



Photo: Richard Voges

Human Wildlife Solutions

Overstrand Monthly Report

May 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 31 May 2020. Management of the Voëlklip Troop in Hermanus and the Pringle Bay Troop are discussed. During this month the use of Virtual Fence continued as the primary method of managing the Voëlklip Troop, but paintball markers still continued to be used for backup. Management of the Pringle Bay Troop continued through the use of paintball markers only.

The Voëlklip Troop's time out of town was 98.8% this month. This is a slight increase over the April, although generally baboons tend to increase their time in town during winter. The Vogelgat Troop also showed a decreased presence in town this month. This was evident from a decrease in the number of reports to the hotline. Most raids consisted of only a few individuals being in town, as opposed to the whole troop. HWS is currently not mandated to manage this troop, but when resources allow (when the Voëlklip Troop is out of town), the baboon rangers assist in moving them back to their natural environment. By providing this additional assistance to this troop, HWS is attempting to prevent individuals from learning bad raiding behaviours from each other.

The percentage time out of town for the Pringle Bay Troop increased slightly from 90.8% in April to 91.5 % in May. As was the case last month, the Hangklip Troop often moved north into the home range of the Pringle Bay Troop. The Hangklip Troop is much larger than the Pringle Bay Troop, so the effect of this movement was that the Pringle Bay Troop was pushed up against the urban edge and spent more time in town than they would under normal conditions. Once again, the troop predominantly slept at the Professor Sleep Site, utilizing this site for 22 nights. This sleep site is less than 100m from the urban edge and therefore provided the baboons with very easy access into town. This sleep site therefore allows the baboons to access the urban environment when the rangers are not on duty (early mornings and late evenings). This month they regularly took advantage of this opportunity and raided town late in the evenings and again early the next morning.

2 VOËLKLIP TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- During May, the troop spent 98.8% of its time out of town.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 91.2% in April to 93.6% in May.
- The troop predominantly slept at Hermanus Heights (12 nights), Heights Dam (four nights) and Green Kloof (three nights). The remaining 12 nights were divided between nine other sleep sites, including one night during which the troop slept in town (See Figure 2 for details).

- This month, the Voëlklip Troop entered the urban area on two occasions, once in the Voëlklip suburb and once in Hermanus Heights.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- During May raiding by unidentified females, remained high.
- Raiding, including assertive raids, by the Alpha VKM2 decreased during May. However, raids by VKM5 increased from five to ten, including one assertive raid.
- Individuals entered Hermanus Heights on one occasion in May.
- Three occupied house raids were recorded in Selkirk Street, Waboom Street and Fernkloof Drive.
- Two occupied house raids were recorded in 6th and 8th streets, Voëlklip.
- An unknown male (presumably from the Vogelgat Troop) immigrated into the Voëlklip Troop and was collared and tagged (blue tag) on the 27 May (VGM1).

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded during May 2020.



