



Photo: © Human Wildlife Solutions

## **Human Wildlife Solutions**

### **Overstrand**

### **Monthly Report**

**February 2021**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS:</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2 OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2.1 VOËLKLIP TROOP .....	4
2.2 VOGELGAT TROOP.....	6
2.3 ONRUS TROOP .....	7
2.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP .....	8
2.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS .....	8
<b>3 OVERSTRAND WEST TROOPS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
3.1 PRINGLE BAY TROOP .....	9
3.2 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS .....	10
<b>4 GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS.....	11
4.2 HOTLINE DATA .....	12
4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN .....	14
4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS .....	14
<b>5 CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>15</b>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 28 February 2021. Following the summer peak in January, the availability of ripe fruit on trees diminished during February, but still remained an attractant. All of the managed troops spent 100% time out of town during February, and time in town for individuals also decreased.

The Voëlklip Troop significantly decreased its use of the eastern sleepsites, while increasing its use of the western and central sleepsites. The troop also started foraging on Hamilton Russel Vineyards this month. This is in contrast to last year, when the troop continued to make use of its eastern sleepsites during January and February and only started moving towards the north-western side of its range during March. This earlier westward trend may be related to the Vogelgat Troop periodically sleeping at some of the eastern sleepsites above Voelklip this month.

For the sixth consecutive month, the Vogelgat Troop spent 100% of its time out of town. There was however a noted increase in the number of attempts made by members of the troop to approach the urban edge, and individual baboons or small groups (two to three individuals) managed to access the urban area.

The Pringle Bay Troop spent 100% time out of town this month. No urban incursions were recorded for the troop in February. Two non-urban incursions were recorded for PBF3 this month, when houses around the Buffels River Dam were entered by this adult female in search for human derived food. The troop roosted and foraged exclusively in the northern part of its home range and interactions were recorded with neighbouring troops.

Interactions between the regularly managed troops and neighbouring troops have occurred for many years. In this report HWS has started to record in order to include these incidents, as well as incidents when these marginal troops have entered the urban area or its borders. The Onrus Troop was radio collared on 27 January because it was regularly visiting the edge of town above Berghof Estates. Since then the virtual fence has been activated twice and the Onrus Troop has not entered the urban area at all. The Hamilton Russell Troop has been encountered many times by the Voelklip Troop and it has been observed above Hermanus Heights on a few occasions, but as a troop it has never been observed in town.

In Betty's Bay there are two troops that are currently raiding the urban area, but are not managed. The main Betty's Bay Troop will soon come under official management, but the details of this still need to be finalized. Another troop, the Hangklip Troop, has started entering the Silver Sands area of Betty's Bay regularly in search for human derived foodstuffs (HDF's). HWS is monitoring this troop's movements in order to determine if management of the troop is required.

## 2 OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS

### 2.1 VOËLKLIP TROOP

#### 2.1.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of town for the troop increased from 98.5% in January to 100.0% in February.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 92.2% in January to 96.5% in February.

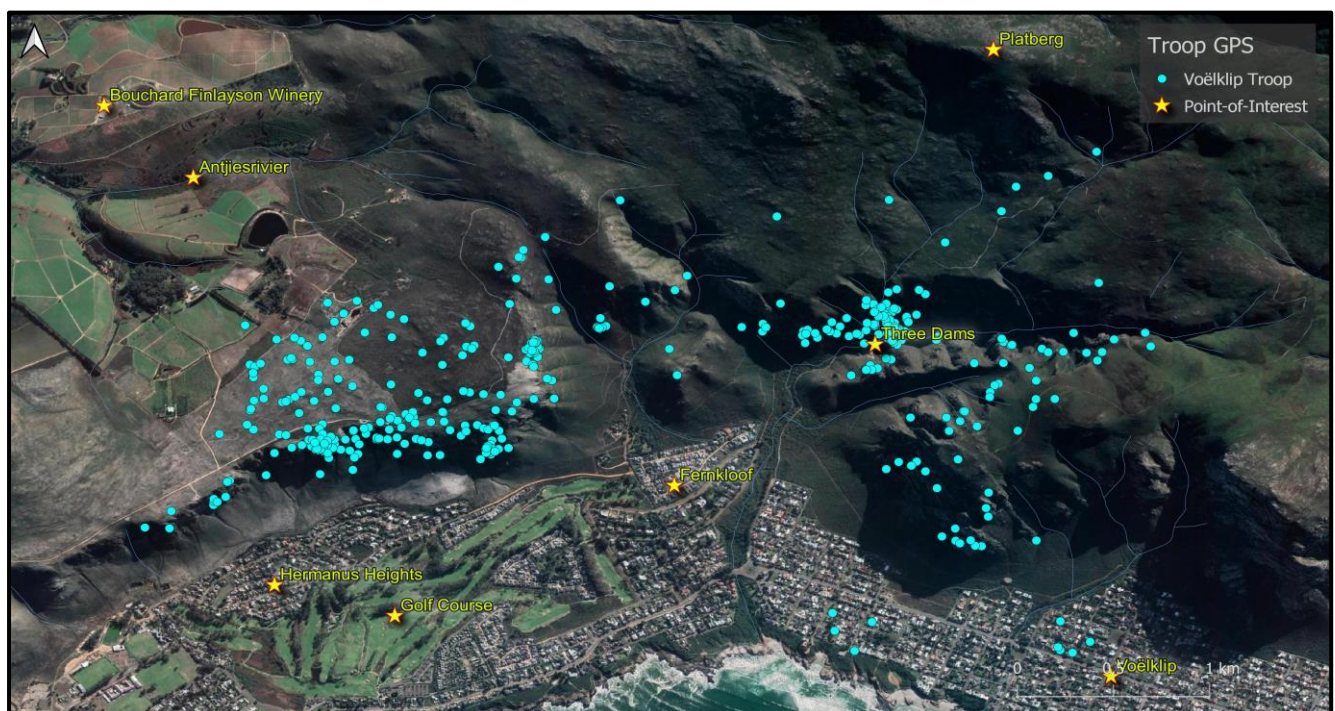
#### 2.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

##### 2.1.2.1 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- An occupied house incursion was reported in Lakewood Village.
- A hotline call reported a single baboon inside Hillside and Lakeside village.
- No bin raids were reported.

##### 2.1.2.2 VOËLKLIP & FERNKLOOF

- Two occupied house incursions were reported in Voëlklip suburb. These incursions occurred on 7th and 9th Street.
- One bin raid was recorded on 7th Street.



**Figure 2.1:** GPS locations of the Voëlklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar during February 2021.

**2.1.2.3 GENERAL**

- The conflict between the males continues. Multiple conflicts between VKM2 and UNKM1 (the new male who was first seen during January) were observed. VGM1 seems to have withdrawn from these conflicts and was not observed to participate in the conflicts between the other two males. It is possible that he has been displaced by the new male, but he could also be avoiding conflict situations until his hand, injured during one of the fights last month, fully recovers.
- VGM1’s injured hand is steadily recovering and he was observed to place weight on it while moving around, this month.
- On 12 February, the troop was found to have slept separated at two sleepsites, about 300m apart. The majority of the troop was observed sleeping at the Lower Dam sleepsite, whilst UNKM1, VKF6 and a few other females slept at the Dragons Back Sleepsite.
- Use of the western sleepsites (above Hermanus Heights) increased significantly during February, while the eastern sleepsites (above Voëlklip, from Mosselberg to the Vogelgat Reserve) were only used on a single occasion.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
OVERSTRAND		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	TOTAL	
BABOON TROOP:		1 In urban area																									4 Attacking pets		7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food		
MONTH: February		2 Raid bins																									5 Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion		8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property		
		3 Non malicious damage																									6 Occupied house or vehicle incursion		9 Nocturnal incursion		
VOËLKLIP																															
YEAR: 2021																															
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	TOTAL	
Troop																														0	
VKM2 ALPHA	M							1		6			6							1										5	
VGM1 BLUE TAG	M	6								1																				2	
UNKM1	M		1					1		1																				3	
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F										1																			1	
VKF5 RED TAG	F		1																	1										2	
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																													0	
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F		1						1		1																			3	
UnID Male	M																													0	
UnID Males	M																													0	
UnID Females	F		1																											1	
UnID Female	F							1	1	1,1		1																		5	
UnID Individuals																														0	
UnID Juvs			1,1									1																		3	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																											HRS		
Troop	%	0,0																												0,00	
Individuals		3,5	120	52				60	139	139	145	20	46							30								24		12,92	
Roost:	AM	6	8	13	8	6	6	6	6	6	8	6	6,9	4	4	2	3	18	22	2	4	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	
Roost:	PM	8	12	8	6	6	7	6	6	8	8	6	4	4	2	3	18	22	2	4	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	18	
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 Tallie's Kloof					22 Kanonkop					23 Waterfall					24 Rooiklip					25 ZigZag									
		26 9th Avenue Kloof					27 Shade Rock					28																			
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 2.2: The Voëlklip Troop incident sheet for February 2021.

## **2.2 VOGELGAT TROOP**

There was a notable increase in the number of attempts made by members of the Vogelgat Troop to access the urban area. The troop did not enter the urban area on a single occasion, but attempts were rather made by single baboons or small groups to enter the urban space. The Virtual Fence was activated on seven occasions in February. Fruit trees remained an attractant to the baboons and individuals were found feeding from fruit trees on multiple occasions.

### **2.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- Time out of town for the troop was 100% in February.
- Time out of town for individuals was 93.7% in February.
- Hotline calls reported a single baboon in town on multiple occasions. Locating a single baboon can be extremely difficult, and occasionally field staff were unable to locate the single baboons.

### **2.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

- A bin raid was reported on 5<sup>th</sup> Street on 15 February.
- On 11 February, a male baboon approached one of the construction huts along the R43. The baboon did not gain access to the hut.
- The troop moved to the top of the mountain on multiple occasions and were frequently not seen for the rest of the day, only appearing again late in the afternoon or the following morning.
- Multiple conflicts have been observed between males in the troop.
- The GPS collar's battery life came to an end at the start of February. Replacement of the collar is scheduled to occur during March 2021.

### **2.2.3 VIRTUAL FENCE**

- The Virtual Fence was activated on seven occasions in February. The troop continued to respond well and moved away from the urban edge, frequently moving east and then accessing the top of the mountain.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
OVERSTRAND		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	TOTAL	
BABOON TROOP: VOGELGAT		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	TOTAL	
MONTH: February YEAR: 2021		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	TOTAL	
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	TOTAL	
Troop																															
VG1	F																			1				1							
UnID Male	M			1,1							1			1	1	1	1			1		1				1	1				
UnID Males	M																														
UnID Females	F																														
UnID Female	F										1			1	1	2,1	1,1			1		1				1		1			
UnID Individuals				1							1																				
UnID Juvs																1								1,1		1					
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS			
Troop	0,0																													0,00	
Individuals	6,3			30	40					236	15	148			70	52	140	30			45		102		210		20	255	15	23,47	
Roost:	AM			9	9		2		8	8	9		1		3	3			2	9			8		8	8	3	3	8		
Roost:	PM			8	9		9		8	2		1	1	8	3										8	8	8	1			
Roost Sites																															
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks																															

Figure 2.4: The Vogelgat Troop incident sheet for February 2021.

### 2.3 ONRUS TROOP

The collar that was fitted in January has indicated that the Onrus troop’s home range stretches from the mountains above Hawston in the west to Camphill Road in the east. It has also shown that the troop utilises the area on top of the mountains, to the north (see Figure 2.5).

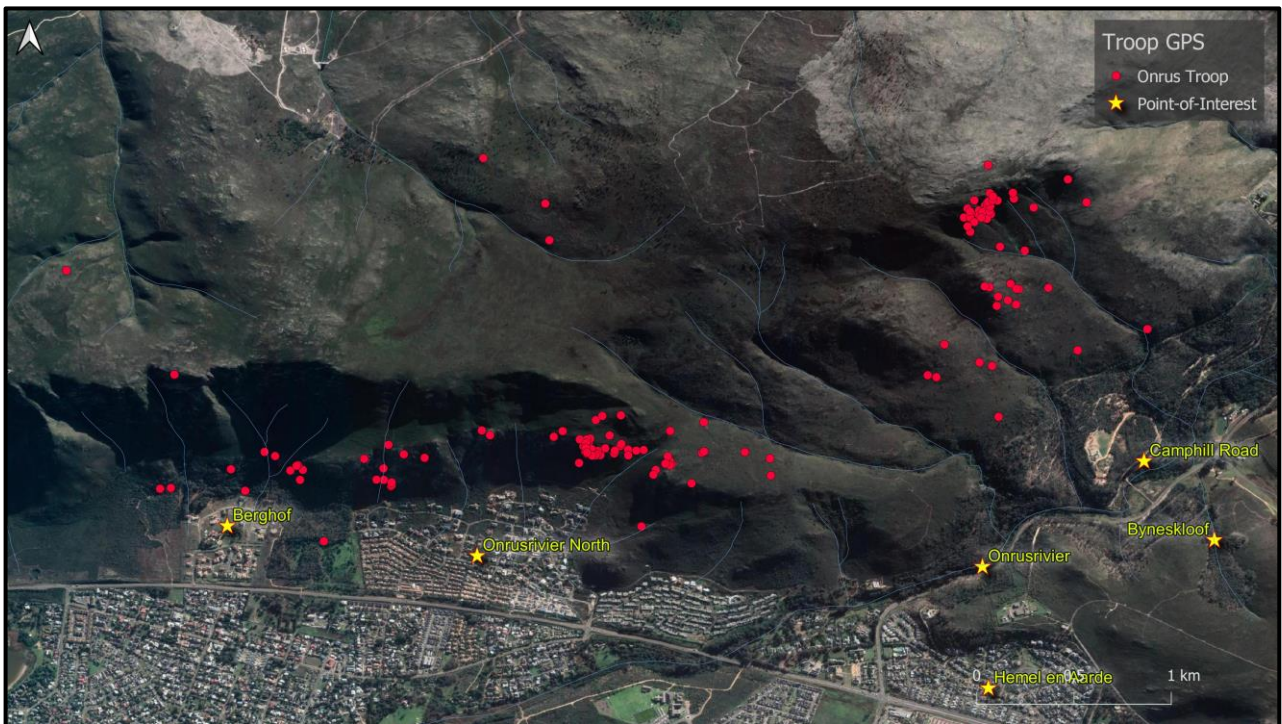


Figure 2.5: GPS locations of the Onrus Troop as determined by the GPS collar during February 2021.

### 2.3.1 VIRTUAL FENCE

- The Virtual Fence was activated on a single occasion on 16 February above Berghof Estates. The troop responded well and moved east, initially moving up the mountain. The troop however changed direction and moved down the mountain into a large open area with many tall *Eucalyptus* trees. The baboons might have used this area as a sleepsites in the past as field staff have previously found the baboons in this area early in the morning, but this is yet to be confirmed by the collar data. This could explain why the baboons moved into this area after the activation of the HWS Virtual Fence as the tall trees provide ample refuge.

### 2.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- An unidentified baboon troop was seen on seven occasions in February. The location of the sightings suggest that it is likely the Hamilton Russel Troop.
- On 15 and 17 February encounters between an unidentified troop and the Voëlklip Troop were observed above Hermanus Heights.
- On 19 February, a male baboon was heard barking to the west of Hermanus Heights. Shortly after, more baboons were heard vocalising to the east around Adder Ladder. This could indicate another troop in the area due to vocalisations being heard from different areas, but as only a single baboon was heard to the west, it was likely a lone male, rather than a troop that was present in the west.
- On 23 February, field staff encountered an unidentified baboon troop on Rotary Way. Twenty-two individuals were counted. Past reports have indicated the Hamilton Russel Troop was much larger (closer to 40 individuals). This information, along with the previous report could suggest that a troop split has occurred in the Hamilton Russel Troop and that the baboons heard vocalising around Adder Ladder could be a split troop of the Hamilton Russel Troop. In the past HWS has encountered two separate groups of baboons on or around the Hamilton Russell Vineyards.

### 2.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- No births or deaths were observed in the Overstrand East in January.



### **3 OVERSTRAND WEST TROOPS**

#### **3.1 PRINGLE BAY TROOP**

##### **3.1.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 100% of its time out of town in February (Figure 3.1).
- Individual baboons spent 100% of their time out of town this month.
- The troop exclusively occupied the Buffelstal Nature Reserve, favouring the southern half of the catchment area (Figure 3.2).
- One new sleep site was recorded and was named the Waterworks Sleep Site.
- No baboons from the Pringle Bay Troop entered town during February.

##### **3.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

- Two non-urban incursions took place on the outskirts of the Buffelstal Nature Reserve this month. On 3 February, PBF3 entered an unoccupied house adjacent to the Buffels River Dam Road and took bread. The residents were outside having a braai and unfortunately the door was left open. On 26 February, PBF3 entered an unoccupied caravan next to the R44 and took food out of the fridge. PBF3 frequently leaves the troop to search for human derived food.
- On 1 February, an individual male from the Hangklip Troop raided an unoccupied house on High-level Road in Pringle Bay. The door was left open and the baboon took fruit from the kitchen. Shortly after the incursion, the Hangklip Troop was located close to Pringle Bay between the Punt Sleep Site and Lemoenkop. The troop was encouraged to move back towards Hangklip to prevent any further incursions.
- A male baboon from the Hangklip Troop raided a bin at the Maasbaai Slipway. The bin was not baboon proof.
- On 16 and 26 February, a troop was located at Silversands in Betty's Bay. A total count on 16 February, showed that the troop consists of approximately 43 baboons. Three animals were identified with tails amputated about half way down their length. The amputations could be a result of electricutions or road accidents. Solitary males were seen in Silversands on 4 and 22 February. The troop that frequents the Maasbaai Slipway consists of approximately 29 baboons and no animals were identified with damaged tails. Past reports indicate that the Hangklip Troop consisted of many individuals. The apparent presence of two troops, consisting of different identifiable individuals and conflicting numbers suggests that a natural fission could have taken place.

- The Buffels River Troop was encountered in the Buffelstal Nature Reserve eight times this month. No inter-troop conflict was observed between the two troops and interactions were generally limited to vocalisations. The troops avoided each other, displaying natural behaviour frequently observed in baboons. On one occasion PBM2, a large juvenile male, approached the Buffelsriver Troop. This caused the troop to move away from the young male. It is important for troops to interact, especially for young male baboons, who should disperse to a new troop during early adulthood. It provides the baboon with an opportunity to assess the troop structure and identify a suitable troop for immigration.
- A constant shift in dominance was observed between PBM1 and BRM1. Core members of the troop have been observed associating with different males on different days. Most of the conflict observed between the two males was of low intensity. However, high intensity conflict was observed when BRM1 attempted to attack the youngest infant in the troop. BRM1 was aggressively mobbed by PBM1 and several other troop members. Infanticide is natural behaviour displayed by baboons and in the case of a deceased infant it allows for the rapid introduction of new genetic material into the troop.

### 3.2 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- No births and or deaths were recorded in the Pringle Bay Troop this month.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
OVERSTRAND		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	TOTAL	
BABOON TROOP:	PRINGLE BAY	1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stea	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging pro	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding												
MONTH: February	YEAR: 2021																														
Troop																															
PBM1	M																														
PBM2	M																														
PBF1	F																														
PBF2	F																														
PBF3	F				5																										
UnID Male	M																														
UnID Females	F																														
UnID Female	F																														
UnID Individuals																															
UnID Juveniles																															
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS			
Troop	0,0																														
Individuals	0,0																														
Roost:	AM	12	18	14	14	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	13	14	17	14	14	13	13	14	13	14	14	14	17	13	13	23	23	
Roost:	PM	18	14	14	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	13	14	17	14	14	13	13	14	13	14	14	14	17	13	13	23	23	14	
Roost Sites	1	Professor				2	Hangklip				3	Axel Kop				4	Pringle Peak				5	Lemoenkop									
	6	Panelbeaters				7	Valley				8	Stink Kop				9	Waldo's Farm SS1				10	Waldo's Farm SS2									
	11	Pieter's				12	Boulders				13	Buffels River Dam 1				14	Buffels River Dam 2				15	Buffels River Dam 3									
	16	Panelbeaters				17	Concrete house				18	Gullies				19	Rooiels 1				20	River Ridge									
	21	Mountain Top				22	Rooiels 2				23	Waterworks																			
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks		Red Italics indicate a non-urban raid.																													

Figure 3.1: The Pringle Bay Troop incident sheet for January 2021.

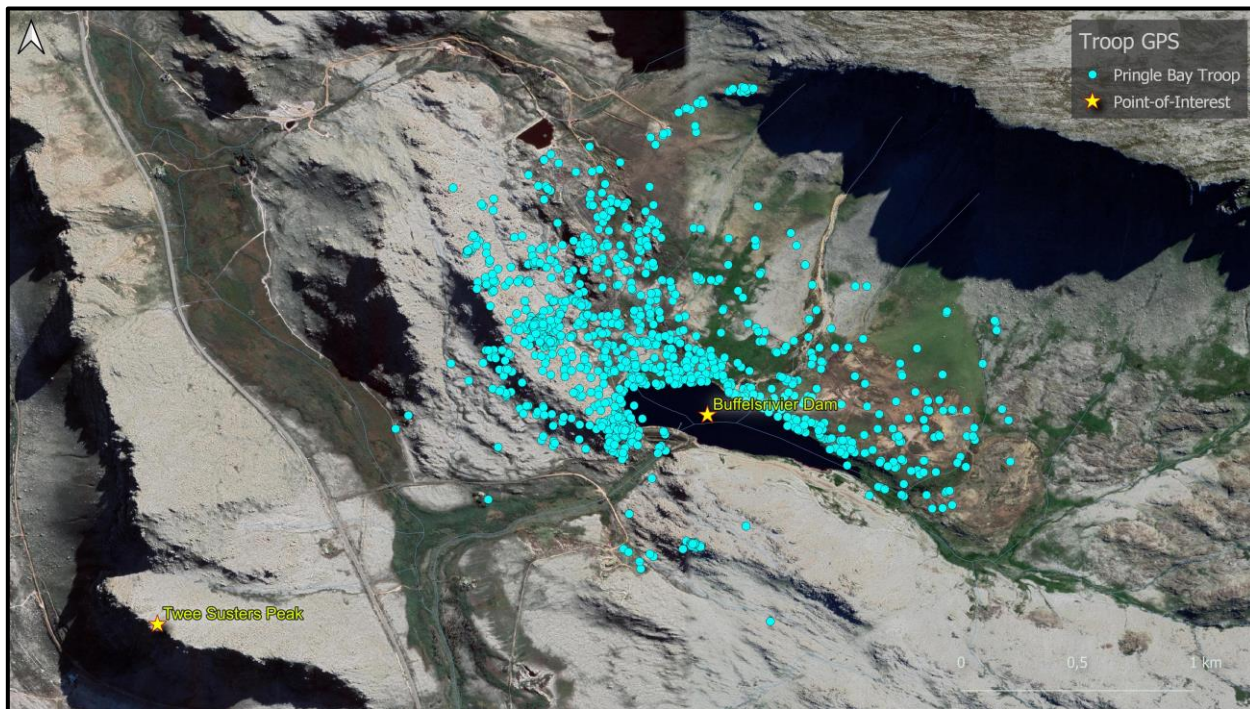


Figure 3.2: GPS locations of the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar during February 2021.

## 4 GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS

### 4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

No births and or deaths were recorded in any of the managed troops this month. The population data of the three managed troops can be seen in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 below.

TROOP	OCTOBER	JUNE	FEBRUARY 2021			Total observed Births (1 July 2020 to Present)	Total observed Deaths (1 July 2020 to Present)	Total Migrations (1 July 2020 to Present)
	2019	2020	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	29	0	0	0	1	1	1
Vogelgat*	N/A	22	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pringle Bay	16	16	0	0	0	4	3	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 4.1: Population data for the three managed troops in the Overstrand in February 2021. Emigration/Immigration figures show animal movements between troops and are accommodated in the troop population totals. \*Count of the Vogelgat Troop completed in December 2020.

Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (July - February)	February 2021	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	3	0	0	3
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	0	3
<i>Direct **</i>	1	2	0	3
<i>Indirect ***</i>		0	0	0
Natural	2	3	0	5
Unknown		0	0	0
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>

**Table 4.2:** 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.

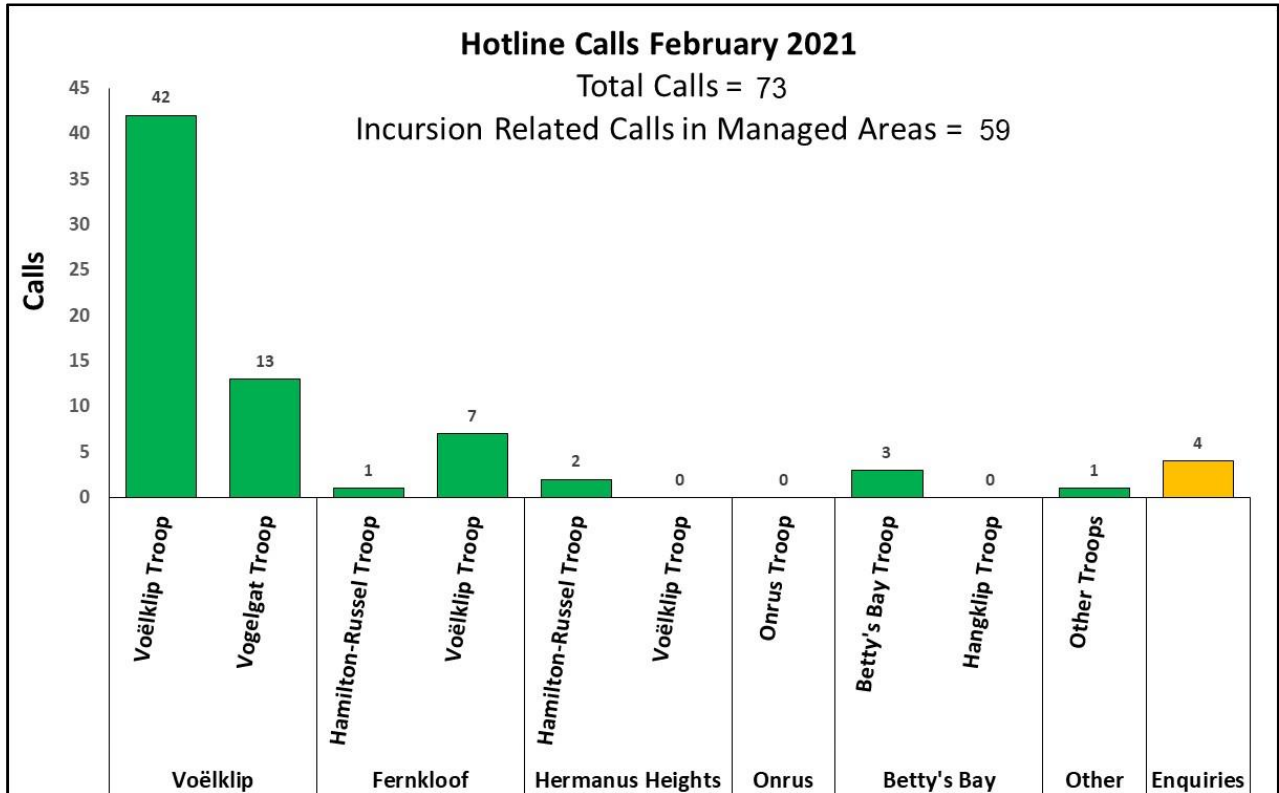
## 4.2 HOTLINE DATA

The number of hotline calls received decreased considerably from January to February. During February 2021, only 73 calls were received, of which 61 were incursion related. The majority (58%) of calls this month were again from the Voëlklip suburb, concerning the Voëlklip Troop. Additionally, 12 calls were also received from Voëlklip regarding the Vogelgat Troop. All of these calls were related to a single male baboon which was often accompanied by one or two females, and sometimes a juvenile.

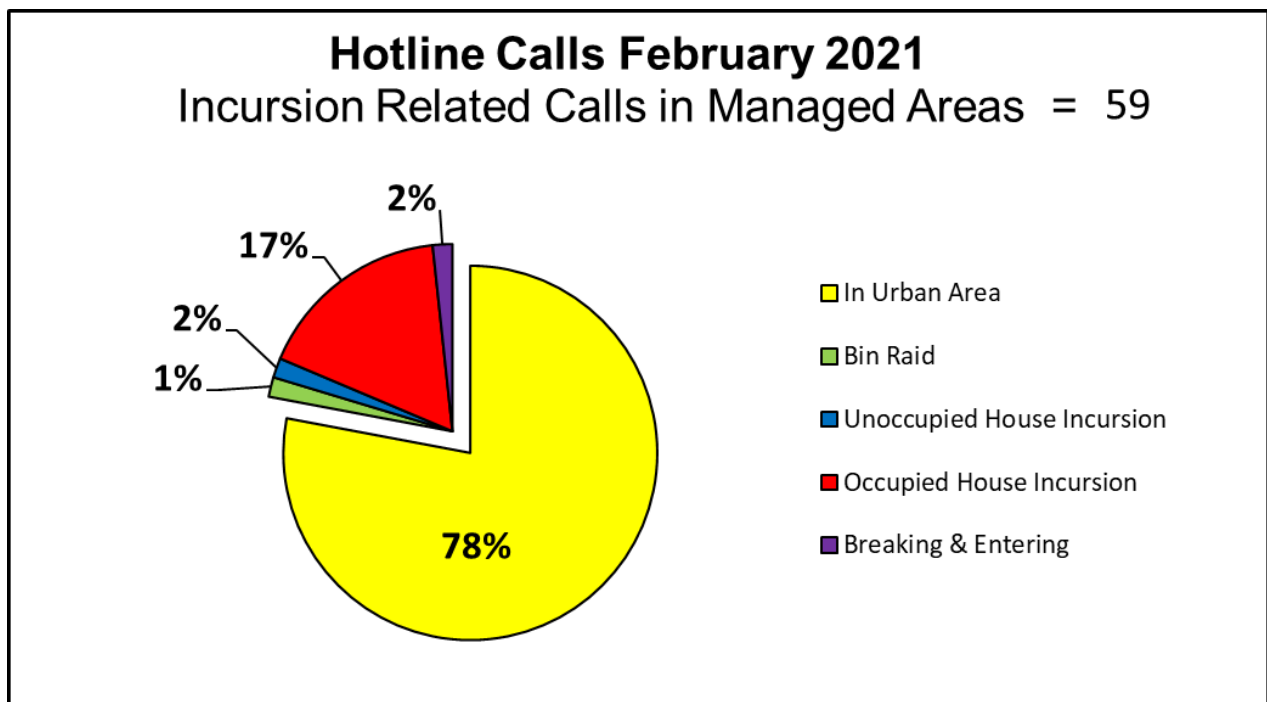
Hotline calls are for the Hermanus area only, because the Pringle Bay residents operate an internal Telegram system for reporting incursions. As requested at BLG meetings, HWS again requests that Pringle Bay residents start reporting the presence of baboons in the urban area to the Baboon Hotline (072 028 0008). Use of this number will ensure that the field manager on duty is made aware of the problem more timeously and can therefore respond sooner.

The majority (79%) of hotline calls this month reported baboons in the urban area. Concerningly, ten occupied house incursions were also reported to the hotline, including one instance of damage caused to property. Only a single bin raid was reported to the hotline. It is assumed bin raids get under reported to the hotline as property owners are often not present when it happens, or it occurs out of sight.

A few hotline calls were received from Betty's Bay, although Betty's Bay is not officially an area in which baboons are managed yet.



**Figure 4.2:** Hotline calls in baboon affected areas of Hermanus for February 2021. Incursion related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which baboon troops are known to occur and are actively managed. Other Areas represent those areas beyond the urban edge or the range of managed baboons.



**Figure 4.3:** Composition of incursion-related hotline calls during February 2021. Note: this chart represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of known incursions by baboons.

### 4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During February 2021, the average time out of town of every managed troop was 100%. However, the average time out of town for individuals within the troops was 98.0%. Individual time in town is only counted if individuals or small groups of baboons enter the urban area alone. No incursion into Pringle Bay was recorded by any member of the Pringle Bay Troop.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN	TROOP	INDIVIDUAL
Voëlklip Troop	100.0	96.5
Vogelgat Troop	100.0	93.7
OnrusTroop	100.0	100.0
Hamilton Russel Troop	100.0	100.0
Pringle Bay Troop	100.0	100.0
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	100.0	98.0

**Table 4.3:** Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during January 2021.

### 4.4 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 Voëlklip, which is close to the mountainside. Here waste is currently collected at around midday. This same principal applies to Pringle Bay.
- 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.
- Ripening **fruit on fruit trees** in baboon-affected areas should be harvested to remove this attractant for baboons. **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon-proofed. This will reduce baboon incursions into the suburbs.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

The Voëlklip Troop greatly reduced its use of the eastern sleepsites, above Voëlklip suburb, only utilising them on a single occasion. The westward movement of this troop was possibly a response to the Vogelgat Troop often sleeping on the mountain above the eastern avenues of Voëlklip.

For the sixth consecutive month, the Vogelgat Troop did not enter the urban space, although a few individual baboons did enter the urban area. The Virtual Fence was activated on seven occasions, successfully deterring the troop. The troop frequently moved on top of the mountain, out of sight of field staff, making it difficult to determine its movements.

What was assumed to be the Hamilton Russel Troop was spotted on several occasions on the mountain above Hermanus Heights. Here it encountered the Voëlklip Troop on two occasions. The GPS collar on the Onrus Troop provided informative data regarding the troop's home range size and usage. The Virtual Fence was activated once, just above Onrus. This successfully deterred the troop, or any individuals, from entering the urban area.

During February the Pringle Bay Troop foraged exclusively in the northern part of its range. There is an abundance of forage, water, and sleepsites in the Hottentot's Holland Mountain Catchment Area. This troop has been 100% out of town since 1 December 2020.

**HWS Holdings CC (t/a Human Wildlife Solutions)**