



Photo: Stephanus Ferreira

Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

December 2016

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A. REPORTING PERIOD

This monthly report covers the period from 26 November to 23 December 2016. During December, there was still plenty of fresh natural fynbos vegetation available for the baboons to feed on, and for the second month in a row, HWS set a new record for troops percentage time out of town. Last month HWS set the record at 99.9%, and this month the record increased to 99.995%. If one were to average this out, the record would be 100%, but HWS cannot quite claim that because the Da Gama and Slangkop Troops were in town for 0.2% and 0.3% respectively.

December also became the third month in a row that the Misty Cliffs and GOB Troops remained together as a unit and were both out of town for 100% of the time. This is the first time since HWS took over baboon management on the peninsula that both troops (now one troop), have been out of town simultaneously for so long.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Bay Troop

The festive season is always a more challenging time of the year for management of the Smitswinkel Troop. The increase in tourists, vehicles and campers in the area also increases the attractants in terms of human derived foods for the baboons. The increase in traffic on the Main Road makes crossing the road more difficult for the troop when they want to go down to the coast to forage.

However, this festive season was another successful one, as the troop was kept out of the urban spaces for 100% of the time. A few raids were recorded for individuals but not for the troop. There were also no incidences of road accidents between motorists and baboons.

On Friday, 16 December, Baboon Liaison Group (BLG) members, Lorraine Holloway, Kimberley Leeuwner and Gill McCulloch did an educational drive along the Smitswinkel route. They spoke to visitors that stopped at the many view points and handed out informative pamphlets. Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS) is very grateful for this assistance which increased awareness during the festive season.



Welcome to the beautiful South Peninsula, we hope that you will enjoy your visit.

Please help us to keep our baboons safe and wild by adhering to the following laws and guidelines:

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE BABOONS - Feeding baboons is punishable by law and can lead to a R10,000 fine and /or imprisonment. The baboons can obtain all their dietary needs by foraging naturally. Feeding baboons human food poses several risks to their welfare. Most seriously it encourages them to stay near the roads where they can be injured or killed by vehicles. When baboons become too reliant on human foods they can also become aggressive in their efforts to obtain it. This leads to their euthanasia under public safety concerns.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CAR DOORS AND WINDOWS LOCKED AND FOOD OUT OF SIGHT Baboons are intelligent animals with nimble fingers and some individuals have learnt to open car doors and will then enter the car and raid it for food items.

PLEASE VIEW THE BABOONS RESPONSIBLY Please do not exit your car to photograph or view the baboons for your own safety and theirs. If you are on foot when you encounter baboons please give them space. Be aware that baboons may take a bag if they think that it contains food. If this happens please do not resist. The baboon will look through the bag, remove any food items and then discard it, you can then retrieve the bag when it is safe to do so. Please do not eat or drink in front of the baboons and avoid walking with food in your bag in baboon areas whenever possible.

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY Baboons have very little road sense and can behave unpredictably, please drive very slowly past them and put on your hazard lights to warn other road users.

PLEASE DISPOSE OF YOUR WASTE RESPONSIBLY Kindly take your waste home with you or ensure that it is disposed of in a baboon proof bin.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to keep our baboons safe and wild
For baboon related incidents and emergencies please call the baboon hotline on 071 588 6540



Find us by searching for Baboon Liaison Group South

Figure 1. Pamphlet handed out to visitors along the Smitswinkel route, by BLG members.

The troop continued to use the full extent of its home range throughout the month. For eight nights, the troop slept in the southern section of its home range and 20 nights in the northern section.

SWB9 re-joined the troop in mid-November 2016 and has been with the troop ever since. Unfortunately, SWB6 and SWB9 have had multiple fights throughout December 2016. SWB9 seems to be making a concerted effort to take over the troop and this has led to the troop splitting in two groups at times. This complicates management because there are only three rangers to manage this troop.

Out of the five raiding incidents recorded, three were for SWB9. On two occasions SWB9 stole food left outside of caravans at the Millers Point Caravan Park. SWB9 was also responsible for leading the troop to the very northern extent of its home range. On several occasions, SWB9 pushed to go above Murdoch Valley. The troop did not enter Murdoch Valley, however it spent time above the valley in the mountain.

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: December	YEAR: 2016	3	Non malicious damage					6	Raid occupied house or vehicle					9	Nocturnal Raiding																
BABOON ID	Sex	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	21	22	23	TOTAL	
SWB6 (R-B)	M																													0	
Troop																														0	
UnID Individuals																		2		2										2	
UnID Fem	F																													0	
SWBF1	F																													0	
SWB9 (Y-W)	M																			2	7			7			2			4	
UnID Male	M																													0	
UnID Juveniles																														0	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS				
Troop	0.0																													0.00	
Individuals	0.3																	10		20	8			5			20			1.05	
Roost:	AM	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	4	6	6	6	6	2	5	4	5	6	5	6	6	2	3	5	5	4	5	5		
Roost:	PM	2	6	3	1	1	1	1	4	6	6	6	6	2	4	4	5	6	5	4	6	2	3	4	5	4	5	5	5		
Roost Sites		1	Smits Caves					2	Partridge Point					3	Bluegums					4	Millers Point					5	Rocklands Farm				
		6	Castle Rock					7	SANParks					8	Other					9						10					
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 2: Smitswinkel Bay Troop raid sheet for December 2016.

2. Waterfall Troop

Management of the Waterfall Troop remained complicated throughout this reporting period. This is predominantly because of the adult males and the constant conflict amongst them. The two low ranking males, GOB7 & TK42, quite often slept away from the troop and also did not spend much time with the troop during the day.

Both these males were responsible for a fair amount of raiding at the Waterfall Barracks, Happy Valley Shelter and in the Simon's Town area. Poor waste management, limited baboon-proofing and fruit trees, provided the baboons with raiding opportunities and easy access to human-derived foods (HDFs). Unfortunately, feeding of baboons at the Happy Valley Shelter continued despite HWS' verbal efforts to discourage the residents from doing so.

GOB7 mostly raided alone, whilst TK42 was usually accompanied by a female and her infant. However, there were seven occasions where the males were accompanied by females and juveniles from the troop. Both these males are not afraid to go down to the Main Road, and raid 'What's your flava' cafe and the Admiralty House. GOB7 even went as far as the graveyard, just outside Simon's Town.

TK42 was the alpha male of the Waterfall Troop for almost a year after being relocated. Both TK42 and GOB7 have been displaced and often, when they try to enter the troop, conflict erupts amongst the males and they are pushed out. Therefore, there is an increase in raiding by these males, as they gain easy access to food in the urban area.