Figure 1: Movement patterns of the Voëlklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar on VKM5 from 01 to 20 May 2020. Data for the full month is not available as the collared male emigrated on 21 May.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																		
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																
OVERSTRAND		1 In urban area													4 Attacking pets				7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food															
BABOON TROOP:		2 Raid bins													5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle				8 Breaking &Entering/Damaging property															
MONTH: May		3 Non malicious damage													6 Raid occupied house or vehicle				9 Nocturnal Raiding															
YEAR: 2020																																		
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					1			1						2
VKM2 ALPHA	M								1,1		1						1			1					1			1						7
VGM1 BLUE TAG*	M																																	0
VKM5 RED TAG**	M						6.1.1		1		1	1		1			1		1	1														10
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F						1				1			1		1	1	1		1														7
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F						1											1																2
UnID Male	M																			1	1													2
UnID Males	M																																	0
UnID Females	F						6										1		1		1								1					5
UnID Female	F								1		1,1	1.1.6		1		1,1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6		1									16
UnID Individuals							6			1		1						1		1		1												6
UnID Juvs											1	1				1	1							1										5
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																HRS
Troop	1,2			210								18																						3,80
Individuals	6,4						246		105	50	56	116		24		124	90	90	86	74	19	26		38			10		72					20,43
Roost:	AM	12	13	20	9	6	9	12	13	8	6	3	3	18	18	3	18	4	18	2	18	18	19	18	18	2	19	3	18	18	18	18		
Roost:	PM	10	12	9	6	9	12	13	8	6	3	3	18	18	2	18	4	18	18	18	18	19	18	18	2	19	3	2	18	18	18	2		
Roost Sites		1 Golf Course											2 Heights Dam				3 Green Kloof				4 Platte Klip				5 Adder Ladder									
		6 Lower Dam											7 Middle Dam				8 Upper Dam				9 Dragon's Back				10 Droë Kloof									
		11 Blaaië Kloof											12 Big Titanic/Cave				13 Small Titanic				14 10th Ave Kloof				15 11th Ave Kloof									
		16 A-Shape											17 Bos Klip				18 Hermanus Heights				19 Steyn's Kloof				20 In Town									
		21											22				23				24				25									
		26											27				28																	
ID Features of Baboons																																		
General remarks		Male was collared and tagged on the 27 May 2020. Code VGM1 (blue tag) *VGM1 migrated to the Voëlklip troop during May. **VKM5 emigrated from the Voelklip Troop during May.																																

Figure 2: The Voëlklip Troop raid sheet for May 2020.

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 Voëlklip suburb, which is close to the mountainside. Here waste is currently collected at around midday.
- All bins used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- **Refuse bags** should not be left lying exposed on the sidewalk and easily available to baboons.
- Ripening **fruit on fruit trees** in baboon-affected areas should be harvested to remove this attractant.
- **Open vegetable gardens in baboon-affected areas** should be baboon-proofed. This 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 many of these trees (particularly pines) could be removed it would greatly reduce the baboons' incentive to sleep in town.
- Many house owners leave their **doors and windows open** by day and do not have burglar bars. Residents should be made aware that easy access to food attracts baboons into the area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

3 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 91.5% of its time out of town in May.
- Time out of town for individuals was 92.1%.
- The troop predominantly used its southern sleep sites in May, spending 22 nights at the Professor Sleep Site and three nights each at Axel Kop, Hangklip and Pringle Peak sleep sites.
- The troop entered town on 18 occasions during May.

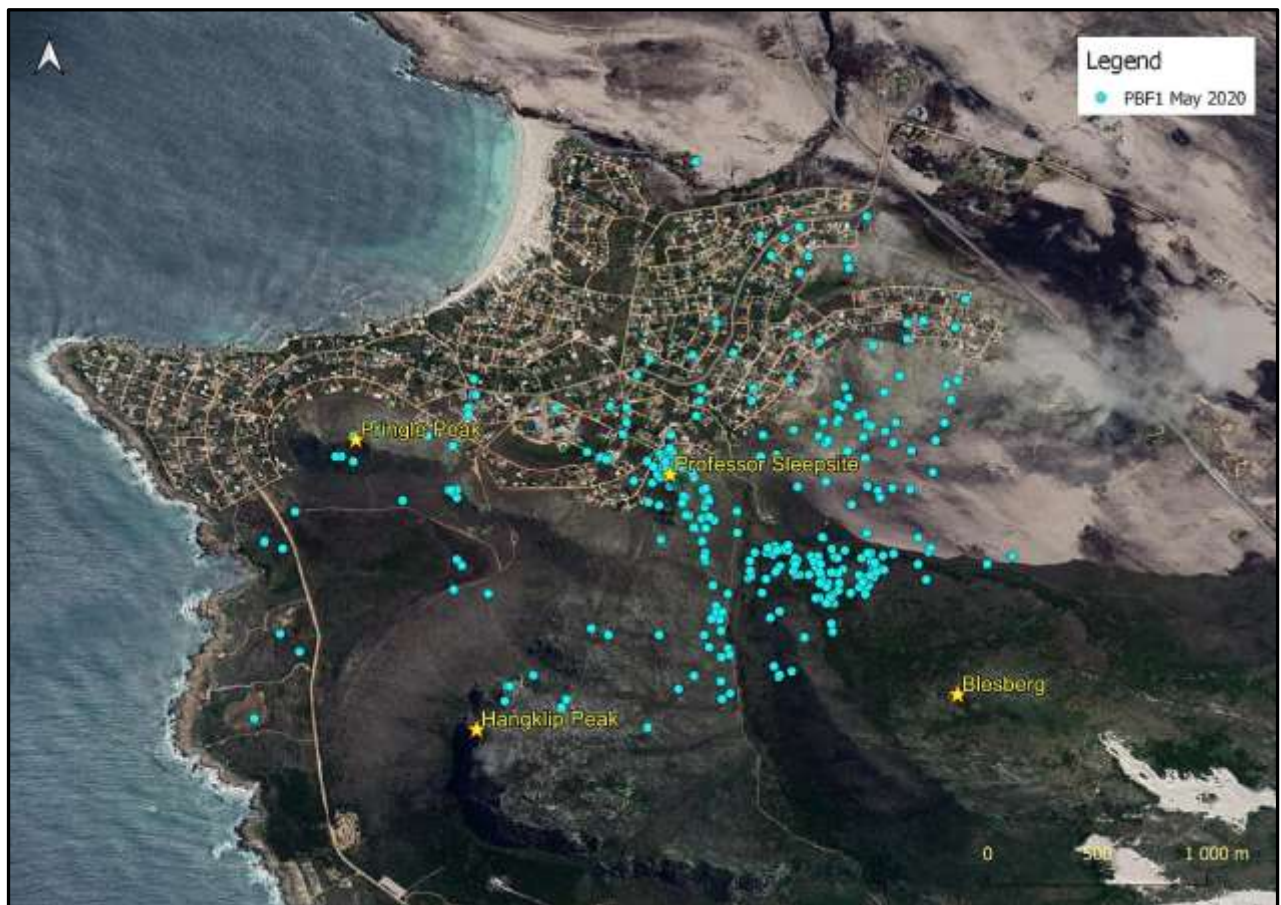


Figure 3: GPS locations of the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar on PBF1 (adult female) during May 2020. PBF1's collar takes GPS readings every hour during daylight hours.

INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- Five occupied house raids and two unoccupied house raids were recorded in Pringle Bay during May. On most occasions the individuals gained entry through an open door or window.
- The troop predominantly used the Professor Sleep Site in May, which is on the edge of town. Due to its close proximity to town, it is very difficult to stop the baboons from entering town.
- During May, the Hangklip Troop moved north into the home range of the Pringle Bay Troop on a few occasions. This had the effect of pushing the Pringle Bay Troop, which is a much smaller troop, into town. Although the Pringle Bay Troop has foraged north of town in the past, this area was burnt during the 2019 fire and there may not be much natural forage available there. This needs to be confirmed. On this occasion the Pringle Bay Troop spent very little time north of town.
- The Pringle Bay Troop has been pushing to town more actively during this month, which is likely to be a seasonal change. With winter approaching, and the less natural food available in the mountains, the low lying and watered areas of town are more attractive.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area										4	Attacking pets										7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food									
BABOON TROOP:	PRINGLE BAY	2	Raid bins										5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle										8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property									
MONTH: May	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		1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		18	
PBM1	M					1		8						1											1					1			5	
PBF1	F	1		1		1		1.5		1	1			1										1	1							1	11	
PBF2	F																							1								1	2	
UnId Male	M																																0	
UnId Males	M																																0	
UnID Females	F																																0	
UnID Female	F	1				1						1	6																				4	
UnID Individuals								1	1																					6			3	
UnID Juveniles				6		1.1					1	6		1.1										1		6		6		1	1		12	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														HRS		
Troop	8.5			39						52	120	166		96				51		124	70	105	60	30	120	190	29	47	27	180	120		27.10	
Individuals	7.9	43		74		227		95	113	108	159		243											90	70					120	180		25.37	
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	4	4	4	4	1	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	4	4	4	1	1	1	
Roost Sites				1	Professor					2	Hangklip					3	Axel Kop					4	Pringle Peak					5	Twee Sisters					
				6	Lemoenkop					7						8						9						10						

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

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded during May.

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 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 regularly to prevent the waste becoming unmanageable, particularly during the holiday season and long 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

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

There were no births in the Voëlklip or Pringle Bay Troops during May. There was, however, an immigration into the Voëlklip Troop (most likely from the Vogelgat Troop) and an emigration of VKM5 from the Voëlklip Troop (to the Hamilton-Russel Troop). The troop size of the Voëlklip Troop remained at 28, while the Pringle Bay Troop remained at 16. The compositions of the two managed troops can be seen in the Table 1 below.

TROOP	OCTOBER 2019 COUNT	May 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)	TOTAL POPULATION Per Monthly Reports
		Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration				
Voëlklip	29	0	0	2	4	5	0	28
Pringle Bay	16	0	0	0	1	1	0	16
TOTAL	45	0	0	2	5	6	0	44

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

Deaths	Current Contract 2019/20	May 2020	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	3	0	3
Human Induced (HID)	1		1
<i>Direct **</i>	1		1
<i>Indirect ***</i>			0
Natural	2		2
Unknown			0
TOTAL DEATHS	6	0	6

Table 2: Causes of baboon deaths in the Voelklip and Pringle Bay Troops 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, drowning and fire.

HOTLINE DATA

During May 2020, there was a total of 96 hotline calls, 92 of which were raid-related calls received from managed troops. This was a 34% decrease in the number of calls, compared to April (145 calls, of which 142 were raid-related). Hotline calls are for the Hermanus area only, because the Pringle Bay residents operate using another system of reporting raids. During this month, the vast majority of calls (40) were from the Voëlklip suburb, followed by calls 18 from Hermanus Heights, four calls from Fernkloof and two calls from Eastcliff. No calls were received from Kwaiwater during May.

There was a decrease in the number of raid related hotline calls for the Vogelgat Troop, from 41 calls in April, to 28 calls in May. Reports of the Vogelgat Troop were largely for individuals being in the urban environment (27 calls), with one hotline call reporting a bin raid and another call reporting an occupied house raid. There were three general enquiries, including a call from Onrus regarding the presence of an escaped vervet monkey. We did not receive any reports of the Hamilton-Russel Troop this month. HWS is not currently mandated by the Overstrand Municipality to manage the Vogelgat Troop or the Hamilton-Russel Troop.

The most significant factor of the hotline data this month is that most of the calls (89%) were reporting raids (presence) in the urban area as opposed to house or bin raids. The total number of raid-related calls also decreased from 117 in April, to 92 in May. Occupied house raid calls decreased from 21 in April to 9 call in May.

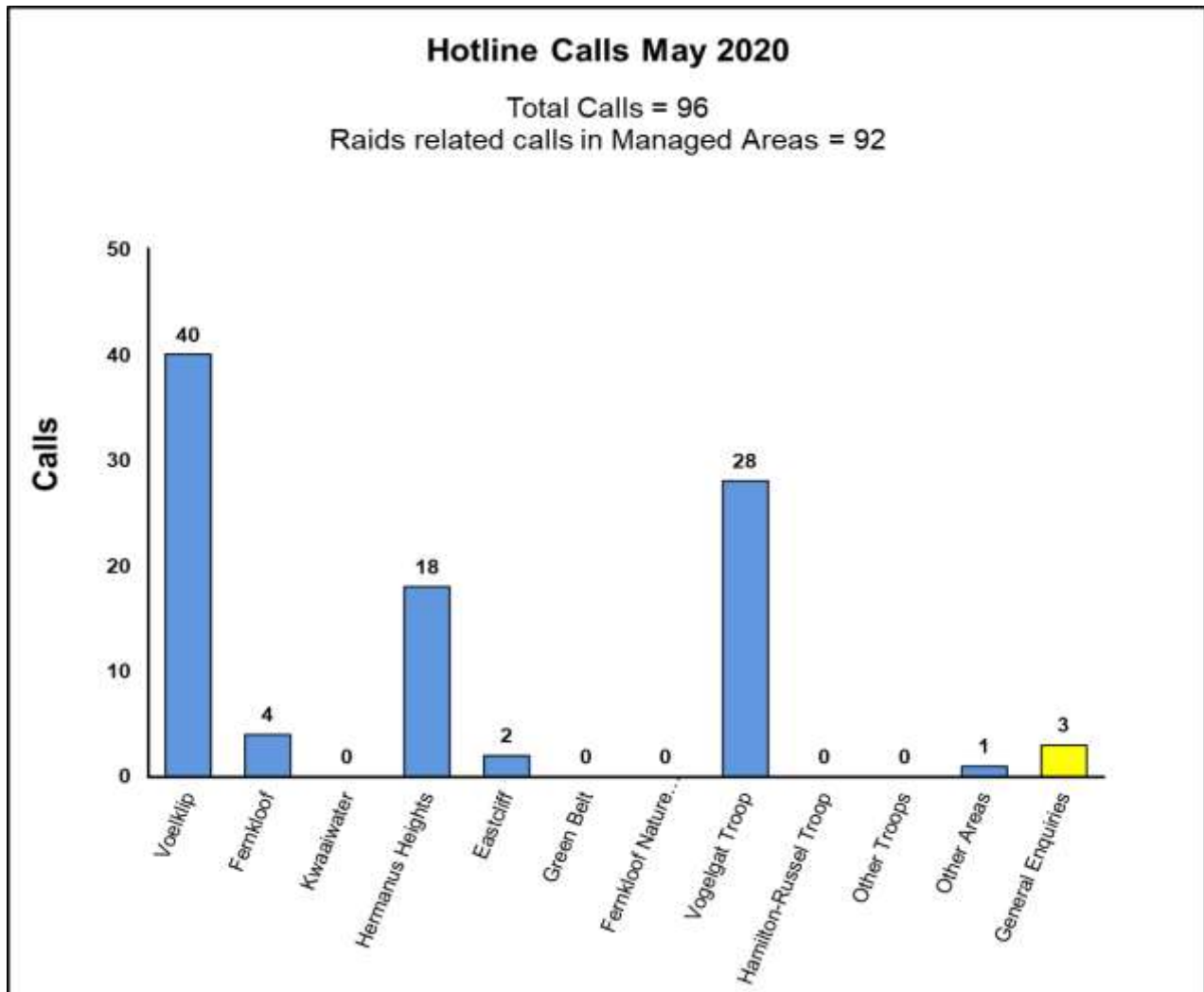


Figure 5: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas of Hermanus for May 2020. Raid-related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas, represent those areas beyond the urban edge or the range of managed baboons. Although the Vogelgat Troop is not managed at present, it's data are included here.

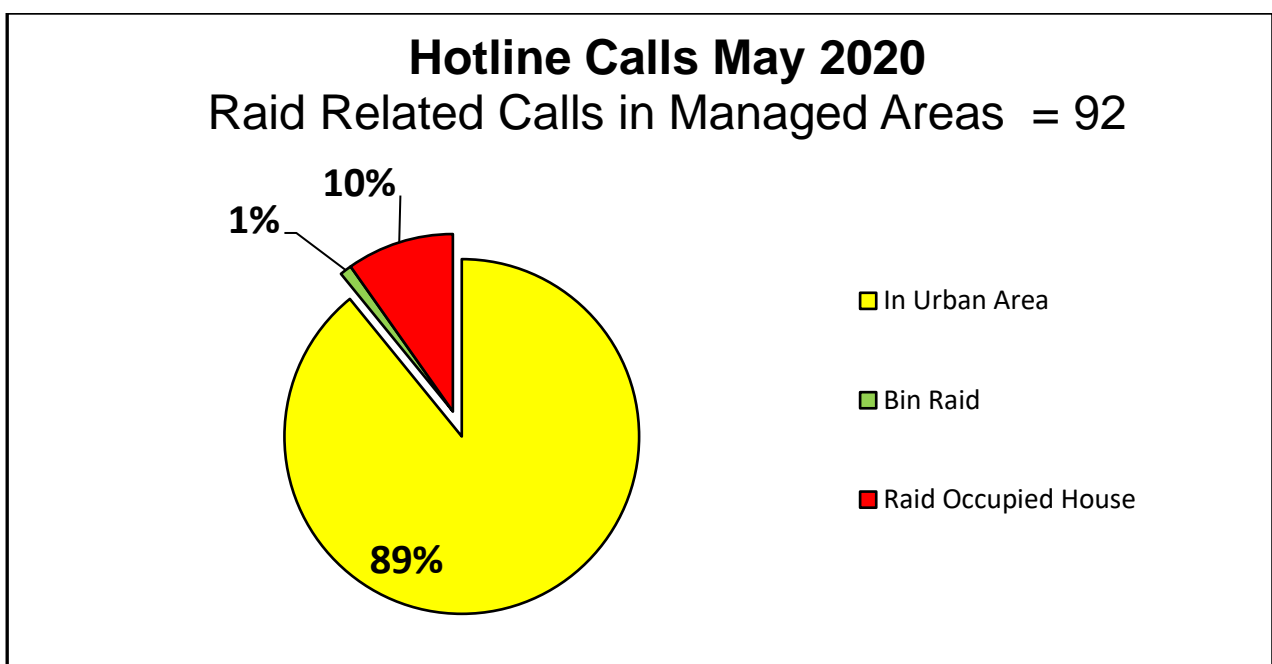


Figure 6: Composition of raid-related hotline calls during May 2020. Note this graph represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of raids by baboons.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During May 2020, the average time out of town for the troops was 94.8% and 94.1% 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
Voëlklip Troop	98.8	93.6
Pringle Bay Troop	91.5	92.1
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	94.8	94.1

Table 3: Percentage time the Voëlklip and Pringle Bay troops and individuals spent out of town during May 2020.

5 CONCLUSION

The month of May is traditionally considered the start of winter, and when the baboons generally push to town to gain access to HDFs (Human Derived Foods). Despite this, the Voëlklip Troop still remained out of town for a high percentage of time (98.8%). The few raiding individuals from this troop spent more than double the amount of time in town, averaging only 93.6% time out of town for the month. Nevertheless, the total number of raids by individuals decreased by 50% from 124 in April to 62 in May.

There was a decrease in the number of hotline calls received for the Vogelgat Troop this month compared to April. However, calls for the Vogelgat Troop still made up a large percentage (30%) of the total raid related hotline calls during May.

As with March and April, the Pringle Bay Troop continued to use their southern sleep sites closest to town during May. The close proximity to town of these sleep sites continues to make it difficult to prevent the troop from entering town. Despite this, the troop did spend slightly more time out of town compared to the previous month, although individuals spent more time in town. PBF1 remained as the leading raider in this troop along with unidentified individuals and juveniles.

We continue to urge residents in suburbs affected by baboons, to play a positive role in preventing baboons from pushing to town on a regular basis. This includes keeping windows and doors closed when the baboons are in town, not leaving food in locations visible to baboons, improving waste management, baboon-proofing vegetable gardens and removing fruit from fruit trees.

Dr Phil Richardson

HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS