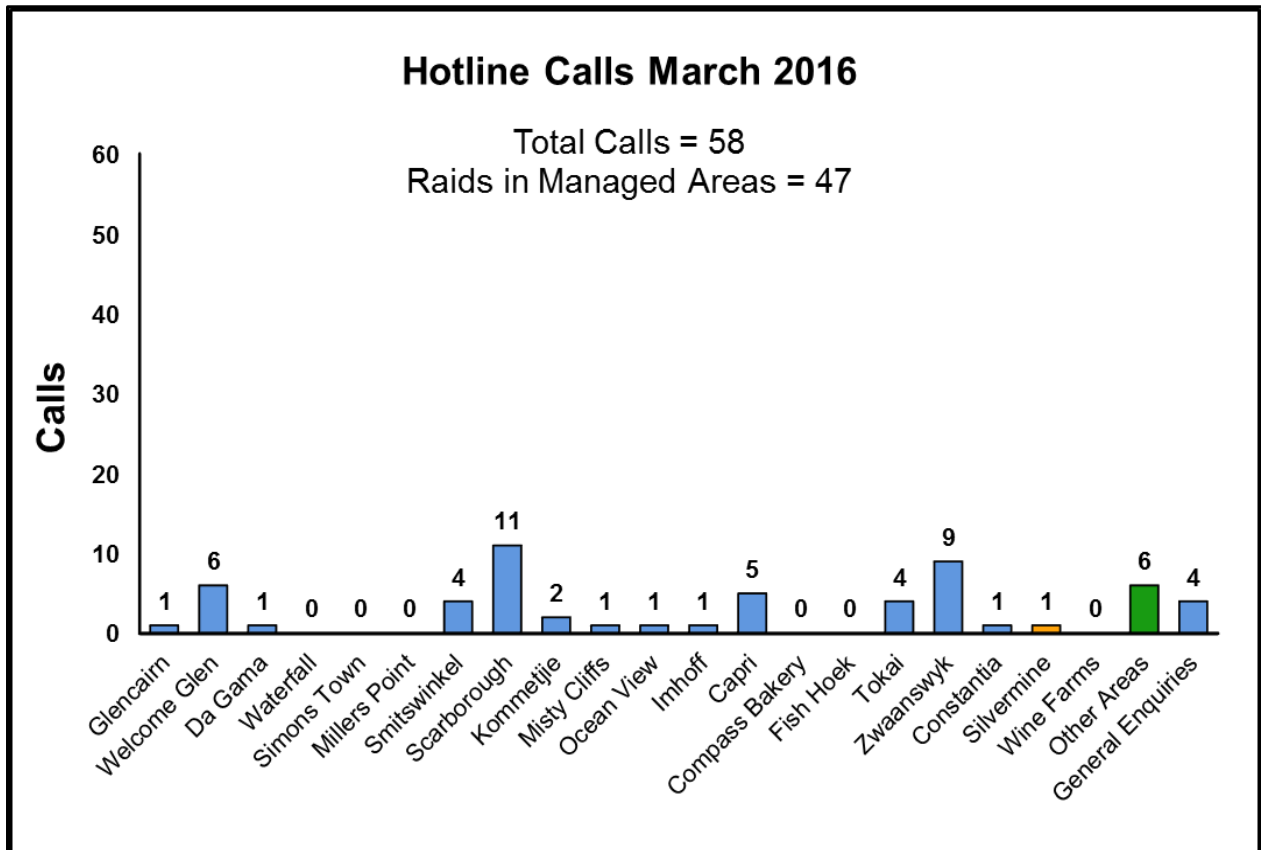


Figure 23: Hotline calls summary per urban area for March 2016.

Although the percentage of hotline calls reporting baboons in the urban area is relatively lower this month than previous months, there was the full variety of raid types reported this month. All instances, apart from raiding an occupied house, were all single events. Raiding of occupied houses always features relatively higher, because the residents must be present to see the raid, and often seek assistance to chase the baboons away.

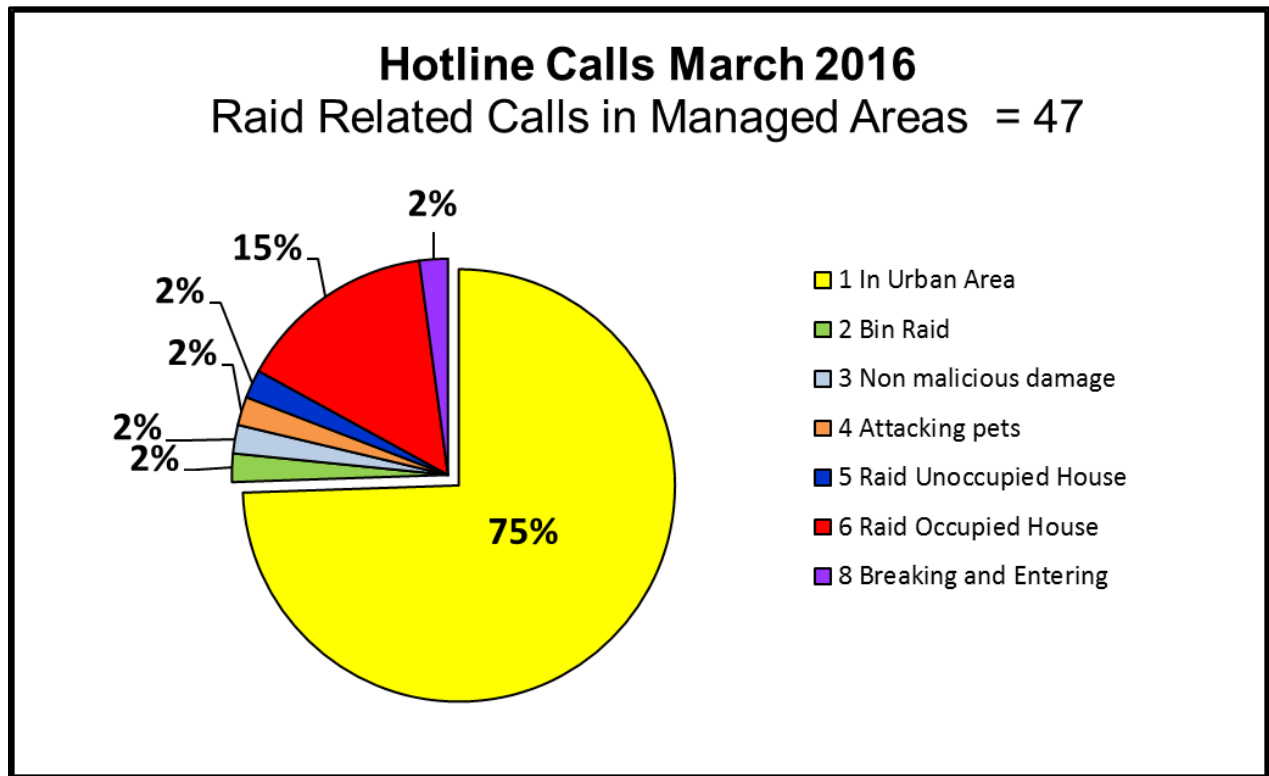


Figure 24: Composition of raid-related hotline calls during March 2016.

Percentage Time out of Town

The average percentage time the baboon troops spent out of town was 99.7% this month. By contrast however, the percentage time individuals spent out of town has remained relatively low (91.6%). This was because of the Misty Cliffs Troop's female, MCF5, who spent 72.2 % of her time in town and the five or six adult males in the Da Gama Troop.

Fortunately, MCF5 re-joined her troop towards the end of this month, so it is anticipated that she will spend much less time in town next month. However, because of the continuing levels of competition between the Da Gama males, as well as the young adult males now trying to assert themselves, it is not likely that the percentage time these individuals spend in town will decrease soon for this troop, particularly with winter approaching.

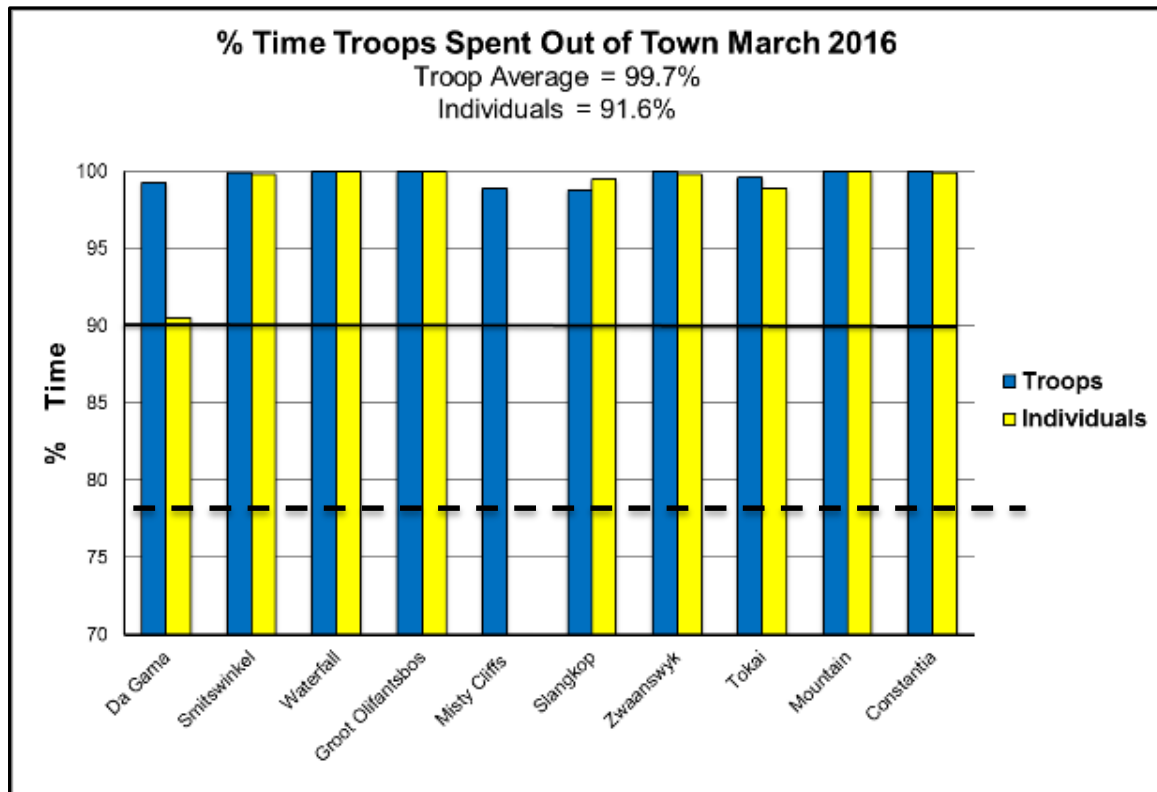


Figure 25: Percentage time troops spent out of town (March 2016). The solid line indicates the City of Cape Town's 2014 contract requirement and the broken line indicates the 2012 contract requirement. (Misty Cliffs individuals spent 27.8% of the time out of town).

Conclusion

This month's report has been an unusual mixture of good and bad news. The good news has been that HWS managed to keep the eleven baboon troops out of town for an average of 99.7% of the time, which equals our record. Despite being a record, this is also most unusual because it is so late in the summer season. The other good news, is that the Misty Cliffs' female with the two babies, MCF5, has re-joined her troop and that the troop as a whole spent 98.9% of its time out of town this month. This is a huge improvement from being out of town only 51.3% of the time in December after the two baboons were shot.

The bad news mostly relates to poor human organisation and waste management. Baboons were still getting into Zwaanswyk via Steenberg, largely because of bad planning in terms of providing access for the baboons to jump over the Zwaanswyk fence from Steenberg.

Similarly, the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops were raiding extensively at Chrysalis Academy because of very poor waste and food management at that facility. This is also true to the two Naval sites, SANAD and the Da Gama Park Flats. These sites continued to attract baboons and provide them with free food, thus continually reinforcing their motivation to return, and keeping the cycle of raiding behaviour going.

Dr Phil Richardson

Human Wildlife Solutions