



Photo: Robyn Lawson-Craig

Human Wildlife Solutions

Overstrand Monthly Report

January 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 31 January 2020. Management of the Voëklip Troop in Hermanus and the Pringle Bay Troop in Pringle Bay are discussed. These two troops are the only two that are currently being managed. The Vogelgat Troop was reported to be in town more frequently during this month, with a notable increase in hotline calls for this troop.

The summer season generally starts with an abundance of food available to baboons in the fynbos. However, as the season progresses and gets hotter and drier, the availability of food decreases and baboons generally try to supplement their feeding by raiding urban areas. This same pattern has been observed with the Voëklip Troop, spending progressively more time in town and raising more hotline calls as the summer has progressed.

2 VOËLKLIP TROOP

2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- During January, the troop spent 96.8% of its time out of town compared to 96.3% in December 2019.
- Time out of town for individuals was 93.6%.
- The troop predominantly slept at the 10th Avenue Kloof (13 nights), Three Dams (eight nights), Droë Kloof (four nights) and Big Titanic (four nights) Sleep Sites. On the remaining two nights, the troop slept at the Dragon's Back and A-Shape Sleep Sites. The troop therefore spent 100% of its time sleeping out of town.
- During January, the Voëklip Troop entered the urban area on 11 occasions, compared to 12 in December 2019. On 10 occasions, the troop entered the Voëklip suburb and on one occasion the troop entered the Fernkloof suburb. The troop made one brief visit of 30 minutes to the Golf Course during January.

2.2 INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

2.2.1 VKM4 (SUB-ADULT MALE)

- VKM4's raiding behaviour continued during the first half of January. This continued to make the management of the troop more difficult.

- VKM4 showed aggressive behaviour on two occasions. On the first occasion he stole a bag of chips from next to a group of people picnicking (2 January 2020), while on the second occasion, he stole a backpack from a young lady on the zig-zag mountain path (9 January 2020).
- VKM4 broke away from the troop on four occasions. On all of these occasions he led other individuals into town.
- VKM4 and VKM2, the alpha male, had also been fighting on occasions, which causes the troop to become unsettled and often split into smaller groups.
- VKM4 was euthanised on 16 January in terms of the Guidelines for Baboon Management for assertive raiding.
(http://baboons.org.za/images/Protocols/Guidelines_for_Baboon_Management_March_2019.pdf).

2.2.2 VKF3 (ADULT FEMALE)

- During January, VKF3 was the individual that initiated breaking the line and moving towards town during most raids. She often solicited troop members to form a raiding group
- VKF3 broke away from the troop on 19 occasions. On three occasions, VKF3 left on her own and entered town. On 12 occasions she led/joined other individuals into town and on four occasions she led/joined a small splinter group that was prevented from entering town.
- VKF3 raided one occupied house. Two additional occupied house raids occurred, where it was likely that this VKF3 was present.

2.2.3 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- Fifteen individuals entered the Golf Course on one occasion for 30 minutes.

2.2.4 VOËLKLIP

- 11 bin raids were recorded in Voëlklip during January.
- 18 occupied house raids and two unoccupied house raids were recorded during January.
- There are a number of fruit trees in the Voëlklip suburb that are frequently visited by troop members. There are a number of fruit trees on 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 7th Streets between Reservoir Road and 4th Avenue, and on 6th & 7th Street near 10th Avenue.
- The majority of bins in Voëlklip are not baboon-proof and many residents often leave open refuse bags on the sidewalk. This is a major attractant for the Voëlklip Troop and greatly increases the difficulty of managing the troop, particularly on waste collection days.
Waste and recycling collection currently takes place around midday, leaving the waste as active

attractants present for the first half of the day.

2.2.5 TAGGING AND COLLARING

- VKF4, an adult female was tagged with yellow tags on 16 January 2020.

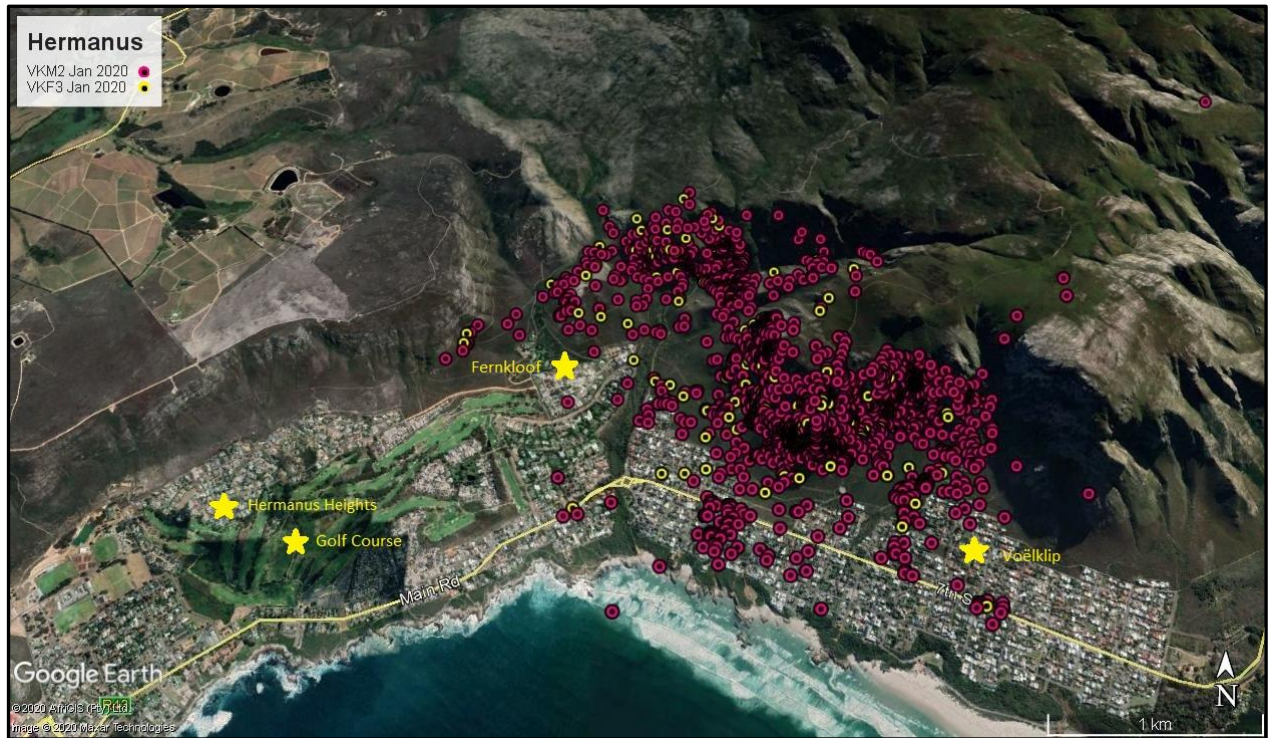


Figure 1: GPS locations of the Voëlklip Troop as determined by the GPS collars data on VKM2 and VKF3 during January 2020. VKF3’s collar took readings every 10 minutes during daylight hours, while VKM2’s collar only took readings every hour.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																														
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area														4	Attacking pets														7	Threatening behaviou/ attacking/ stealing food															
BABOON TROOP:		VOËLKLIP		2	Raid bins														5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle														8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property													
MONTH: JANUARY		YEAR: 2020		3	Non malicious damage														6	Raid occupied house or vehicle														9	Nocturnal Raiding													
BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL															
Troop						1					1			1		1					1		1												11													
VKM2 ALPHA	M			1		1			6	6			1																						17													
VKM4 BLUE TAG	M		7	6		1							1								1														7													
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F																						1												2													
VKF3 RED TAG	F			1			1			1			1				1	1				1		1	1	6	1				1,1		1,1		15													
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																																		0													
UnID Male	M			6			6,1		1	1		1					1,6	1							1										10													
UnID Males	M																																		0													
UnID Females	F			1			6,2	1,1,1		1,1,1			1			1			1			1		1								1,1		1,1		19												
UnID Female	F									1			1											1		6			1,7			1			7													
UnID Individuals				5	2	6	6	6		6		6		2				1	1	1	6							6			6	2,1	6		17													
UnID Juvs				1			1,1						1						1	1,1						1						1			9													
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS																		
Troop	3,2						32			25		98		95	90							150	60									45	100	62	14,20													
Individuals	6,4		47	78	24	50	52		89	60		45	57		23		25	198	96	86	33		85	122	130	82	128	18	96	13	62			28,32														
Roost:	AM	8	5	5	10	12	9	10	7	9	5	5	12	12	12	7	12	12	10	12	12	12	15	8	8	12	9	9	12	5	10	12																
Roost:	PM	5	5	10	12	9	10	7	9	5	5	12	12	12	7	12	12	10	12	12	12	15	5	8	12	9	9	12	5	10	12	12																
Roost Sites		1				2				3				4				5																														
		Golf Course				Hermanus Heights				Platte Klip				Adder Ladder				Lower Dam																														
		6				7				8				9				10																														
		Middle Dam				Upper Dam				Dragon's Back				Droë Kloof				Big Titanic																														
		11				12				13				14				15																														
		Small Titanic/ Cave				10th Ave Kloof				11th Ave Kloof				Bos Klip				A-Shape																														
		16				17				18				19				20																														
		21				22				23				24				25																														
		26				27				28																																						
ID Features of Baboons																																																
General remarks		VKF4 tagged with yellow tag in the left ear on 16/01/2020.																																														

Figure 2: The Voëklip Troop raid sheet for January 2020.

2.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- There were two deaths in the Voëklip Troop. A female was noticed carrying a dead infant on 9 January. The cause of death is unknown but is assumed to be an infanticide. VKM4 (sub-adult male) was euthanised on 16 January 2020, in terms of the Guidelines for Baboon Management for assertive raiding (http://baboons.org.za/images/Protocols/Guidelines_for_Baboon_Management_March_2019.pdf).

2.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings in suburbs affected by baboons. This will reduce the attractant value of the waste to baboons. This is especially important for the area north of the Main Road in Voëklip suburb which is close to the mountainside.
- All bins used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- Refuse bags** should not be left lying open on the sidewalk, easily available to baboons.
- The **fruit which is visible on fruit trees should be harvested** in baboon-affected areas to remove this attractant for baboons.

- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon-proofed. Baboon-proofing of all domestic vegetable gardens in baboon-affected areas will reduce baboon incursions into the suburbs.
- There are many **tall pine and bluegum trees** on the Hermanus Golf Course that provide ideal sleep sites for baboons, particularly in winter. If these trees could be removed it would greatly reduce the baboons' incentive to sleep in town, particularly during winter.
- The majority of houses leave their **doors and windows open** by day and do not have burglar bars. Residents should be made aware that this attracts baboons into the area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

3 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

3.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 97.3% of time out of town in January.
- For individuals, the time out of town was 99.8%.
- The troop predominantly used its southern sleep sites in January, spending 27 nights at its southern sleep sites (Professor & Hangklip Valley) and only four nights at its northern sleep site (Rooi Els Mountain).
- The troop entered town on 22 occasions, compared to 18 in December 2019. The troop's southern sleep sites are very close to town, and the troop would often enter town before the rangers arrive or after they have left at the end of the day.

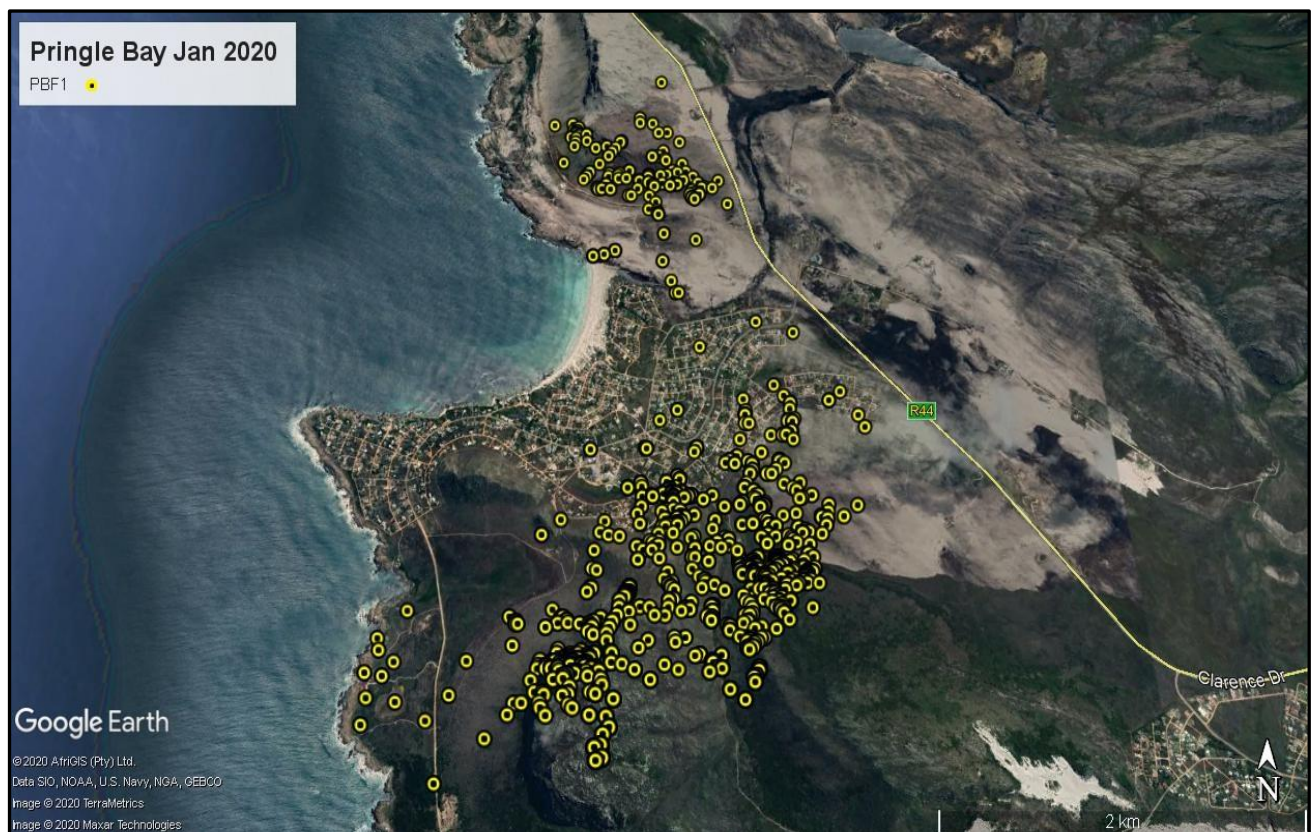


Figure 3: GPS locations of the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar on PBF1 during January 2020.

3.2 INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- Four unoccupied house raids were recorded in Pringle Bay during January. During all of these raids, the baboons gained entry to the house through an open door or open window.

3.2.1 TAGGING AND COLLARING

- No tagging or collaring took place during January.

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BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL
Troop		5	1	1	1,1	1,1	1	1		1	1	5		1	1	1			1	1		1	1		1				1	1	1	22	
UnID Male	M																															0	
UnID Males	M																															0	
UnID Females	F							1																	1							2	
UnID Female	F													5																	5	2	
UnID Individuals																																0	
UnID Juveniles																																0	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS		
Troop	2,7	25	48	69	60	60	15	30		45	23			25	20	10			39	26			15	15		20				74	45	45	11,82
Individuals	0,2						45																		20								1,08
Roost:	AM	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2		
Roost:	PM	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	
Roost Sites		1 Professor			2 Hangklip Valley			3 Lemoenkop			4 Rooi-Els Mountain			5																			
		6			7			8			9			10																			
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks																																	

Figure 4: The Pringle Bay Troop raid sheet for January 2020.

3.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded in the Pringle Bay Troop during January.

3.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early morning in Pringle Bay. This will reduce the attractant value and accessibility of the waste to baboons.
- All bins used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- Refuse bags** should not be left lying on the sidewalk where they easily available to baboons.
- The **waste collection point (bin cage)** at the entrance to Pringle Bay should be sufficiently secured/enclosed to prevent baboons and other wildlife gaining access to the waste. This should be collected by solid waste collection regularly to prevent the waste becoming unmanageable, particularly during the holiday season and after weekends. Waste should not be left outside this collection point (bin cage), because it is a major attractant to baboons.
- Residents should ensure all **windows and doors are closed** when baboons are in the Pringle Bay urban

area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

4 GENERAL COMMENTS

4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

- The Voëklip Troop size at the end of January 2020 was 26. There were two deaths during January. A dead infant was observed being carried by its mother, and VKM4 was euthanised in terms of the guidelines for assertive raiding. The size of the Pringle Bay troop remained at 17. The compositions of the two managed troops can be seen in the Table 1 below.

TROOP	OCTOBER 2019 COUNT	JANUARY 2020			Total observed Births (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Total observed Deaths (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Total Migrations (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)
		Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëklip	29	0	2	0	1	4	0
Pringle Bay	18	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	47	0	2	0	1	5	0

Table 1: Population data for the two managed troops in the Overstrand in January 2020. Emigration/Immigration figures show animal movements between troops and are accommodated in the troop population totals.

Deaths	Current Contract 2019/20	JAN 2020	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	2	1	2
Human Induced (HID)	1		1
<i>Direct **</i>	1		1
<i>Indirect ***</i>			0
Natural	2	1	2
Unknown			0
TOTAL DEATHS	5	2	5

Table 2: Causes of baboon deaths since October 2019; **Deaths caused directly by humans such as motor vehicle accidents, shooting, poisoning and dogs. ***Deaths caused indirectly by humans such as electrocutions and fire.

4.2 HOTLINE DATA

- During January 2020, there was a total of 222 hotline calls, 213 of which were raid-related calls received from managed areas. This is a marked increase compared to the 107 calls received in

December and 28 in November 2019. Hotline calls are for the Hermanus area only, because the Pringle Bay residents operate using another system. The vast majority of calls (146) were from Voëlklip suburb, followed by Fernkloof with 21 calls. The Vogelgat Troop was reported in the Voëlklip suburb on 46 calls during January, compared to nine occasions in December. The Hamilton-Russell Troop was reported on the mountainside just above Hermanus Heights on two occasions during January, compared to four occasions in December. These two troops are not currently managed by HWS.

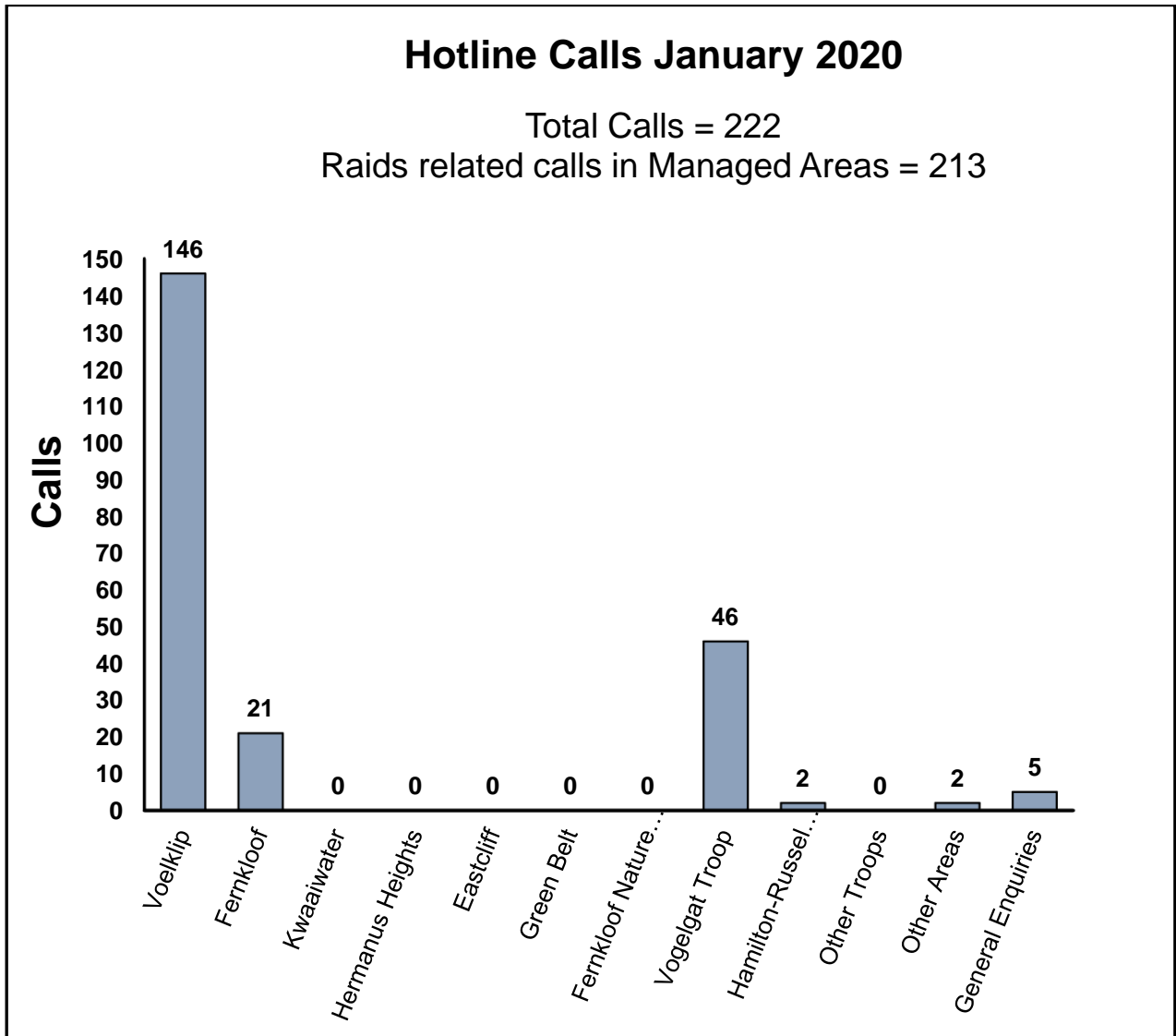


Figure 5: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas of Hermanus for January 2020. Raid-related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas, represent those areas beyond the urban edge or the range of managed baboons.

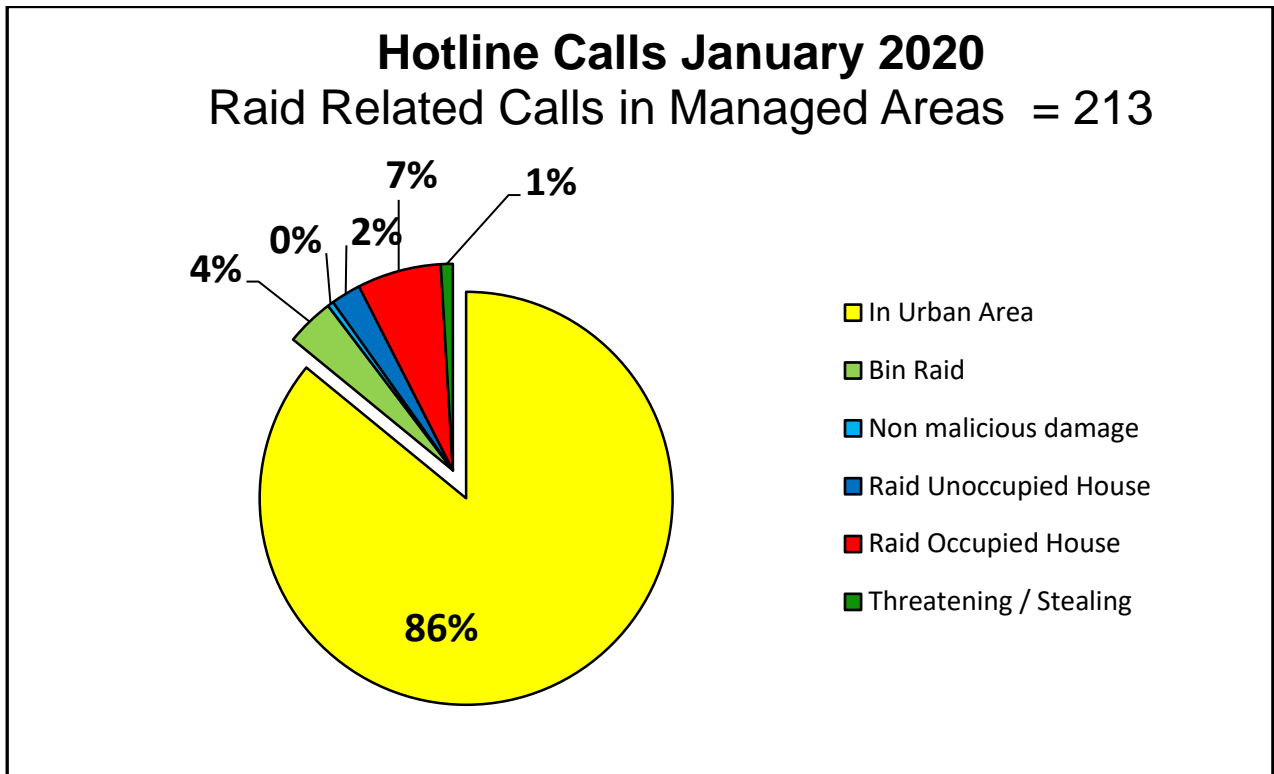


Figure 6: Composition of raid-related hotline calls during January 2020. Note this graph represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of raids by baboons.

One of the most notable features of Figure 6 is that 86% of all raid related calls were simply reporting baboons in the urban area. Occupied house raids, accounted for 7% of raid related calls, while unoccupied house raids accounted for 2% of raid related calls.

4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During January 2020, the average time out of town for the troops was 97.1% and 96.7% for individuals. Individual time in town is only counted if individuals or small groups of baboons enter the urban area alone. These data are counted separately from when the whole troop enters the urban area.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN	TROOP	INDIVIDUAL
Voëklip Troop	96,8	93,6
Pringle Bay Troop	97,3	99,8
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	97,1	96,7

Table 3: Percentage time troops and individuals spent out of town during January 2020.

5 CONCLUSION

This month, as with last, baboon management of the Voëklip Troop, has largely been dominated by the behaviour of a few raiding individuals. During the first half of this month, VKM4 continued to be problematic and difficult for the team to manage. VKM4 often led other troop members into town. This behaviour is strongly discouraged because it teaches other troop members, particularly juveniles that it is safe and very rewarding to raid the urban area. VKF3, another individual responsible for leading troop members into town to raid, broke away from the troop on 19 occasions during January. This is also evident from the number of raid related hotline calls received this month, which has doubled compared to December.

This month there was again a significant increase in the number of hotline calls reporting raids by the Vogelgat Troop. The troop spent more time in the urban area than the previous months since management of the Voëklip Troop began.

The Pringle Bay Troop were out of town for 97.3% of this month, while individuals were out of town for 99.8%. For most of the month the troop used the southern sleep sites which are very located close to town. Residents should take care to keep windows and doors closed when the troop or individuals are in town. As a result of houses being left open, there were four unoccupied house raids in Pringle Bay this month.

Dr Phil Richardson

HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS