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Human Wildlife Solutions

Overstrand

Monthly Report

March 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 31 March 2021. All the managed troops spent 100% time out of town in March and time out of town for individuals has also increased.

The Voëlklip Troop solely used the western and central sleepsites and did not make use of the eastern sleepsites above Voëlklip suburb on a single occasion in March. The troop continued to forage on, or in close vicinity to, the Hamilton Russel Vineyards. The absence of the Voëlklip Troop above the Voëlklip suburb potentially allowed the Vogelgat Troop to exploit the western parts of its home range more frequently this month. Despite single baboons or small groups of baboons from the Vogelgat Troop entering the urban space, the Vogelgat Troop did not enter the urban area and spent 100% of its time out of town for the seventh consecutive month.

The Onrus Troop was deterred from entering the urban space this month by the virtual fence. The Hamilton Russel Troop was observed regularly above Hermanus Heights and did not enter the urban space. Encounters between the Hamilton Russel Troop and the Voëlklip Troop were observed on multiple occasions.

The Pringle Bay Troop and individuals spent 100% time out of town this month. One non-urban incursion was recorded for the troop when they raided an unsecured bin at the Buffelstal Waterworks. The troop roosted and foraged exclusively in the Buffelstal Nature Reserve. One interaction was recorded with the Buffelsriver Troop.

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 of human-derived foodstuffs (HDF's). HWS has been requested by the Overstrand Municipality to monitor 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 remained at 100%.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 96.5% in February to 97.7% in March.

2.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

2.1.2.1 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- Three occupied house incursions occurred in March, one in Walkerbay Crescent, one in Francolin Close and one in Fernkloof Village.
- Five bin raids occurred in March. These occurred in Walkerbay Crescent and Raed na Gael Street on 24 and 25 March.
- On 24 March, a baboon also accessed unsecured black bags that were placed next to a bin on Raed na Gael Street.
- It is important to note that these bin raids did not occur on waste collection days. Residents are encouraged to only place bins outside on waste collection day.

2.1.2.2 VOËLKLIP & FERNKLOOF

- No house incursions occurred in March.
- No bin raids occurred in March.

2.1.2.3 GENERAL

- On 15 March 2021, the troop slept split between the Groenkloof and Platteklip sleepsites.
- On the morning of 18 March 2021, the Voëlklip Troop encountered an unidentified troop near the Platteklip sleepsites. Conflict between the troops was heard and the Voëlklip Troop moved to the cliffs above the Fernkloof Nursery, while the unidentified troop disappeared on top of the mountain.

- In the late afternoon of 18 March 2021, an unidentified male was seen approaching the Voëlklip Troop from the top of Adder Ladder. VGM1 and UNKM1 chased the male around and were later joined by VKM2. The unidentified male left shortly thereafter. On the morning of 19 March, while the Voëlklip Troop was in the vicinity of Adder Ladder, an unidentified male approached the Voëlklip Troop again, presumably the same male that approached the troop the day before. Conflict was heard and the Voëlklip Troop moved in the direction of the Three Dams. An unidentified troop was spotted shortly thereafter above the Boekenhoutbos Waterfall.
- The troop continued to favour the western (above Hermanus Heights) and central (in Fernkloof Nature Reserve) sleepsites and did not make use of the eastern sleepsites above Voëlklip suburb on a single occasion in March.
- VGM1 was observed not placing weight on his injured hand while moving around. No external injuries were observed and he was frequently seen foraging. There were no obvious signs of his health deteriorating due to the injury and he was observed participating in normal baboon behaviour, even fighting off an unidentified male that approached the Voëlklip Troop.

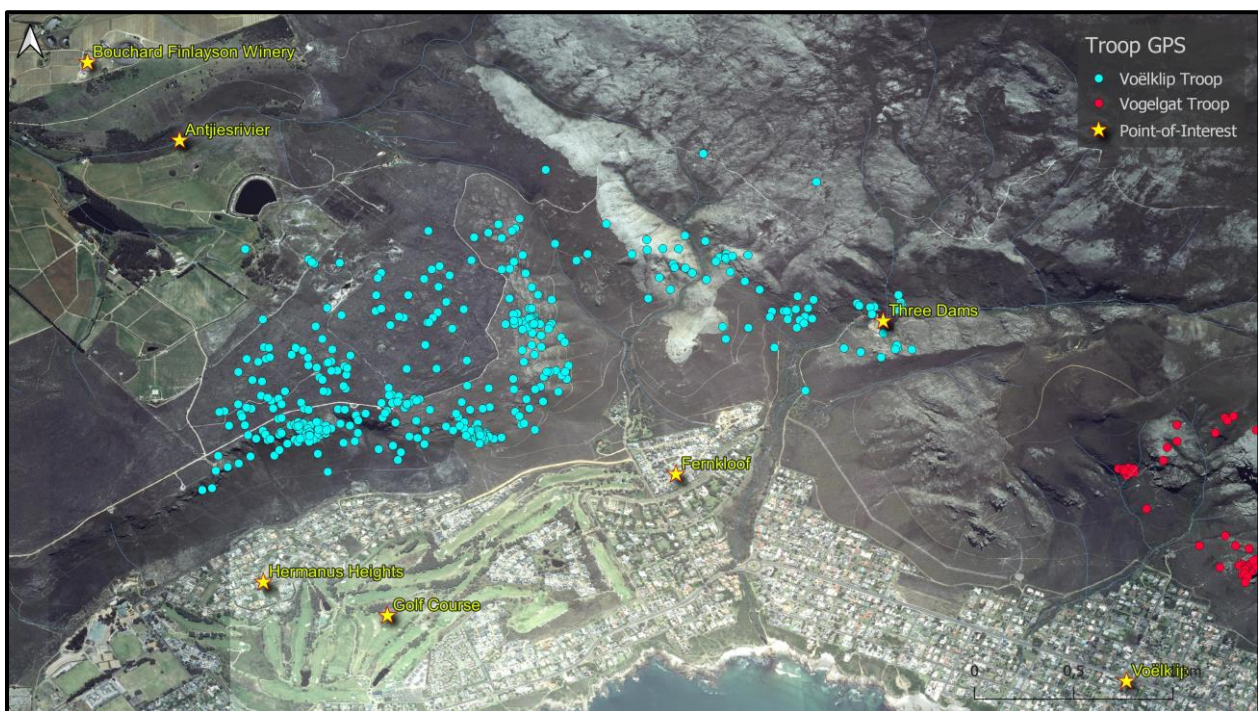


Figure 2.1: GPS locations of the Voëlklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar during March 2021.

2.2 VOGELGAT TROOP

2.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of town for the troop was 100% in March.
- Time out of town for individuals was 96.6% in March.

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	Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion										8	Breaking &Entering/Damaging property																																		
MONTH: March		3	Non malicious damage												6	Occupied house or vehicle incursion										9	Nocturnal incursion																																		
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																																																													
VKM2 ALPHA	M		1		1																				1	6		1		1			6																												
VGM1 BLUE TAG	M																								1	6			1				3																												
UNKM1	M																												1,1			1	3																												
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F																												1				1																												
VKF5 RED TAG	F																								2				1	1			4																												
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																								6	6			1	1			4																												
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F																												1				1																												
UnID Male	M																								6								1																												
UnID Males	M																																																												
UnID Females	F																																																												
UnID Female	F							1																	1				1,1,1			1	6																												
UnID Individuals																																																													
UnID Juvs																																																													
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																HRS																											
Troop	0,0																																0,00																												
Individuals	2,1		30		2			8																		101	96		46	105	65	25		7,97																											
Roost:	AM	18	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	3	5	3,4	2	4	4	5	5	3	3	4	2	2	2	3	3	2	21	6	9	3																											
Roost:	PM	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	2	2	3	5	?	2	4	4	5	3	3	4	2	2	2	3	3	2	21	6	6	3	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	Blaaie 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	BHB Waterfall											24	Rooiklip											25	ZigZag										
		26	9th Avenue Kloof											27	Shade Rock											28																																			
ID Features of Baboons																																																													
General remarks																																																													

Figure 2.2: The Voëlkup Troop incident sheet for March 2021.

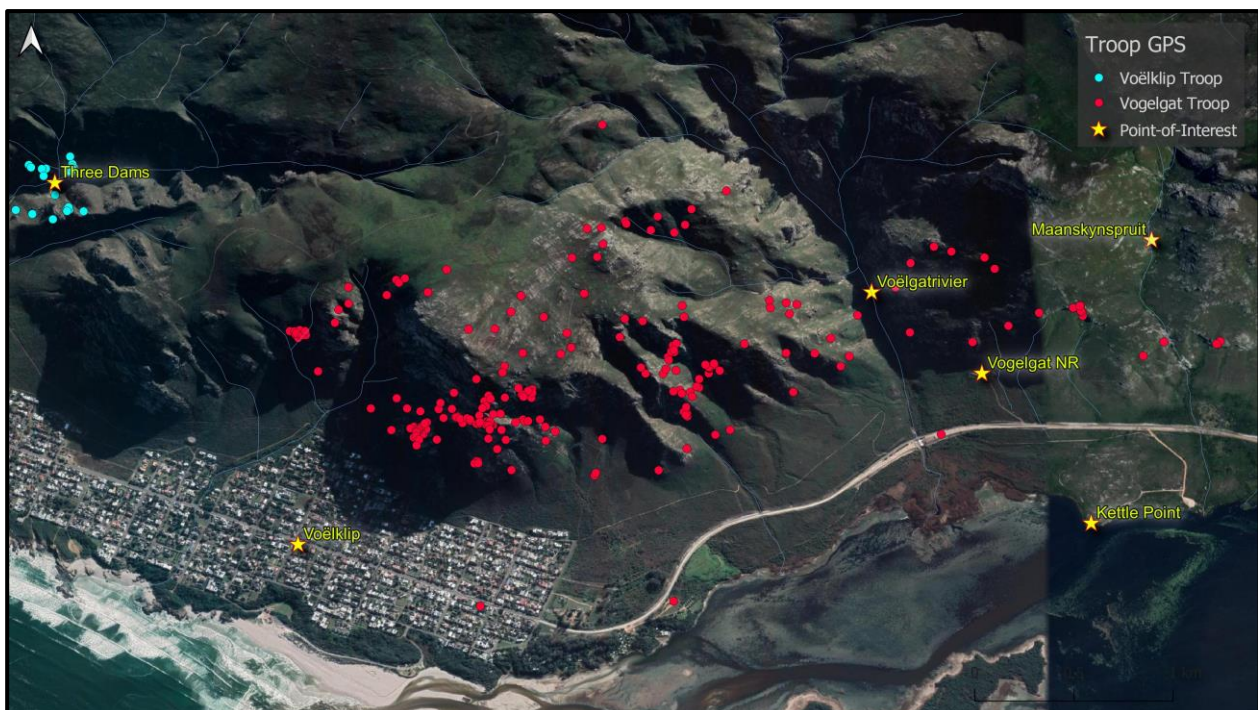


Figure 2.3: GPS locations of the Voëlgat Troop as determined by the GPS collar during March 2021.

2.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- An adult male was captured and collared on 09 March 2021.
- On 12 March 2021, a baboon raided a construction worker's backpack next to the R43.
- Multiple non-urban raids or attempted raids occurred in March and included a construction hut next to the R43, a building on Vogelgat Nature Reserve and a house at Klein River Lagoon Park.
- On 15 March, an off-lead dog was reported to have chased the baboons on the contour path east of 17th Avenue.
- An unidentified troop was reported next to the R43, near the Hermanus Yacht Club on 15 March 2021.
- 13 Bin raids were reported in March. These bin raids largely occurred in the upper roads near the mountain or the eastern avenues in Voëlklip suburb. Residents in these areas in particular are encouraged to manage their waste in a responsible manner and only place bins out on bin collection days.
- One unoccupied house incursion was reported on 20 March and one occupied house incursion was reported on 26 March 2021.
- The hotline reported one additional house incursion and 3 bin raids.
- On multiple occasions, single baboons or small groups of baboons entered or attempted to enter the urban area, while the troop remained a considerable distance away from the urban area.

2.2.3 VIRTUAL FENCE

- The troop spent more than half of the nights in March sleeping on cliffs overlooking the Voëlklip suburb. Strategic use of the Virtual Fence prevented any incursions of the troop into the urban area.

2.3 ONRUS TROOP

The March readings from the collar indicated that the Onrus Troop continued to use the same home range as was reported in February. The home range stretches from the mountains above Hawston in the west to Camphill Road in the east. The troop also continued to use the area on top of the mountains to the north (see Figure 2.5).

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																				
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																		
OVERSTRAND																																				
BABOON TROOP:		VOGELGAT																																		
MONTH: March		YEAR: 2021																																		

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



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

2.3.1 VIRTUAL FENCE

- The Virtual Fence was activated above Berghof Estates. The troop responded well and initially moved north and then northwest to sleep in the mountains above Hawston. The troop has not returned to Berghof Estates since this activation of the Virtual Fence.

2.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- An unidentified baboon troop was observed on 15 occasions in March. The location of the sightings suggests that this was the Hamilton Russel Troop. Most of these sightings occurred on the cliffs above Hermanus Heights and the Fernkloof Nursery, although an unidentified troop was observed on Kanonkop and Adder Ladder as well. As was reported in the February report, we suspect that the troop above Adder Ladder (and possibly Kanonkop) is not part of the Hamilton Russel Troop, but possibly a split from that troop.
- Field staff encountered an unidentified troop in the vicinity of Rotary Way, or on the cliffs above Hermanus Heights, on three occasions. On each occasion 21 individuals were counted.

2.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- VKF5 (red tag) was observed with a new infant on 2 March 2021, in the Voëlklip Troop.
- One new-born was seen with an unidentified female on 8 March in the Voëlklip Troop.
- VKF5 (red tag) was seen carrying a dead infant on 15 March. Infanticide was assumed to be the cause of death.

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 March (Figure 3.1).
- Individual baboons also spent 100% of their time out of town this month.
- The troop exclusively occupied the Buffelstal Nature Reserve, favouring the central and eastern parts of the catchment area (Figure 3.2).

3.1.2 **NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

- On 5 March, nine individuals from the troop raided a bin at the Buffelstal Waterworks. Unfortunately, no baboon-proofing was in place. At the same time, BRM1 and six individuals remained in the Buffelstal Nature Reserve. This was the only incursion that took place this month.
- On 12 March, an individual male entered an unoccupied house on High-level Road in Pringle Bay. The door was left open, and the baboon took a butternut. After the incursion, the baboon was encouraged to move towards the nature reserve. On 23 March, an individual male was located on Park Road in Pringle Bay. The baboon was encouraged to move back into the nature reserve. The abovementioned baboon/s are likely to be from the Hangklip Troop and could be displaying natural dispersal behaviour.
- On 13 March, an individual male was located on Sparaxis Close in Silversands. The baboon was eating a banana that it got from an unsecured bin. Individual male baboons were located in Silversands on four other occasions this month. HWS is uncertain if it is the same or different individuals.
- On 22 March, an individual male from the Hangklip Troop was found raiding an unsecured bin at the Maasbaai Slipway. Upon closer inspection, a laceration was identified on the baboon's upper right arm and it was missing its left thumb. The injuries are suspected to be related to baboon-on-baboon conflict. The baboon did not show signs of debilitation and was observed foraging and moving.
- On 23 March, the Hangklip Troop was located close to the Hangklip Hotel. An individual male was seen moving towards Pringle Bay. The baboon was encouraged to move back to the troop to prevent an urban incursion.
- The Buffelsriver Troop was encountered in the Buffelstal Nature Reserve once this month. No inter-troop conflict was observed, and the interaction was limited to vocalisations.
- On 15 March, PBF1 gave birth to an infant. On 24 March, intense intragroup conflict was observed, lasting for approximately six minutes. During the conflict, BRM1 was observed in physical contact with PBF1 and her infant. The nine-day-old infant died. Infanticide is natural behaviour observed in baboons after a new male has taken over dominance in the troop. Female baboons will generally start their oestrus cycle three weeks after the death of an infant. Two oestrus cycles will generally take place before the dam falls pregnant again.
- On 30 March, BRM1 attempted to attack PBF4's infant. After the incident, PBF4 was observed staying close to PBM1 for protection.
- BRM1 was observed mounting PBF3, the beta female with a nine-month-old infant. PBF3 was not in oestrus at the time.

- Dominance between PBM1 and BRM1 remains in flux. Core members of the troop have been observed associating with different males on different days. However, it appears that BRM1 is asserting his dominance more due to the recent infanticide and mock mounting of PBF3.
- BRM1 was observed in a consort relationship with PBF5 and copulated with her multiple times.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																								
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																						
OVERSTRAND																																																								
BABOON TROOP:		PRINGLE BAY		1 In urban area										4 Attacking pets										7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																																
MONTH: March		YEAR: 2021		2 Raid bins										5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle										8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																
				3 Non malicious damage										6 Raid occupied house or vehicle										9 Nocturnal Raiding																																
BABOON ID		Sex	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							2																											1																						
PBM1		M																																																						
PBM2		M																																																						
PBF1		F																																																						
PBF2		F																																																						
PBF3		F																																																						
UnID Male		M																																																						
UnID Females		F																																																						
UnID Female		F																																																						
UnID Individuals																																																								
UnID Juveniles																																																								
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																															HRS																						
Troop		0,0																															0,00																							
Individuals		0,0																															0,00																							
Roost:		AM	13	14/17	17	17	14	14	14	14	12	17	17	15/17	17	17	17	17	17	14	14	14	17	17	17	14	17	17	17	17	13	14	17																							
Roost:		PM	14/17	17	17	14	14	14	12	17	17	15/17	17	17	17	17	17	14	14	14	17	17	17	17	14	17	17	17	17	13	14	17	17																							
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																																										
ID Features of Baboons																																																								
General remarks		Red Italics indicate a non-urban raid.																																																						

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

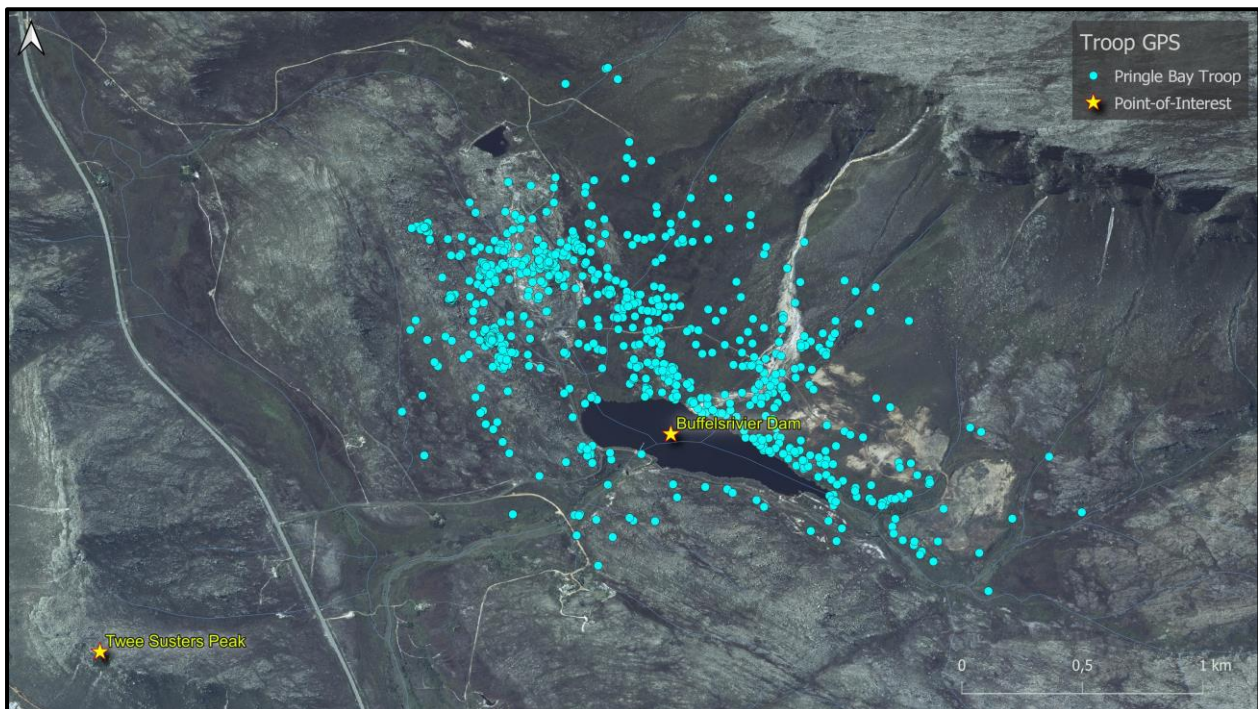


Figure 3.2: GPS locations of the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar during March 2021.

3.2 BETTY'S BAY TROOP

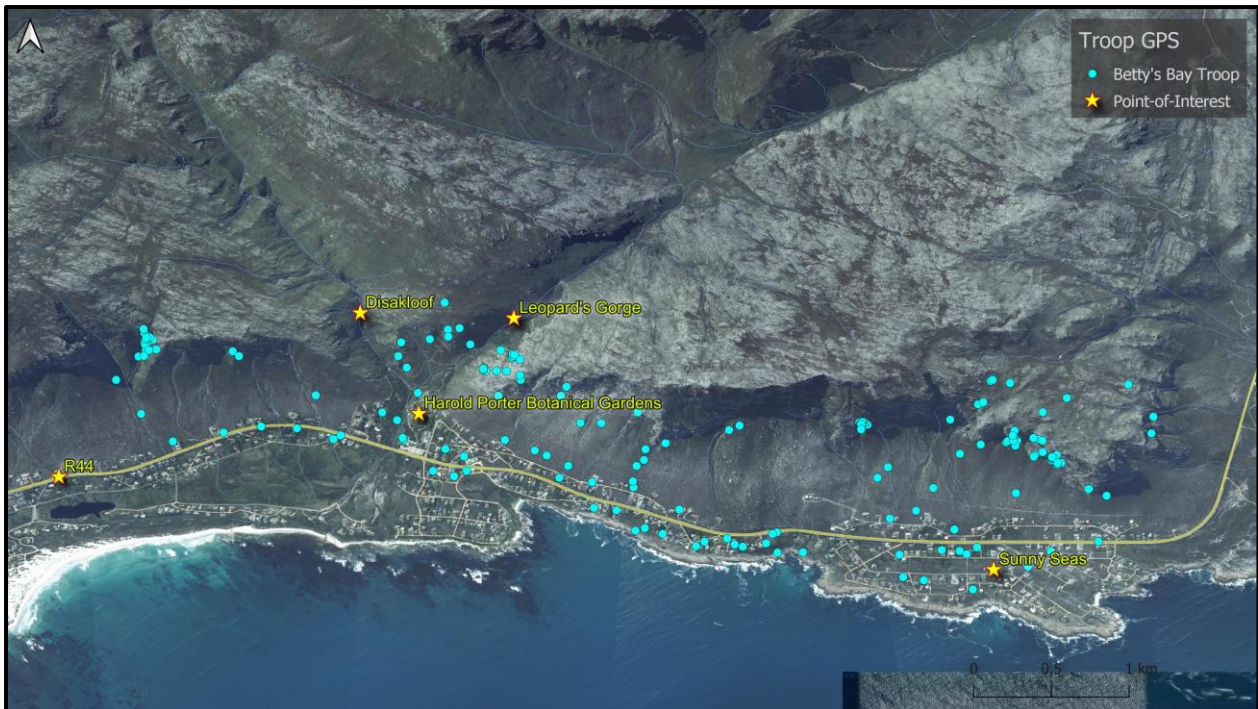


Figure 3.3: GPS locations of the Betty's Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar during March 2021.

- Even though the Betty's Bay Troop was not officially managed yet during March 2021, HWS was instructed to apply a GPS radio collar to a male baboon selected by the Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group (BBBAG). Consequently, an adult male baboon of the Betty's Bay Troop was collared on 25 March 2021 and assigned the code BBM1.
- Data captured by the GPS collar is displayed in Figure 3.3. These initial data suggest that BBM1 spent much time visiting houses along the R44 or nearby roads for most of the midday period. However, he also seemed to spend several hours in the mornings and evenings foraging on the slopes of the mountain above the urban area.

3.3 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- On 15 March, a birth was recorded the Pringle Bay Troop. On 24 March, the same infant died as a result of infanticide.

4 GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS

4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Three births and two deaths were recorded in the managed troops this month and are summarised in the tables below. The population data of the three closely managed troops can be seen in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 below.

TROOP	OCTOBER	JUNE	MARCH 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	2	1	0	3	2	1
Vogelgat*	N/A	22	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pringle Bay	16	16	1	1	0	5	4	1
TOTAL	45	67	3	2	0	8	7	2

Table 4.1: Population data for the three closely managed troops in the Overstrand in March 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 - March)	March 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	5	2	7
Unknown		0	0	0
TOTAL DEATHS	6	7	2	13

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 incursion related hotline calls received from managed areas remained stable during March (55) compared to February (59). However, an increase in total calls received was observed, going up from 73 last month to 108 in March. This was largely due to a surge in incursions reported to the hotline by residents of Betty's Bay. Thirty four calls were received from Betty's Bay in March compared to only three in February.

The majority (40%) of calls this month were again related to the Voëlklip Troop, with the most calls originating from the Voëlklip suburb (23) followed by Fernkloof (11) and Hermanus Heights (8).

Significantly fewer calls were received this year compared to March 2020. A total of 179 calls were received in March 2020 of which 174 were incursion related in managed areas. This year only 55 incursion related calls were received, a reduction of 68% from last year. The Vogelgat Troop was not yet managed during March 2020; however, it was responsible for only 29 calls in March 2020. Taking into account that the Vogelgat Troop was not managed last year, this is still a significant reduction in incursion related calls and suggests that the baboon management programme has made good progress to limit incursions into the urban area during 2021.

Reporting of baboons in the urban area made up the majority of hotline calls again this month (80%). A decrease in the number of occupied house incursions was also observed. Three bin raids were 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.

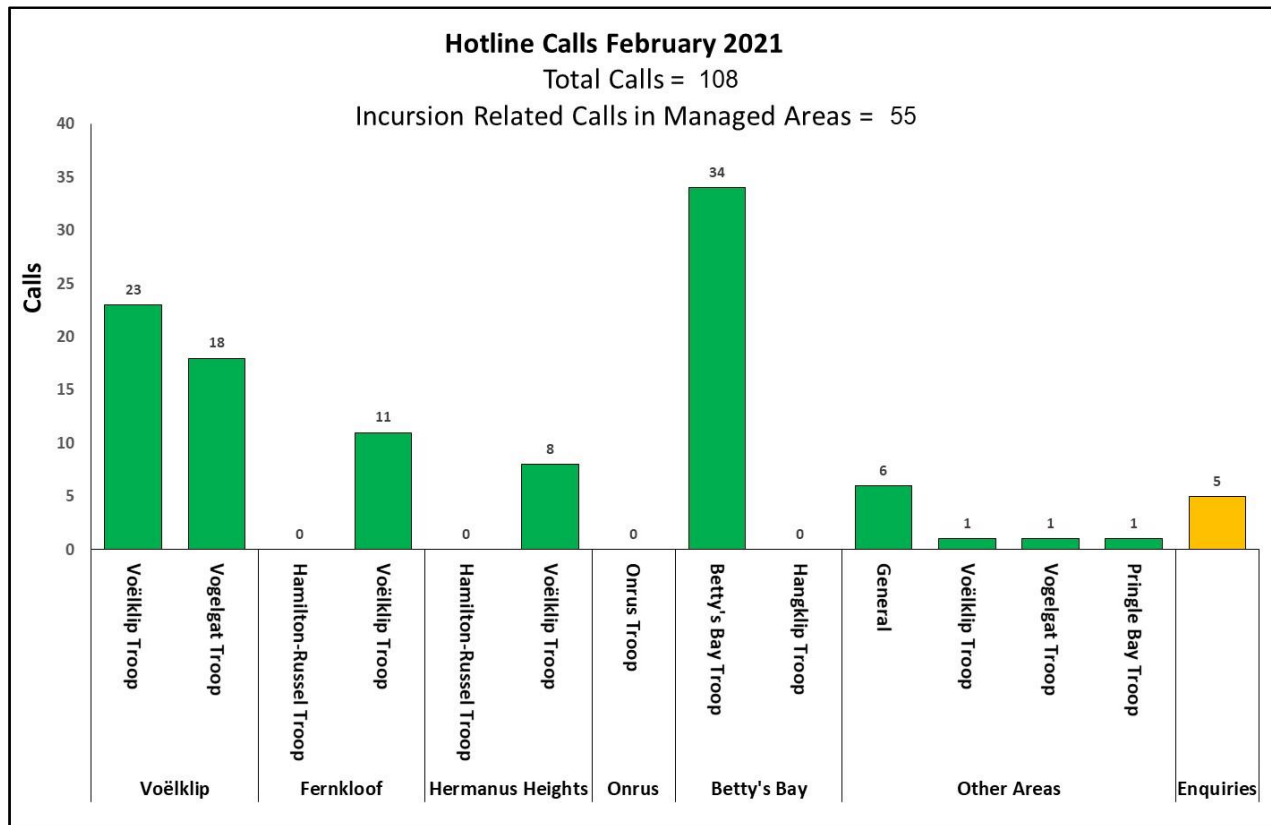


Figure 4.2: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas for March 2021. Incursion related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which baboon troops are known to occur and are actively managed. Other Areas represent those areas beyond the urban edge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

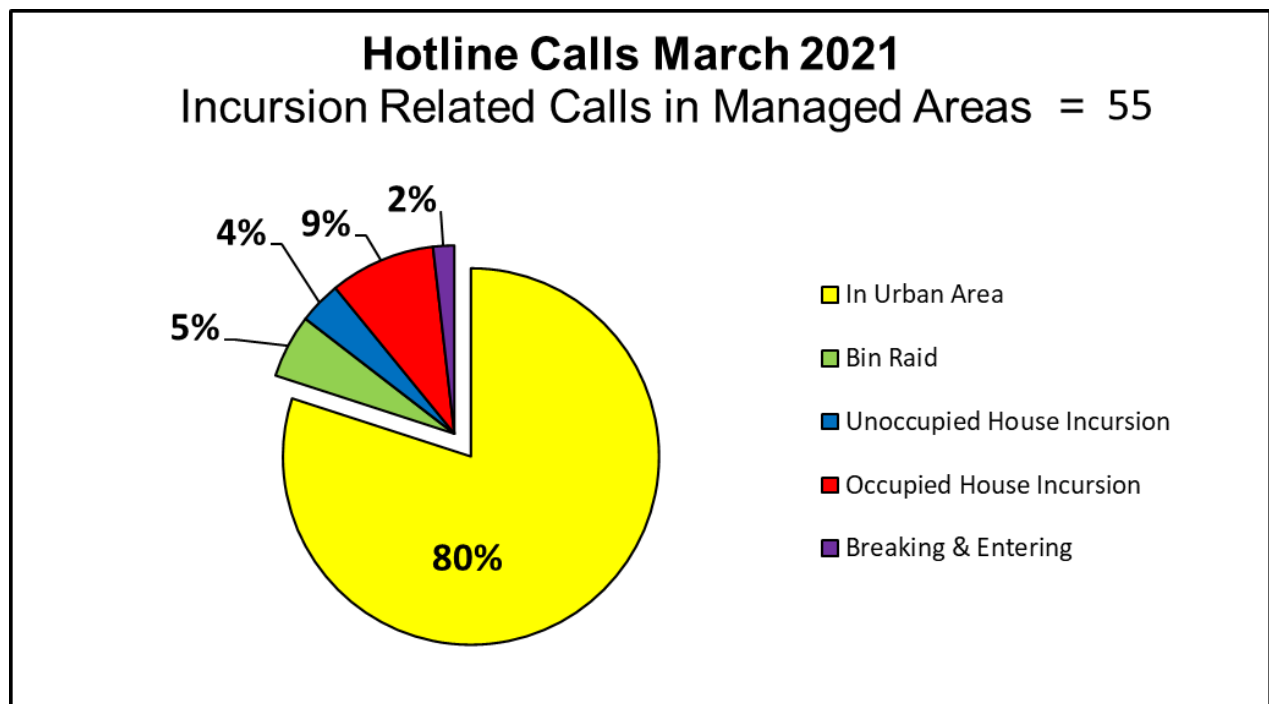


Figure 4.3: Composition of incursion-related hotline calls during March 2021. Note: This chart represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of known incursions by baboons.

4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During March 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 98.8%. 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	97.7
Vogelgat Troop	100.0	96.6
Onrus Troop	100.0	99.9
Hamilton Russel Troop	100.0	100.0
Pringle Bay Troop	100.0	100.0
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	100.0	98.8

Table 4.3: Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during March 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 principle applies to Pringle Bay.
- HWS suggests that **waste removal** should start **on the urban edge** and then move down through the suburbs.
- 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 did not make use of the sleepsites above the Voëlklip suburb on a single occasion in March and only used its western and central sleepsites. The troop spent much time of its time on top of the mountain in the vicinity of the Hamilton Russel Vineyards.

By contrast, the Vogelgat Troop utilised the sleepsites above Voëlklip suburb on over half the nights this month. The Virtual Fence continues to successfully deter the troop from entering the urban space. Visual of the troop was lost on top of the mountains on multiple occasions making it difficult to predict the troop's movements. Despite individual baboons entering the urban space, the troop was prevented from entering the urban space for the seventh consecutive month. There seems to be a trend that when the Voëlklip Troop is in the west, the Vogelgat Troop often moves west and occupies the mountain above Voëlklip. Whether this is cause or effect is uncertain.

What was assumed to be the Hamilton Russel Troop was observed more frequently on the mountains above Hermanus Heights this month and the troop continues to interact with the Voëlklip Troop. GPS data from the collar on the Onrus Troop suggests little change in home range use this month. The virtual fence was activated on a single occasion above Onrus and successfully deterred the troop from entering the urban edge. The troop did not return to the location where the Virtual Fence was activated for the remainder of the month.

During March, the Pringle Bay Troop foraged exclusively in the northern part of its range. This troop has been out of town for four consecutive months since 1 December 2020.

HWS Holdings CC (t/a Human Wildlife Solutions)