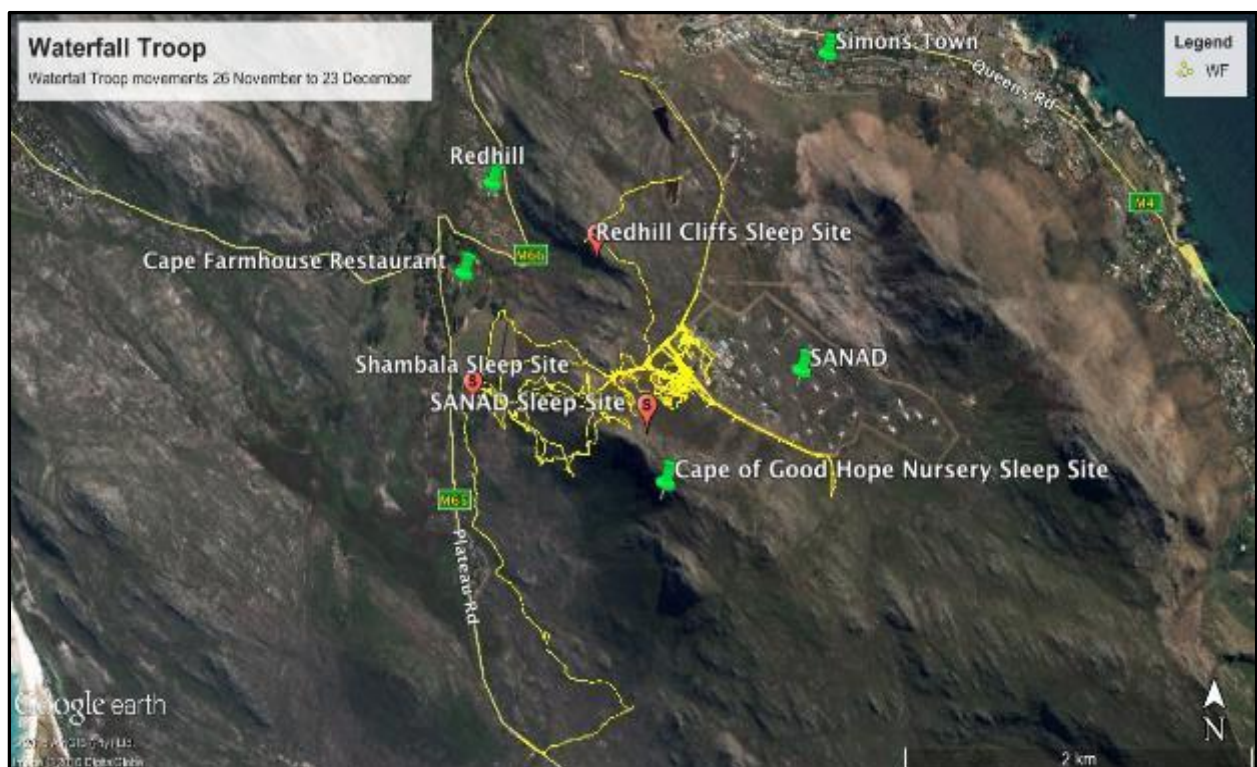


Figure 3: The Waterfall Troop's movement for December 2016.

The troop also utilised the South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD) and on four occasions it slept at the Red Hill sleep site. The troop focused its foraging efforts on the mountain above SANAD, Cape Farm House, Shamballah Holistic Centre (Shamballah) and Cape of Good Hope Nursery. This area has a

lot of food still available for baboons and the streams at SANAD and Cape of Good Hope Nursery are still flowing, providing them with water.

Most of the raiding incidents during December, took place at the SANAD facility. There were 41 incursions into the SANAD facility which illustrates the poor waste management and lack of baboon-proofing there. This also represents an increase from the previous month. The raiding into SANAD is a major problem as it encourages the troop to push harder into the urban area. This cycle is also hampering efforts to rehabilitate the troop from feeding on HDFs. Efforts will be made to address the issues at the facility as soon as possible.

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					9	Nocturnal Raiding																	
BABOON ID	Sex	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	21	22	23	TOTAL		
Troop																								2,5						2		
CON4 (B)	M		2						2			2												2,5						5		
GOB7	M								2	2	2																	2		4		
TK19 (R-W)	M		2						2									2												3		
TK42 (B-Y)	M	2								2		1			2,5				2					2	2,5	1		2	2	13		
WF4	M		2							2		2						2	2							2				6		
WFF3	F																													0		
WFF4	F																													0		
WFF5 (Y)	F																													0		
WFF6 (R)	F									2	2,2														2	2	1		2	2	9	
UnID Females	F	2	2							2	5		2	2		2,5				2					2,5		2				10	
UnID Juveniles																2,5		2	2							2	2				6	
UnID Male	M																												2		1	
UnID Individuals																															0	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS					
Troop	0.0																													0.00		
Individuals	0.9	15										20	15							15						25	30	10		25	20	2.92
Roost:	AM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
Roost:	PM	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
Roost Sites		1	Waterfall Cliff					2	Happy Valley Mtn					3	Signal School					4	Waterfall Barracks					5	Mountain Residents side					
		6	Admiral footpath					7	Cape Farm House					8	Happy Valley Home					9	Red Hill					10	SANAD					
		11	Mountain CoGHN					12	Gate 3 - Plateau Road					13	Rocklands Farm					14	North Peak					15	Bungalow					
		16	Rocklands Valley					17	Shamballah Pines					18						19						20						
ID Features of Baboons																																
General remarks		Red and <i>Italics</i> indicates raiding inside the South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD).																														

Figure 4: The Waterfall Troop raid sheet for December 2016.

3. Da Gama Troop:

The Da Gama Troop spent the majority of December out of town (99.8%). December is usually a busy time in Da Gama Park, with an increase in the number of people, which in turn leads to an increase in waste. The high percentage of time out of town, is therefore a true reflection of the hard work and dedication shown by the HWS rangers.

The troop predominantly slept at the Da Gama Naval Flats. On two nights, the troop slept away from town, once at the Kleinplaas Dam sleep site, and on the second occasion, in the Elsies River Valley. When sleeping at the flats, the troop split into smaller groups, sleeping at more than one location at a time. The two recorded incidents of time in town for the troop, was due to the troop moving before 05h30 in the morning before the rangers arrived. However, on both occasions the troop was pushed out of town very quickly, and no raids were recorded.



Figure 5: The Da Gama Troop movement patterns for December 2016. Red lines show movements of raiding individual baboons, and the yellow lines depict the troop's movements.

Individuals remain a problem, more specifically the young adult males. This month, DG14 spent significantly less time in town than in November 2016. However, DG14 is still not allowed into the troop by DG15. He remains on the periphery of the troop, and also sleeps away from the majority of the troop. Any attempts by DG14 to get close to the females, results in DG15 immediately chasing him away.

DG17 has been the main problem individual during December 2016. As a young adult male baboon who is ready to disperse, DG17 is currently untagged and does not, as yet, have a collar fitted. This has made tracking DG17 very difficult in the field.

Unlike other males, DG17 likes to sneak away from the troop without anyone noticing. Although DG17 spends a significant amount of time in town during these forays, only one house raid by this young male has ever been reported.

DG17 is suspected to be from the former 'Small Troop' in Da Gama, because he seems to follow all the old 'Small Troop' routes in town. DG17 also spends time on the rocky outcrop between Glencairn and Welcome Glen, which used to be a location often used by the 'Small Troop'.

Although the raid sheet shows a significant decrease in the amount of time spent in town by individuals, it is difficult to ascertain how much time DG17 spent in town, due to his elusive behaviour. Time in town for individuals could therefore be higher than recorded in the 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		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																		
MONTH: December YEAR: 2016		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																		
BABOON ID	Sex	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	21	22	23	TOTAL	
Troop																	1											1		2	
DG14 (O-G)	M		1																		1			1	1	1			1	6	
DG15 (R)	M			1						1										1						1				4	
DG16	M		1		1																				1	1				4	
DG17	M	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			6	1	1				1			1							1		14	
TK43 (W-W)	M									1																				1	
DGF1	F																													0	
DGF2	F																													0	
DGF4	F																													0	
UnID Females	F			1																1										2	
UnID Males	M						1																2							2	
UnID Individuals																										1	1			2	
UnID Juvs																														0	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS			
Troop	0.2																15											15		0.50	
Individuals	10.7	27	3	15	265	5	13	405		115				5	553			15		28	252			15	39	115		35	155	34.33	
Roost:	AM	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	2	1,2	3,18	2	2	2	3	24,1	1,2	1,2	2	1,2	1,24	2	1,2	2	2	3	2		
Roost:	PM	2	2	2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	2	1,2	2	18	2	2	2	2	24	2	2	2	1,2	1,24	2	2	2,3	2	2	2	2,4,8		
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		Red Italics - Raiding at Brooklands Waterworks																													

Figure 6: The Da Gama Troop raid sheet for December 2016.

While out of town, the Da Gama Troop foraged on a variety of roots, bulbs and flowers that were available in the indigenous vegetation. The troop moved between the plateau above Dalgleash as well as the area around Kleinplaas and Lewis Gay Dams, where there is plenty of water available. During the hot afternoons, the troop spent a lot of time specifically around Lewis Gay Dam, and the youngsters were seen swimming and playing in the water.



Figure 7: Juvenile baboon from the Da Gama Troop feeding on *Leucospermum* flowers.

Births and deaths

One birth was recorded in the Da Gama Troop on 19 December 2016. One death of an infant was reported in the Da Gama Troop on 27 November 2016. The cause of death is unknown.

Recommendations

- Residents at the Naval Flats in Da Gama Park, should place their **refuse bags inside the bins, inside the bin bay** and not leave bins in front of the gate or on the floor.
- **Supervision of cleaning staff** at the **Naval Flats** in Da Gama Park is needed, because 36 baboon-proof bins are being used for other purposes, not waste collection. This has resulted in a lack of bins available for residents' waste.
- **Broken garages** at the **Naval Flats** in Da Gama Park should be fixed, because the baboons continue to climb in through the openings to gain access to the bins.
- All vegetable gardens need to be baboon-proofed and residents should either refrain from growing fruit trees in baboon-affected areas, or remove fruit from trees.
- **Waste management at the Waterfall Barracks**, should be baboon-proofed, as this is attracting baboons into the facility.
- Residents at the Waterfall Barracks and Happy Valley Shelter **should keep their doors and windows closed when they are not there.**
- **Law enforcement is urgently needed** in Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park to prevent the illegal use paintball markers and pellet guns by residents, who use these to deter baboons.
- **The Black Marlin Restaurant needs to baboon-proof the restaurant and waste management, as well as raise awareness** amongst their patrons about the presence of baboons in the area.
- **Waste management** at the South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD) urgently needs to be addressed, as baboons are attracted into the facility because of poor waste management.

- **Residents in Glencairn** are urged to baboon-proof their houses, vegetable gardens and bins. DG17 has been seen in that area and this might become a problem.

South Western Region – Area Manager: Cath Shutte

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)

The Groot Olifantsbos (GOB) Troop remained within the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) section of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) for the entire month of December 2016. This is the third consecutive month that the baboons have remained in the TMNP, leaving both Scarborough and Misty Cliffs 100% baboon-free.

This situation is regarded as a rehabilitative step forward in the management of the Misty Cliffs females. These animals now have no access to human derived foods (HDFs). While in the TMNP, the GOB Troop predominantly foraged on indigenous vegetation and supplemented its diet with marine organisms foraged from the intertidal zone.

For the second month in a row, the GOB Troop concentrated its foraging activities in the southern section of its home range and spent many days deep within the TMNP. On a few occasions this month, the troop moved towards Gate One and the South African National Parks (SANParks) Klaasjagersberg office. The trees that surround the SANParks office are a summer sleep site for the troop, so this movement is expected. This situation is managed by an increased presence of HWS rangers on the Plateau Road fence line near the Klaasjagersberg offices.

On 28 November 2016, a fire broke out below the Redhill informal settlement. The fire was brought under control swiftly by officials. At the time of the fire, the GOB Troop were inside the TMNP and were in no danger from the fire.



Figure 8: Emergency personal tending to the fire below the Redhill settlement on 28 November 2016.

2. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop continued to utilise the Compass Bakery Cliffs sleep site for the entire month of December 2016. The last time that the troop slept in the pines behind Ocean View, was on 10 September 2016. The Compass Bakery Cliffs sleep site is a better option for the troop as it reduces the human-baboon conflict in the area.



Figure 9: Slangkop Troop movement for December 2016.

The troop continued to concentrate its foraging efforts in areas where water could be accessed. During November 2016, the troop foraged predominantly alongside the stream on the plateau above the Rasta Camp. However, this month, due to the stream beginning to dry up, the troop focused its foraging efforts alongside the stream running in the valley next to Ocean View. On sporadic occasions, the troop moved further south on the plateau above the sleep site and only visited the Witsand area on one occasion.

On Monday 5 December, the Slangkop Troop entered Capri via Mauritius Crescent. Unfortunately, due to it being bin day, eight full bins were raided. It is interesting to note that all the bins that were raided were not baboon-proofed in any way. This was reported immediately and the following day HWS conducted a pamphlet drop along Jamaica Drive, Trinidad Close, Mauritius Crescent, Mauritius Close and Grenada Close in Capri. The pamphlet was created by the City of Cape Town and is titled “Baboons: A lifestyle choice”. The pamphlet details precautionary measures that should be taken by residents living in baboon-affected areas.

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: December		YEAR: 2016		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																											
BABOON ID		Sex	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	21	22	23	TOTAL											
DG6		M	1	1			2								1															4												
SK6 (Sub-adult)		M	1	1			2							2														1		5												
UnID Males		M																												0												
UnID Females		F	1				2																					1		3												
UnID Juveniles																														0												
Troop												2																		1												
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS													
Troop		0.3										58																		0.97												
Individuals		0.5	14	15			20							5	5													40		1.65												
Roost:		AM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3													
Roost:		PM	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	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				Witsand				5				Other			
ID Features of Baboons																																										
General remarks																																										

Figure 10: Slangkop Troop raid sheet for December 2016.

On 30 November, a baboon awareness and education session was held at Kleinberg Primary School in Ocean View with learners from grade four to seven. Area Manager, Cath Shutte, Field Manager, Kyle Vink and ranger, Evan Mbambi attended the session. The aim was to create an appreciation for baboons and the HWS rangers. An informative poster was presented followed by an interactive information session.



Figure 11: Baboon awareness and education session held at Kleinberg Primary School in Ocean View.

The important points highlighted were, not to throw stones at the baboons, not to feed the baboons and not to get too close to the baboons. After the information session, the learners were encouraged to ask questions and to talk to the HWS staff. Many of the learners engaged with Evan Mbambi. This educational session was very successful and further sessions will be conducted in the New Year.

On 2 December 2016, a small fire broke out in the invasive alien vegetation alongside Ocean View. At the time of the fire, the troop was on the plateau above Ocean View and was in no danger from the fire. The fire was brought under control swiftly by officials and was extinguished by the early afternoon.



Figure 12: The fire burning in the invasive alien vegetation alongside Ocean View on 2 December 2016.

On 9 December 2016, HWS rangers noticed an adult female cradling a new infant. Other individuals greeted the new infant with lip-smacking, grunts and gentle touches. This is common behaviour in baboons when greeting a new member of the troop.

Births and Deaths

One birth was recorded in the Slangkop Troop on 9 December 2016. No deaths were reported in the South West troops during December 2016.

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 to improve management of the Slangkop Troop. This issue has been addressed with SANParks and is pending.
- **Fruiting Trees:** All visible fruit should be harvested from fruit trees in baboon-affected areas.
- **In2Foods Compass:** The recycling area should continue to be baboon-proofed and black bins should be tied up to prevent them from being tipped over.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Byron Loubser

1. Tokai Troop

The Tokai Troop roosted at the Level 3 Mixed Plantation sleep site and the Tea Garden sleep site for most of December 2016. The troop did not roost at the Silvermine Pines sleep site this month.

The troop foraged in the lower to middle reaches of its home range. Eleven days were spent in the middle reaches of its home range, foraging on fynbos pioneer plant species growing amongst the dense invasive alien vegetation. When the troop was in the low-lying areas, its daily activities were focused close to the non-urban areas which included the SANParks offices, Chrysalis Academy and the Porter Estate. Flowers, foliage, grass, seeds and bulbs were the abundant forage in these areas.



Figure 13: Tokai Troop movements in December 2016.

SANParks, in partnership with Working for Water are working to remove the invasive alien vegetation in the Tokai Section of the national park. The contractors continued with mechanical and chemical control this month. The invasive alien vegetation continued to negatively affect the management of the troop.



Figure 14: Invasive alien vegetation clearing sites in progress.

No time in town or raiding incidents were recorded for the Tokai Troop during December 2016. Individual baboons undertook all raids and spent 5.48 hours in town. Most of the raiding incidents for individual baboons were undertaken by TK47 (19 raids). Seven raiding incidents were recorded for TK48, five for TK28, three for TK49 and two for TK45 respectively. The raiding behaviour of TK47 will be monitored closely. Waste management and baboon-proofing in the affected areas remains a concern.

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		2	Raid bins				5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property															
MONTH: December		YEAR: 2016		3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding															
BABOON ID	Sex	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	21	22	23	TOTAL
TK28 (B-G)	M																6		6	1				7				7	5	
TK 47 (White)	M				7			2				2, 2			1	2, 2, 2, 2			2		2	2		1, 2	2		1	2, 2, 2		19
MT3 (Purp-B) alpha	M																													
TK48 (Red)	M				7	2			2			2, 2									2						1			7
TK 45 (Purp-W)	M				7																								7	2
TK49 (untagged)	M																								7			2, 2		3
TKF 12 (Blue, Collar)	F																													
Uni Male	M													2																1
Uni SA Male	M																													
Uni Female	F														1															1
Uni Juve															1															1
Tokai Troop																														
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Troop	0.0																													0.00
Individuals	1.7					45						43			35	15	10		45	15	10	15		16	30		5	20	25	5.48
Roost:	AM	5	12	1	1	1	1	5	12	13	12	12	1	1	7	1	6	12	12	12	1	1	1	12	1	12	12	13	12	
Roost:	PM	12	1	1	1	1	5	12	13	12	12	1	1	7	1	6	12	12	12	1	1	1	12	1	12	12	13	12	1	
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	Tokai bridge							
		11	Silvermine pines				12	Level 3 Mixed plantat				13	Other				14					15								
ID Features of Baboons		TK49: Sub-adult (untagged - deformed right wrist)																												
General remarks		Bold and <i>italics</i> indicate non-urban raids.																												

Figure 15: Tokai Troop raid sheet for December 2016.

TK28, an old adult male baboon, moved between the Tokai Troop and Zwaanswyk Troop this month. When TK28 was with the Zwaanswyk Troop, the troop split into two sub-groups. This behaviour is not

desirable. The behaviour of TK28 will be monitored closely and managed accordingly. At the time of writing this report, TK28 had not permanently immigrated to the Zwaanswyk Troop.

On 7 December 2016, an adult female, TKF12, was tagged with a single blue tag and fitted with a HWS GPS collar. HWS has implemented a GPS Tracking System for the northern troop baboons. The GPS collar will provide HWS with wildlife tracking data such as sleep sites, daily and seasonal movement patterns.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop roosted at the Tea Garden and the Tokai Picnic Site sleep sites for most of December 2016. The troop did not roost at the Silvermine Pines sleep site this month. A map for the Zwaanswyk Troop is not included due to a faulty data logger.

The troop focused its foraging efforts in the low-lying areas near the SANParks offices, Chrystalis Academy and the Porter Estate. The lower levels of the Zwaanswyk and Tokai clearings were also utilised by the troop during December.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
NORTH		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: 2016	3	Non malicious damage				6	Raid occupied house or vehicle				9	Nocturnal Raiding																	
BABOON ID		Sex	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	21	22	23	TOTAL
MT 5 (B-R)		M																													
TKF 4 (Orange, collar)		F																							7					1	
TKF5 (Green)		F																													
TKF7 (Red) tag out		F																													
Uni adult female		F																													
Uni Adult female		F																													
Zwaanswyk Troop																															
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS				
Troop	0.0																													0.00	
Males	0.0																													0.00	
Roost:	AM	5	12	7	1	1	1	6	6	7	13	1	1	1	7	6	8	5	10	13	1	1	1	7	13	13	13	8	7		
Roost:	PM	12	7	1	1	1	6	6	7	13	1	1	1	7	6	8	5	10	13	1	1	1	7	13	13	13	8	7	1		
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	Tokai bridge							
			11	Silvermine Pines				12	Level 3 mixed plantatio				13	Other				14					15								
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks			Bold and <i>italics</i> indicate non-urban raids.																												

Figure 16: Zwaanswyk Troop's raid sheet for December 2016.

No time in town or raiding incidents were recorded for the troop. Only one raid was recorded for an individual baboon. TKF4 stole food from visitors at the Tokai Picnic Site. Despite this, the troop was still difficult to manage because it roosted close to the urban fringe and ran down the mountain in the afternoon.

On 7 December 2016, TKF4 was tagged with a single orange tag and fitted with a HWS GPS collar

Constantia Troop 1 (CT1)

The Constantia Troop 1 (CT1) utilised the southern part of its home range this month. The troop roosted at the Bike Trails sleep site on most nights.

The troop focused its foraging efforts on the fynbos pioneer species amongst the invasive alien vegetation above the Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms. The troop foraged mainly between level 2 and level 4. The troop also foraged at Langboskloof and Donkerboskloof. The troop did not spend time on the Constantia Berg this month. The grapes on the wine farms have become attractive to the baboons because they have increased in sweetness. However, most incursions to forage on the wine farms took place in the evenings, when the farm baboon rangers were off duty.

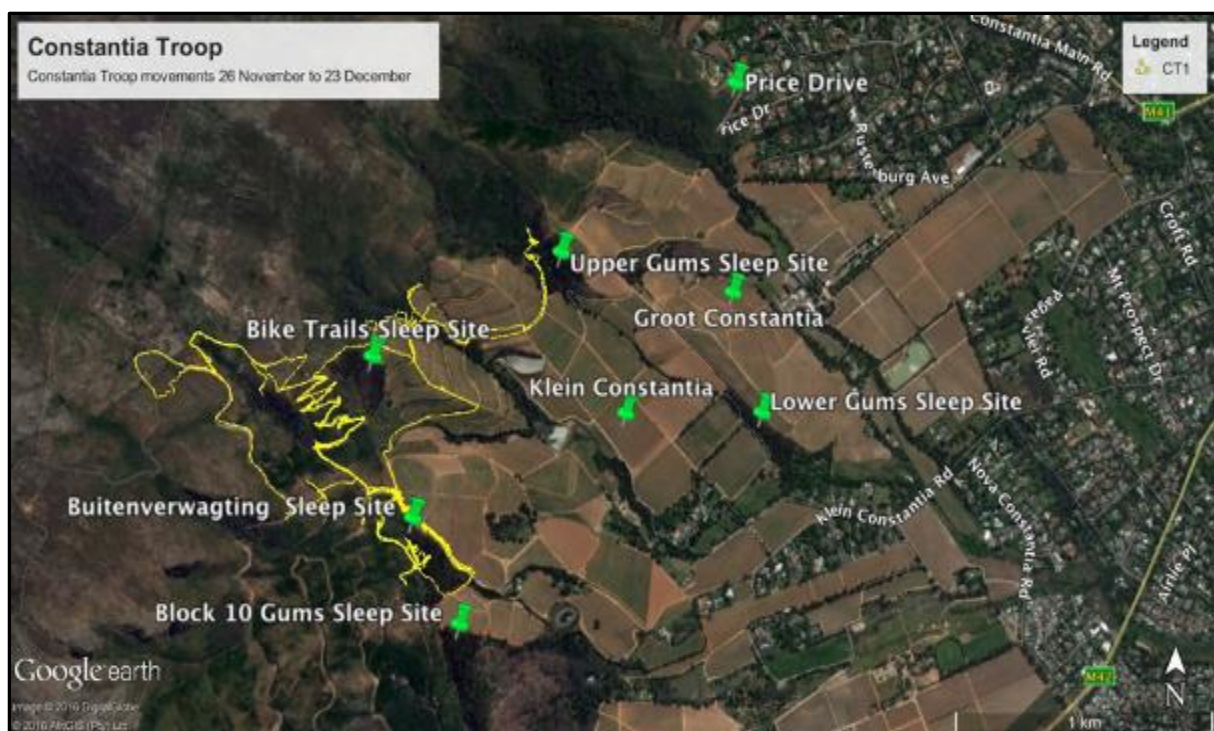


Figure 17: CT1 Troop movements in December 2016 (yellow lines in the urban area are indicative of HWS' staff's movements between areas).

No time in town or raiding incidents were recorded for the troop. Two incidents were recorded for CON8. CON8 was in the urban area on two occasions and no raids took place.

On 7 December, CON12, an adult male natal to CT1 Troop sustained a baboon-on-baboon injury, inflicted by CON3. CON12 was in the early stages of emigration to the Constantia Troop 2. CON12 proved elusive and difficult to capture following the injury. On 8 December, CON12 was successfully cage captured on the Klein Constantia wine farm. Dr Dorothy Breed, the CapeNature veterinarian, responded to assess the animal. CON12 had a large mid abdominal tear (15cm) with a traumatic hernia from which a large section (25x20cm) of the stomach protruded. The stomach had already started to stick to the wound edges and the colour of the stomach indicated that it was not viable. The wound had a severe smell and the weakened state of the animal indicated sepsis and endotoxic shock. CON12 was humanely euthanized due to the severity of the injury and poor prognosis.

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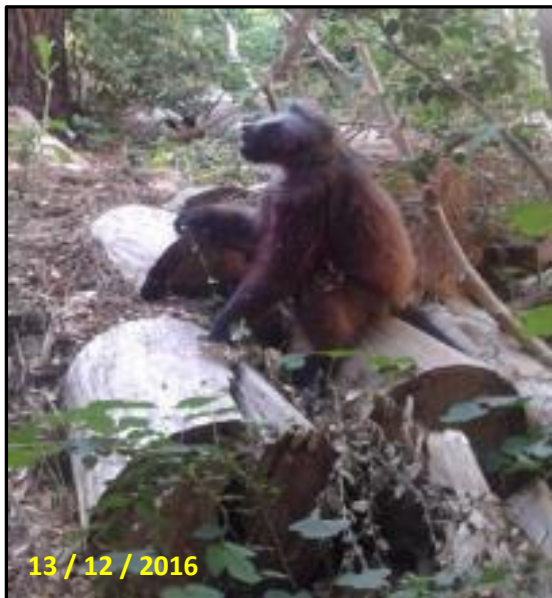


Figure 19: CON10's with injuries due to a baboon-on-baboon altercation.

On 22 December 2016, CON8, an adult male natal to CT1, dispersed north towards Constantia Nek. CON8 moved through the northern wine farms such as Eagles Nest, Constantia Glen and Beau Constantia. CON8 was successfully moved back to the troop by the rangers. On 23 December 2016, CON8 dispersed again. CON8 moved back towards Constantia Nek. The rangers moved CON8 back to the troop again. The dispersal behaviour of CON8 will be monitored and managed accordingly.

4. Constantia Troop 2 (CT2)

The CT2 utilised the Block 8, Block 10 and the Buitenverwachting Gums sleep site this month. The troop focused its foraging efforts above the Klein Constantia and Buitenverwachting wine farms. The troop also foraged at the Bike Trails Stream, Langboskloof and Donkerboskloof. The troop was also observed following the CT1 on occasion. The CT2 did not move onto the Constantia Berg this month. Like the CT1, the CT2 also entered the wine farms to forage. Incursions on to the wine farms took place mostly in the evenings.

No time in town or raiding incidents were recorded for the CT2 troop this month. Raiding incidents for individual baboons were reported on the wine farms. However, positive identification was not provided and raids could not be assigned.

5. Mountain Troop:

The Mountain Troop roosted at the available sleep sites above the Buitenverwachting wine farm. The troop followed a similar trend to last month. The troop focused its foraging efforts near the Quarry Gums and Bike Jumps. The troop also foraged on the Buitenverwachting wine farm and proved the most

problematic agricultural raiders.

No time in town or raiding incidents were recorded for the Mountain Troop this month.

Births and Deaths

One new-born was recorded in the CT1 on 14 December 2016. CON12, was euthanised for humane reasons on 8 December 2016, following a baboon-on-baboon related injury.

Recommendations

- The **electrified fence** encompassing the **Tokai Picnic Site** should be upgraded and maintained to reduce baboon raids on picnickers.
- The residential area **below Orpen Road** in Tokai, requires urgent **baboon-proofing**. Since 2012, this area has experienced a low level of human-baboon conflict and residents have become complacent.
- **Houses** and **gardens** along **Price Drive** and **Belair Drive** need to be **baboon-proofed**. An advocacy campaign is still required to remind residents that vegetable gardens and chicken runs will encourage baboon raids.
- **Commercial film crews** that use **Chrysalis Academy** and **Cape Academy** should be informed about human/baboon conflict. Film crews need to ensure that **food** and **waste** is secure from baboons.
- Residents at **Forest Glade** should refrain from leaving out **food** for **ground birds**. The food attracts baboons. Hanging birdfeeders should be considered.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

There were three births and two deaths in the managed population this month, so the total increased to 419. This is 29 more than were recorded at the end of 2015, representing an overall population increase of 7.4% for 2016. Interestingly, this year the percentage increase in the south (8.7%) was greater than in the north (6.4%), although the north has traditionally always had a faster growth rate. This has always been explained by the greater access to human derived foodstuffs (HDF's) in the north. This change may well be related to the high preponderance of invasive alien that has replaced the pines and fynbos that got burnt in the Tokai and Constantia regions during the 2015 fire. To compound this effect, the wine farmers are increasingly taking greater care to keep baboons off their land.

TROOP	Total December Populations				December 2016			Total Births 2016	Total Deaths 2016	Emigration/ Immigration 2016	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
	2012	2013	2014	2015	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration				
Da Gama Troop	54	45	43	49	1	1	0	12	5	-1	55
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	22	23	0	0	0	11	1	0	33
Waterfall	28	30	30	32	0	0	0	3	0	+2	37
Groot Olifantsbos	19	13	17	16	0	0	0	0	1	0	15
Misty Cliffs	18	16	14	11	0	0	0	1	5	0	7
Slangkop	33	32	36	41	1	0	0	1	2	0	40
SUB TOTAL	175	157	162	172	2	1	0	28	14	+1	187
Zwaanswyk	25	26	28	30	0	0	0	5	6	0	29
Tokai	61	65	72	62	0	0	0	9	5	+1	67
Mountain	33	44	48	49	0	0	0	7	3	-1	52
Constantia 1 & 2	60	63	70	77	1	1	0	17	9	-1	84
SUB TOTAL	179	198	218	218	1	1	0	38	23	-1	232
TOTAL	354	355	380	390	3	2	0	66	37	0	419

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

This year, like 2015, there were only 7 baboons euthanased for baboon management reasons. Over the past three years a total of 22 baboons were euthanased for management, at an average of 7.3 per year. In 2012 and 2013 there were 33 baboons euthanased at an average of 16.5 per year. Thus the number of baboons euthanased for management reasons has decreased to less than half for the last three years, while the percentage time out of town has progressively increased over the same time period.

Deaths	2012*	2013	2014	2015	Dec 2016	2016 to Date	TOTAL
Management	17	16	8	7	1	7	55
Human Induced (HID)	8	7	10	24	0	7	56
Direct **	8	6	6	8	0	4	32
Indirect ***	0	1	4	16	0	3	24
Natural	7	30	19	20	1	16	92
Unknown	1	3	0	4	1	7	15
TOTAL	33	56	37	55	3	37	218

Table 2: Causes of baboon deaths since 2012 (*Data collected during the first half of 2012 provided by Baboon Research Unit, UCT); **Deaths caused directly by humans such as motor vehicle accidents, shooting, poisoning and dogs. ***Deaths caused indirectly by humans such as electrocutions and human related fires.

Hotline Data

Despite the almost perfect record for baboon troops being out of town this month, there was still a relatively high number of raid related hotline calls in managed areas this month (49 calls). Nevertheless, these calls still dropped by half compared to hotline calls in November. In Tokai this number of calls dropped from 48 to 9 over this period, and this decrease can almost entirely be related to the euthanasia of two inveterate raiders during November. However, the management of raiding individuals in Tokai remains a problem.

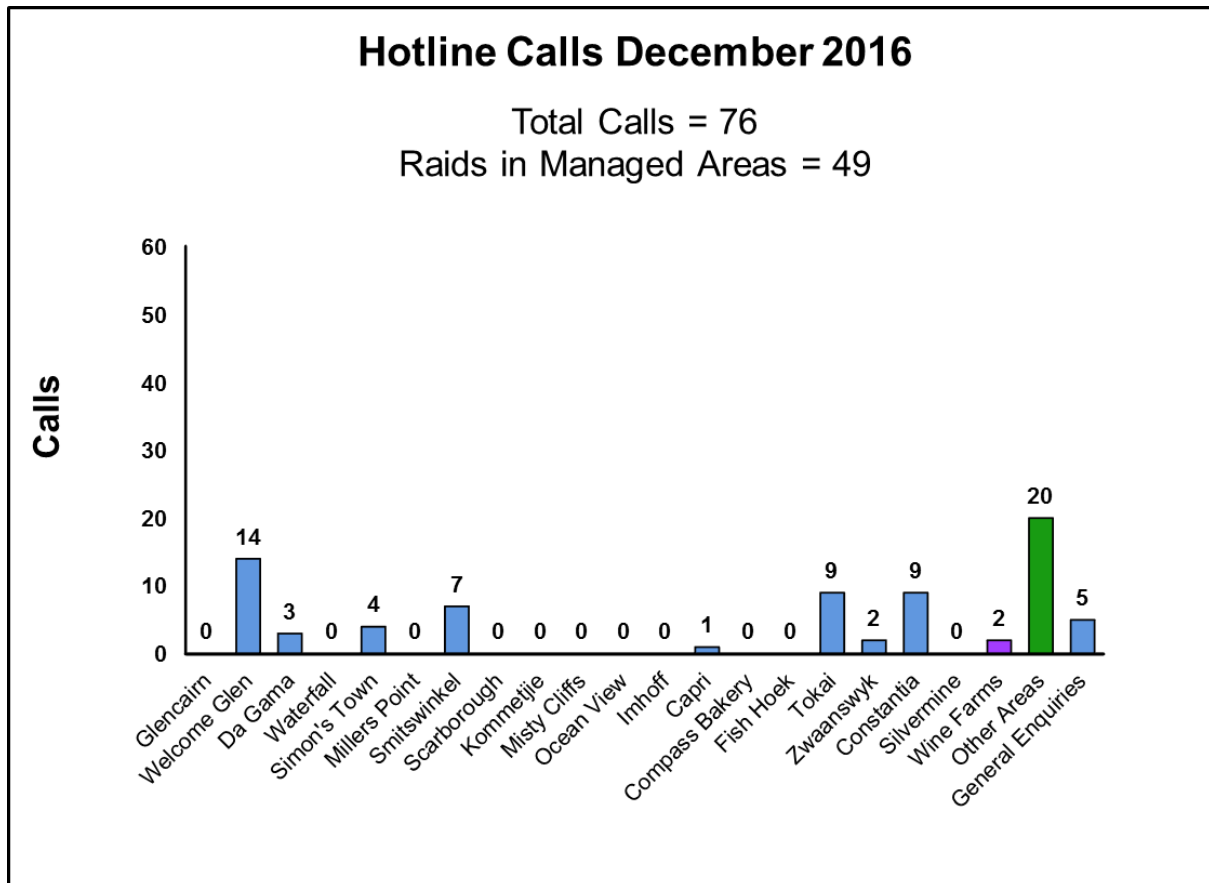


Figure 20: Hotline calls summary per urban area for December 2016.

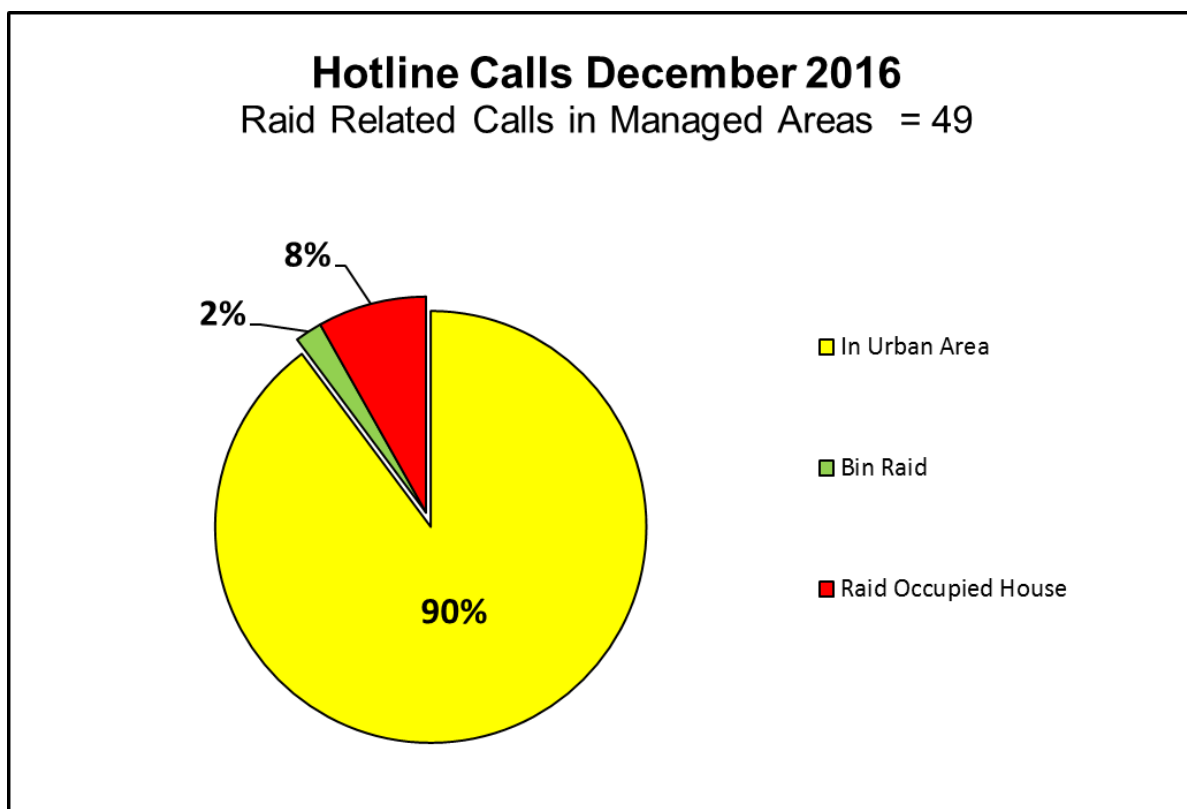


Figure 21: Composition of raid-related hotline calls during December 2016.

In support of this trend, this month raids reported for baboons just being in town increased to a new record of 90%. Thus only 10% of all raid related calls were reporting raids other than baboons just being in town. And virtually all of these calls were just reporting individuals, and not troops, in town.

Percentage Time Out of Town

The data for percentage time out of town hit two records this month. On average, all baboon troops were out of town 100% of the time. However, this record was not quite perfect because the Da Gama Troop spent 0.2% time in town, while the Slangkop Troop was in town 0.3% of the time.

Despite reasonably high numbers of hotline calls, individual raiders also set a new record this month, with individuals being out of town 98.6% of the time. It was just a few individuals which were responsible for most of the raids.

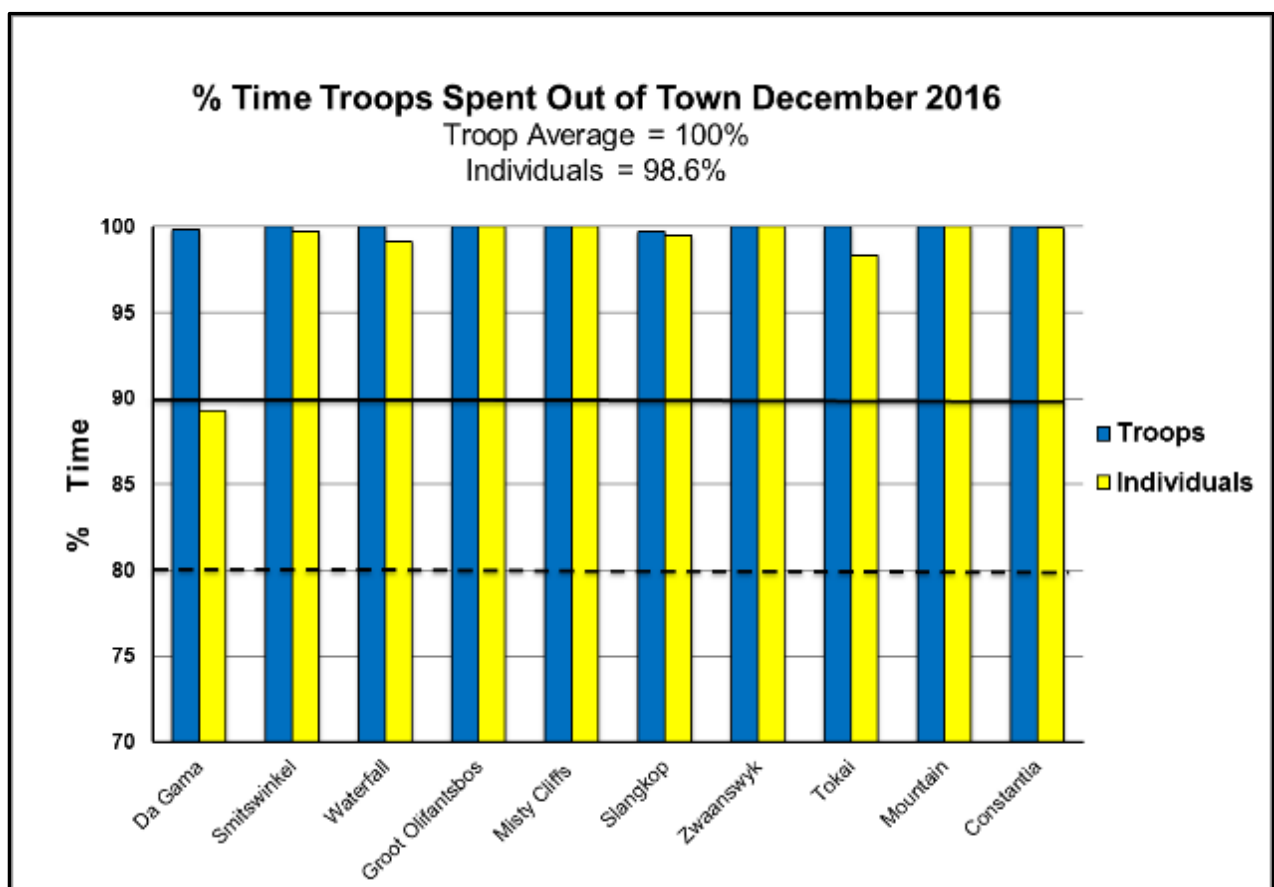


Figure 22: Percentage time troops spent out of town (December 2016). The solid line indicates the City of Cape Town's 2014 contract requirement and the broken line indicates the 2012 contract requirement.

Conclusion

Although there were quite a high number of raid related hotline calls (49 calls) this month, December 2016 must go down as one of the best on record for HWS. Baboon troops were kept out of town almost 100% of the time (99.9954%) and individuals were kept out of town 98.6% of the time. Both of these statistics are new records.

During 2016, the population increased from 390 to 419 individuals, representing an increase of 7.4%. This is interesting because it had been suspected after the March 2015, and subsequent, fires across the southern peninsula, that the baboon population would suffer. If anything, the population growth seems to have increased since these fires began. From December 2012 to December 2015 the population only grew from 354 to 390, representing an increase of about 3.4% per annum. Thus, the growth rate doubled during 2016.

This year, like 2015, it was necessary to euthanase seven baboons for management reasons. During the first two years of HWS management (2012 – 2013), 33 baboons were euthanased for management reasons. However, since that time, when there was an excess of highly aggressive raiding baboons present, the number of baboons needing to be euthanased has dropped down to an average of just over 7 per year for the last three years. At the same time, despite the baboon population steadily increasing every year, the percentage time baboon troops spent in town has steadily decreased to our current record of only 0.0046% time in town during December 2016.

Finally, December 2016 is now the third month in a row that the Misty Cliffs Troop has remained joined with the GOB Troop, and all have remained within the CoGH Reserve for that time.

Dr Phil Richardson

HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS