



Photo: © Human Wildlife Solutions

**Human Wildlife Solutions**  
**Overstrand**  
**Monthly Report**  
**May 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.....	8
2.3 ONRUS TROOP .....	11
2.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP .....	11
2.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS .....	11
<b>3 OVERSTRAND WEST TROOPS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
3.1 PRINGLE BAY TROOP .....	12
3.2 HANGKLIP TROOP.....	15
3.3 BETTY'S BAY TROOP .....	16
3.4 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS .....	18
<b>4 GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS</b> .....	<b>19</b>
4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS.....	19
4.2 HOTLINE DATA .....	20
4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN .....	22
4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS .....	24
<b>5 CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>24</b>

# 1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 31 May 2021.

Time out of town for the Voëlklip Troop, as well as individuals, increased this month. The troop spent most nights at the western sleepsites, only making use of the central sleepsites on two occasions and not using the eastern sleepsites at all this month. Conflict between the males in the Voëlklip Troop was frequent this month and we believe that the new male (UNKM1) has taken over dominance in the Voëlklip Troop.

This month, the Vogelgat Troop mainly used their sleepsites from above Maanskynbaai and further east. The troop attempted to approach the urban space on multiple occasions, but were deterred from entering the urban space through the use of the Virtual Fence. Time out of town for the troop remains at 100%.

The Hamilton Russel Troop was seen more frequently this month and were observed on five occasions in May. The Virtual Fence continues to be very effective in the Onrus Troop and deterred the troop from entering the urban space.

The Pringle Bay Troop spent 100% time out of town this month. However, individual baboons were recorded entering Pringle Bay on five days this month and spent 94% of their time out of town. These incursions were likely to be caused by a change in the troop dynamics, when a young adult male, BRM2, arrived at the troop on 20 May. BRM2's arrival resulted in high levels of conflict in the troop because the new male attempted infanticide. As a result, PBM1 carrying an 11-month-old infant and PBF4 carrying a seven-month-old infant moved away from the troop to Pringle Bay to protect the young baboons from potential infanticide. PBM1 held the alpha male position for over six years. Female baboons reach sexual maturity at five years of age. The arrival of BRM1 and BRM2 is important for the maintenance of the troop's genetic diversity and should now prevent PBM1 from breeding with its offspring.

HWS officially commenced management of the Hangklip Troop on 29 May, after the troop spent several days in Pringle Bay. Historically, the troop has been recorded utilising the northern part of its home range during the winter months, close to Pringle Bay. HWS encouraged the troop to move towards the Hangklip Hotel, and as a result, no time in town was recorded for the troop or individual baboons from 29 May to 31 May.

The Betty's Bay Troop spent 86.7% time out of town. Assertive incursions were recorded for BBM1, BBM2, BBM3, BBM4 and BBF1. Alarming, BBM1 entered 12 occupied houses and physically broke into 15 houses. HWS was able to mitigate numerous incursions attempted by BBM1 but the more the baboon was deterred the more desperate it got to obtain HDF's to satisfy its sugar addiction. Concerningly, it was not only BBM1

that pulled on doors and windows. BBM3, BBM4 and BBF1 were also recorded displaying this type of behaviour. A young juvenile baboon was also observed pulling on a window after BBM1 broke into a house on Anglers Road. This is an indication that the assertive raiding behaviour of BBM1 and other individuals has already been learned by other members of the troop.

## **2 OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS**

### **2.1 VOËLKLIP TROOP**

#### **2.1.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- Time out of town for the troop increased from 99.1% in April to 100% in May.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 90.2% in April to 95.1% in May.

#### **2.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

##### **2.1.2.1 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE**

- Two occupied house incursions were reported on 06 May 2021. These occurred on Selkirk Street and Fernkloof Drive.
- A total of 13 bin raids were reported in Hermanus Heights and occurred on 05, 06 and 07 May 2021. Eight of the 13 bin raids occurred on Selkirk Street, while the others occurred on Fernkloof Drive, Raed na Gael-, Waboom- and Fynbos Streets.
- On 01 and 03 May, individuals entered the Golf course.

##### **2.1.2.2 VOËLKLIP & FERNKLOOF**

- No bin or house incursions were reported for Voëlklip and Fernkloof suburbs in May 2021.

##### **2.1.2.3 GENERAL**

- Many conflicts were observed in the Voëlklip Troop over the month of May. These included conflict between the males, but also conflict between males and females, with males frequently seen chasing females and also having physical contact with the females.

- On 12 May 2021, UNKM1 was seen chasing multiple females. UNKM1 managed to take VKF4's infant from her. UNKM1 was later seen walking with an infant in its mouth. VKF4's infant has not been seen since and is assumed to have been killed by UNKM1.
- It currently seems that UNKM1 has taken over dominance in the Voëlklip Troop. Apart from the infanticide of VKF4's infant, the male was also seen herding the troop away from an unknown troop on 22 May 2021, during which he also physically displaced one of the other males in Voëlklip. On 24 May 2021, UNKM1 was also seen positioning himself between an unknown troop and the Voëlklip Troop when males from the unknown troop approached. During this, VKF6 (who was in oestrous at the time) approached and presented to UNKM1 who proceeded to mount VKF6. On 26 May 2021, a physical altercation between UNKM1 and an untagged female broke out. VKM2 (who was previously believed to be dominant) saw and heard the altercation and did not react to it. This most probably indicates that he is no longer dominant.
- On 03 May 2021, the troop was split between two sleepsites. The two subgroups re-joined later in the day.
- On 30 May VKM2 was seen with an injury on his left cheek and a juvenile was seen with an injury on the left side of its head. The injuries were most probably sustained during a conflict that was observed earlier that morning.
- The Voëlklip Troop did not make use of the sleepsites above the Voëlklip suburb on a single occasion in May and only used the western and central sleepsites.
- The Voëlklip Troop spent multiple days in close proximity to the farms above Hermanus Heights.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																					
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																			
OVERSTRAND		1 In urban area												4 Attacking pets										7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																													
BABOON TROOP:		VOËLKLIJIP		2 Raid bins												5 Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion										8 Breaking &Entering/Damaging property																											
MONTH: May		YEAR: 2021		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																																																			
VGM1 BLUE TAG	M	1		1		2		2						1																		1																					
UNKM1	M							2,2																																													
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F							2,2																																													
VKF5 RED TAG	F						6	2,2																																													
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F	1						2																																													
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F	1		1				2																																													
UnID Male	M																																																				
UnID Males	M																																																				
UnID Females	F			1		1														1																																	
UnID Female	F	1						2,2	2																							1																					
UnID Individuals						1																																															
UnID Juvs							6,2	2												1																																	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																															HRS																				
Troop	0,0																															0,00																					
Individuals	4,9	238		30		143	171	280						43						14											24	15,72																					
Roost:	AM	4	3	5	5,3	2	28	18	18	2	18	18	18	2	2	2	2	18	2	2	2	18	18	2	2	2	2	?	?	2	3	2	2	2																			
Roost:	PM	3	5	5,3	2	28	18	18	2	18	18	18	2	2	2	2	2	18	2	2	18	18	2	2	2	2	?	?	2	3	2	2	2	5																			
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 BHB Waterfall										24 Rooklip										25 ZigZag									
		26 9th Avenue Kloof												27 Shade Rock										28 BOSKO																													
ID Features of Baboons																																																					
General remarks																																																					

Figure 2.1: The Voëlkliip Troop incident sheet for May 2021.

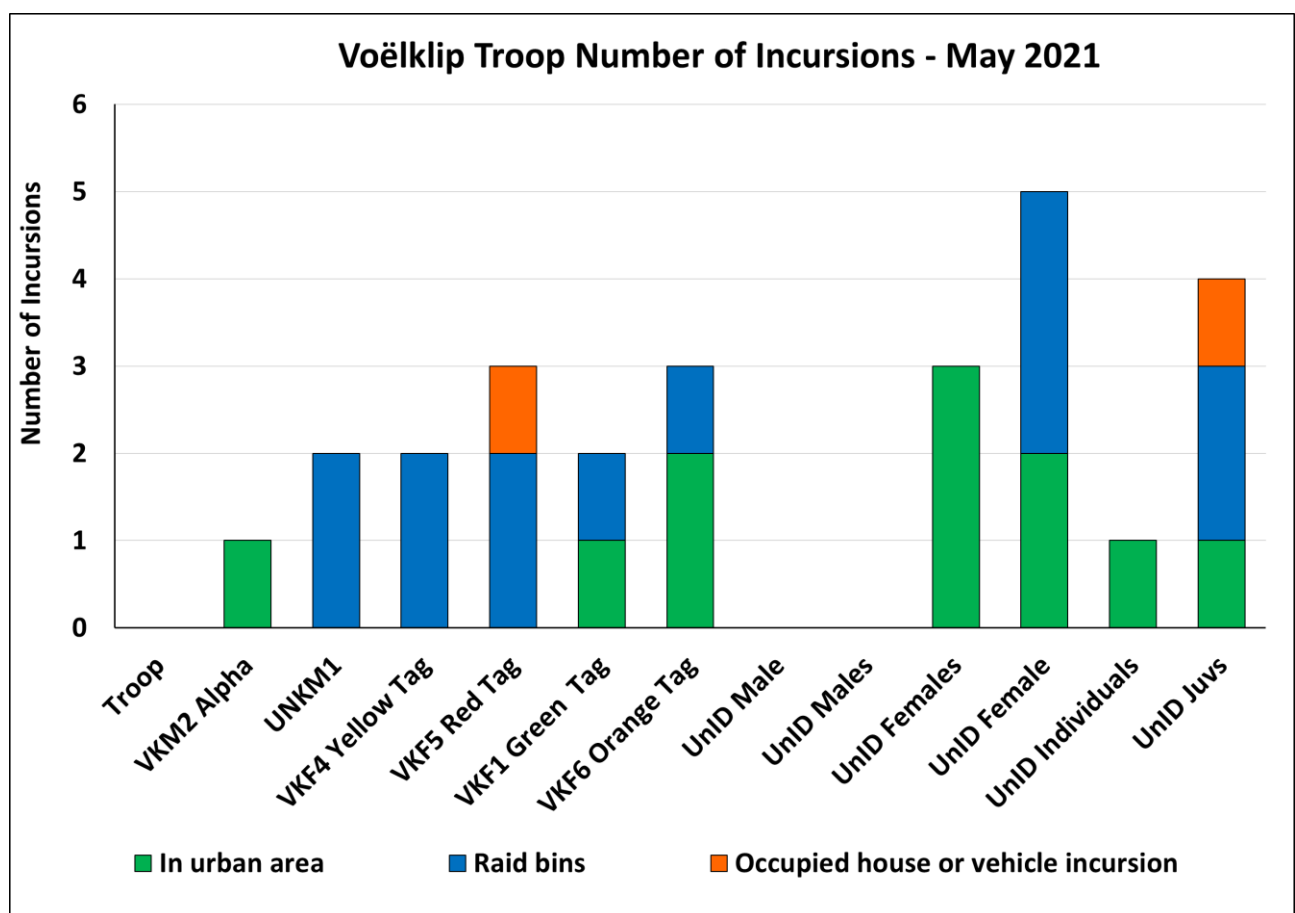
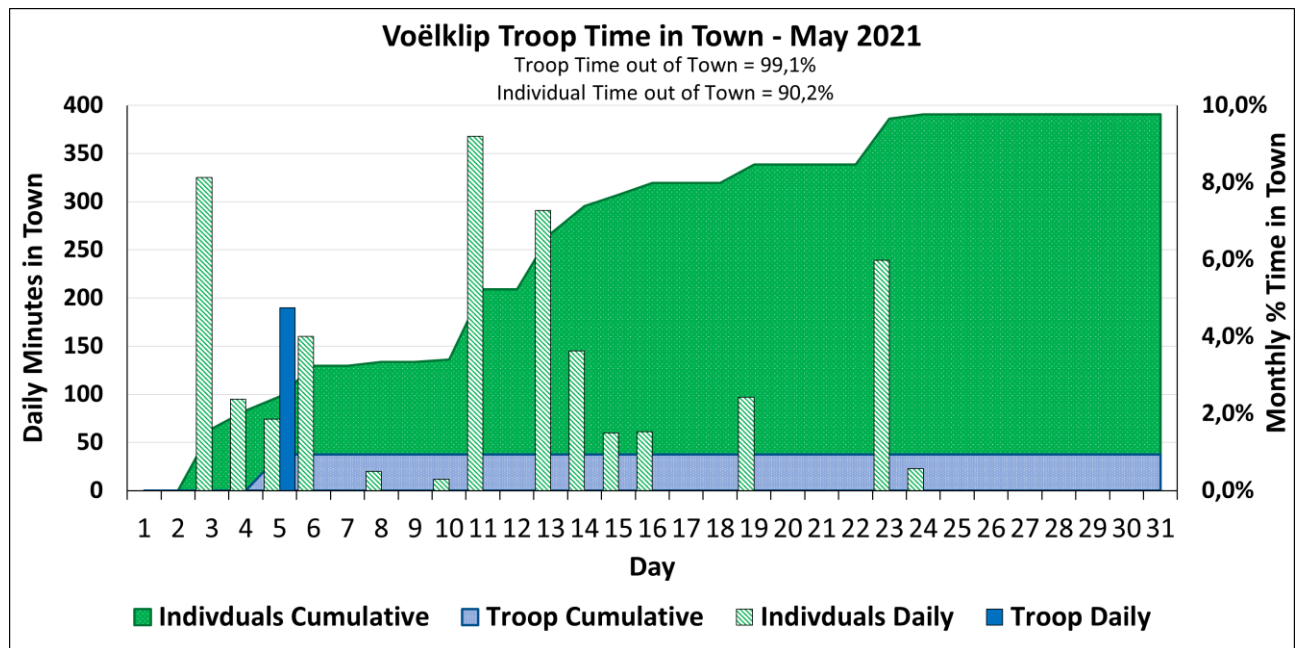
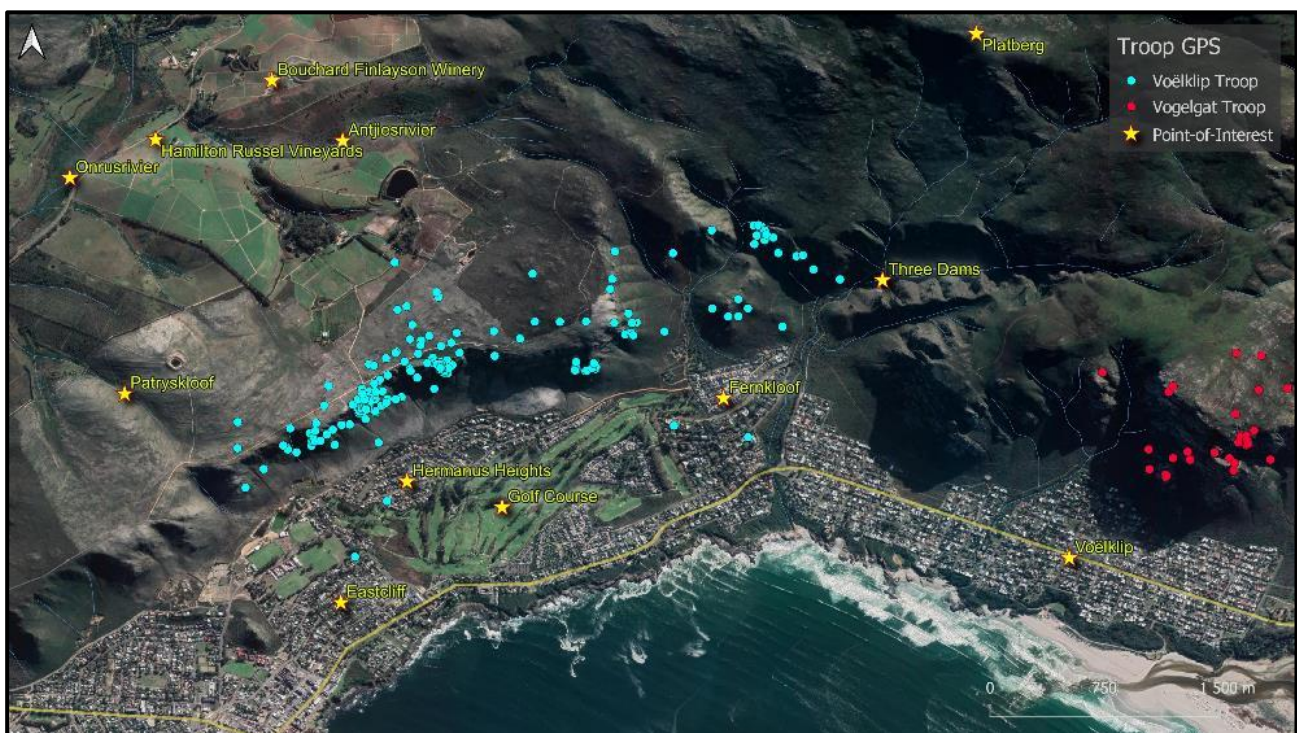


Figure 2.2: Incursions by the Voëlkliip Troop and individuals during May 2021. Note the “unidentified female”, represents any number of solitary females entering the urban area on its own.





**Figure 2.3:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Voëlkliip Troop during May 2021. Note: Percentage Time in town is recorded as a percentage of the average daylight hours (sunrise to sunset) for each month of the year.



**Figure 2.4:** GPS locations of the Voëlkliip Troop as determined by the GPS collar during May 2021.

## **2.2 VOGELGAT TROOP**

### **2.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- Time out of town for the troop remains at 100% in May.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 98.0% in April to 98.9% in May.

### **2.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

- No urban bin raids or house incursions were reported in May.
- One non-urban bin raid was reported along the R43 roadworks in May.
- On 12 May a resident reported a baboon with an injury on the right forelimb. The baboon was identified as VGM2. A conflict was heard earlier that day and it is assumed that the injury was sustained during the conflict. Multiple conflicts were observed between the males of the Vogelgat Troop during May.
- On multiple occasions hotline calls reported lone baboons in the urban space. The field team was however unable to locate these lone individuals. Lone baboons can hide easily between properties making it very difficult to locate them. This often means that these lone baboons spend extended periods of time in the urban space. Reports to the hotline by residents are vital in these situations and assists the field team immensely in locating these baboons.
- On 12 May 2021, a banger was fired from a property along the R43.
- On 22 May two loud explosions were heard from a property along the R43. The source of the noise could not be determined. A baboon was seen leaving the property shortly after the noise.
- On multiple occasions in May, individual baboons were observed to enter the plots below the R43.

### **2.2.3 VIRTUAL FENCE**

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



HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																					
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																			
OVERSTRAND		1 In urban area												4 Attacking pets								7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food															
BABOON TROOP:		VOGELGAT		2 Raid bins												5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle								8 Breaking &Entering/Damaging property													
MONTH: May		YEAR: 2021		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																																					
VGF1	F																																				
VGM2	M					2																															
UnID Male	M																	1											1				2				
UnID Males	M													1																			1				
UnID Females	F																																				
UnID Female	F																																				
UnID Individuals																																					
UnID Juvs																																					
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																															HRS				
Troop	0,0																																0,00				
Individuals	1,1													60				75												67			3,37				
Roost:	AM	15	17	17	15	18	18	18	17	18	1	18	15	1	11	1	1	11	8	9	15	18	15	15	18	15	15	1	4	4	1	18					
Roost:	PM	18	17	15	18	18	18	17	18	1	17	15	1	11	1	1	12	8	14	15	18	15	15	18	15	15	10	4	4	1	15	15					
Roost Sites		1 Baboon Castle												2 18th Ave Kloof								3 11th Ave Kloof								4 10th Ave Kloof				5 Uitkyk Punt			
		6 Vogelgat Nature Reserve												7 Halfway Ridge								8 Bosklip								9 Groot Uitkyk				10 1st Kloof			
		11 2nd Kloof												12 3rd Kloof								13 4th Kloof								14 17th Avenue Kloof				15 Waterfall			
		16 A Shape												17 Bitterbiesie								18 Maanskynkop															
ID Features of Baboons																																					
General remarks		Please note that the numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																																			

Figure 2.5: The Vogelgat Troop incident sheet for May 2021.

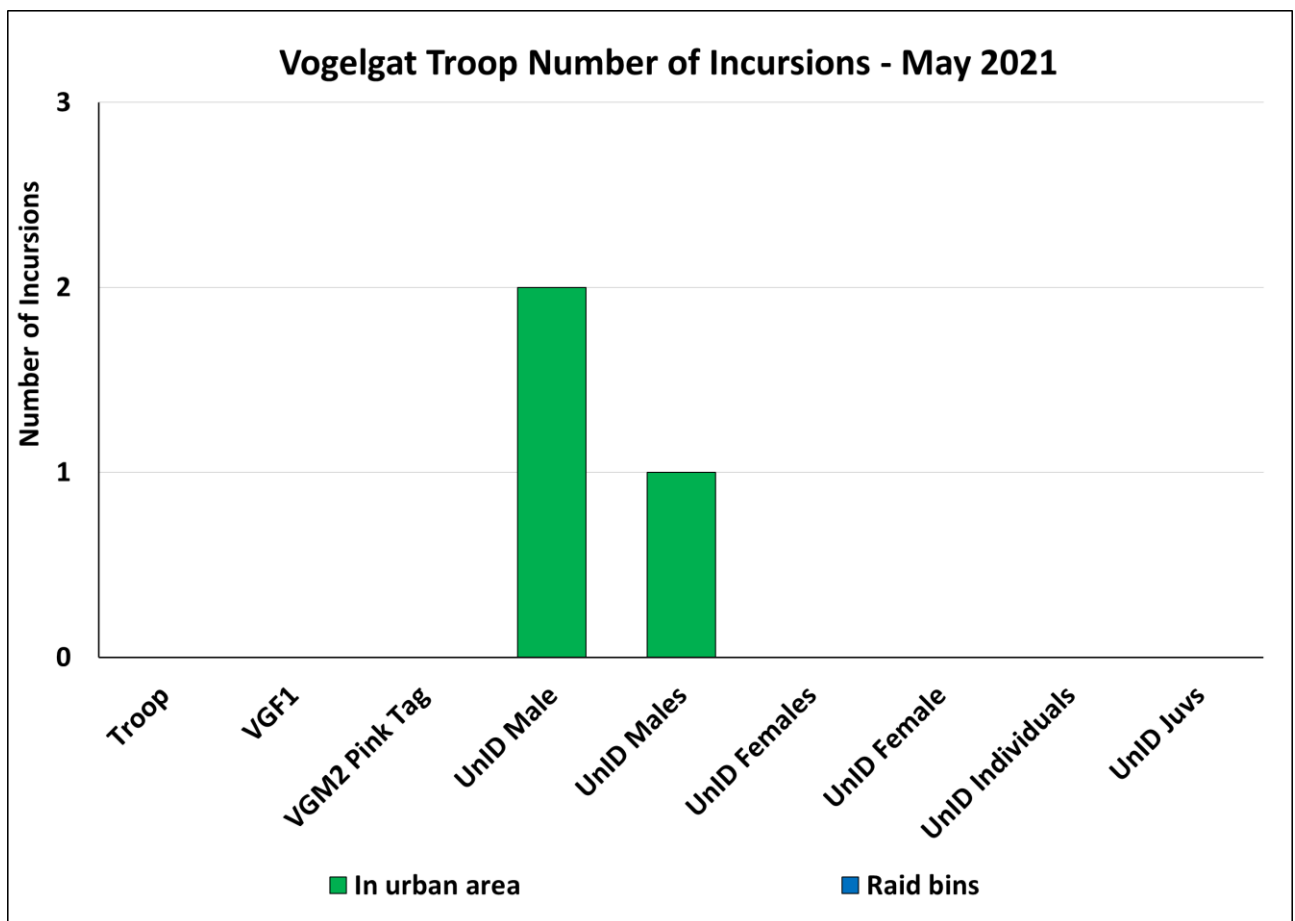
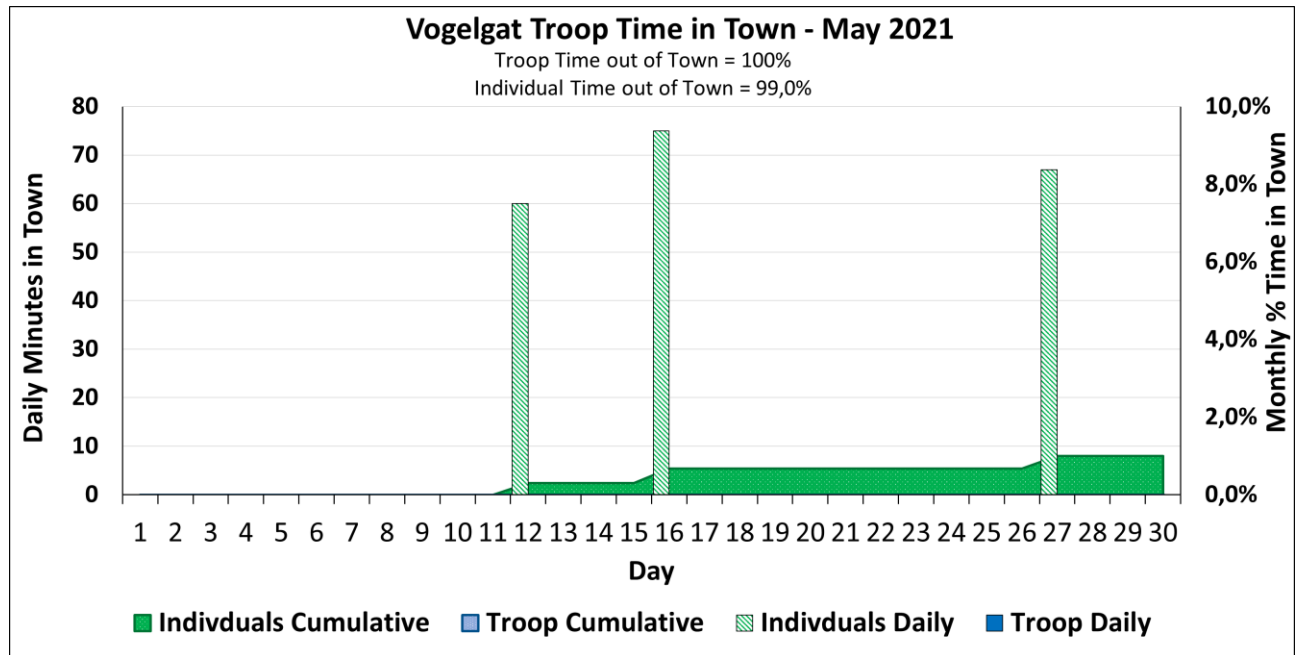


Figure 2.6: Incursions by the Vogelgat Troop and individuals during May 2021.



**Figure 2.7:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Vogelgat Troop during May 2021. Note: Percentage Time in town is recorded as a percentage of the average daylight hours (sunrise to sunset) for each month of the year.



**Figure 2.8:** GPS locations of the Vogelgat Troop as determined by the GPS collar during May 2021.

## 2.3 ONRUS TROOP

### 2.3.1 VIRTUAL FENCE

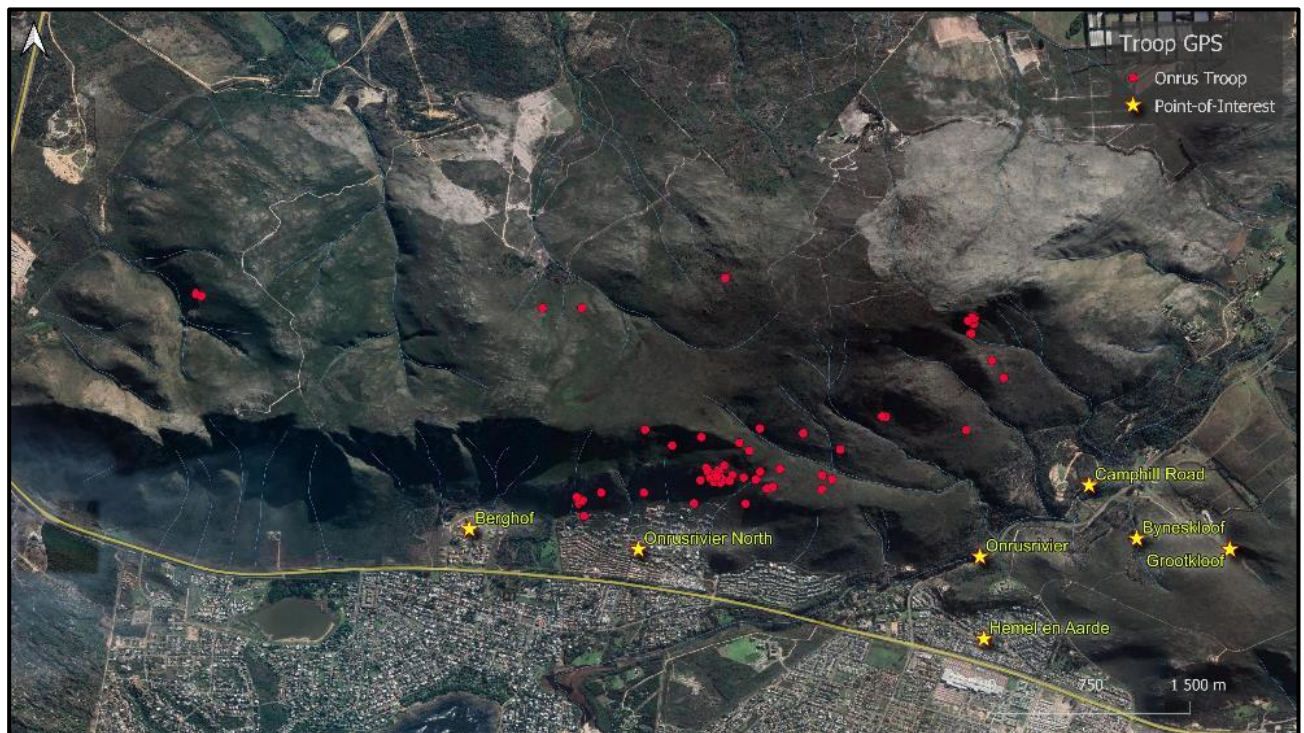
- The Virtual Fence was activated above Owl Rock Road and deterred the troop successfully.

## 2.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- An unidentified troop was observed on five occasions in May, four times on the mountain above Hermanus Heights and once in close proximity to the farms above Hermanus Heights. The location of these sightings suggest that it was the Hamilton Russel Troop.

## 2.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- VKF4's infant was killed by UNKM1 on 12 May 2021.



**Figure 2.9:** GPS locations of the Onrus Troop as determined by the GPS collar during May 2021.

### **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 May.
- Individual baboons spent 94% of their time out of town this month.

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

- PBF3 (satellite GPS collar) was recorded entering one unoccupied house and two occupied houses outside of the urban space. PBF3 constantly tries to run to the Buffelstal Waterworks and non-urban houses on the periphery of the Buffelstal Nature Reserve to obtain HDFs. On 26 May, after finding nothing to eat in the non-urban area, PBF3 travelled approximately 2.74 kilometres to Pringle Bay to search for HDFs. This type of raiding behaviour has been evident since PBF3's infant became more independent. She leaves the infant alone in order to go in search of HDFs.
- On 20 May, a young adult male from the Buffelsriver Troop was observed interacting with the Pringle Bay Troop. BRM1 initially chased the new male far from the troop. The new male has been assigned baboon identity code BRM2. After the initial conflict, BRM2 continued to return and has successfully integrated into the Pringle Bay Troop. BRM1 and BRM2 have similar physical characteristics as well as an identical "wahoo" vocalisation. However, BRM2 is smaller than BRM1.
- High levels of conflict have been present in the troop since BRM2's arrival. To avoid conflict with the incoming male, PBM1 spent four days in Pringle Bay separated from the troop this month. Observations indicated that PBM1 was fearful of BRM1 and BRM2. This most probably relates to his old age, his hind leg disability, and the poor condition of his canines.
- On 22 May and 23 May, PBF4, carrying a seven-month-old infant, accompanied PBM1 to Pringle Bay. BRM2 had been observed threatening PBF4 and the infant. Observations suggested that PBF4 returned to Pringle Bay to protect the infant. Infanticide is a natural phenomenon observed in baboons. It prevents inbreeding and maintains genetic diversity.

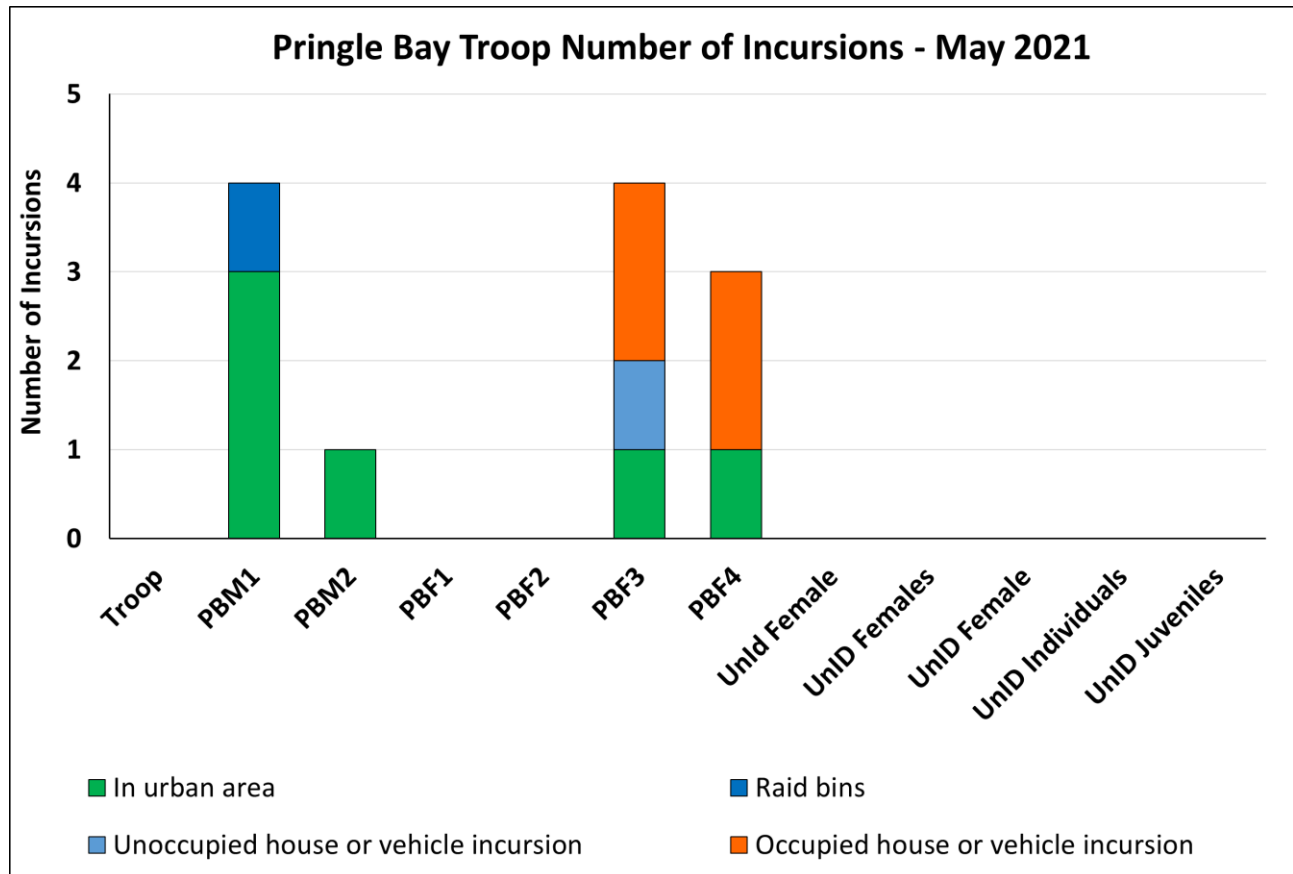


- It is important to prevent PBM1 and PBF4 from permanently returning to Pringle Bay. In the future, this behaviour could lead to the formation of a splinter troop. In the natural world, splinter troops do not occur because of the associated high risks of predation without the protection of the troop. Due to years of residing in Pringle Bay, PBM1 and PBF4 have become habituated to living in town and feel safe as a result. Easy access to HDF's would be another incentive for these individuals to remain in Pringle Bay.
- It is important to note that while PBM1 and PBF4 feel safe in Pringle Bay it is not in the baboon's best interest to be allowed to stay. Living amongst humans also poses various risks. For example, PBM1 has already been involved in a minor altercation with a dog and has also been prevented from drinking detergent from a bottle that he found in a bin.

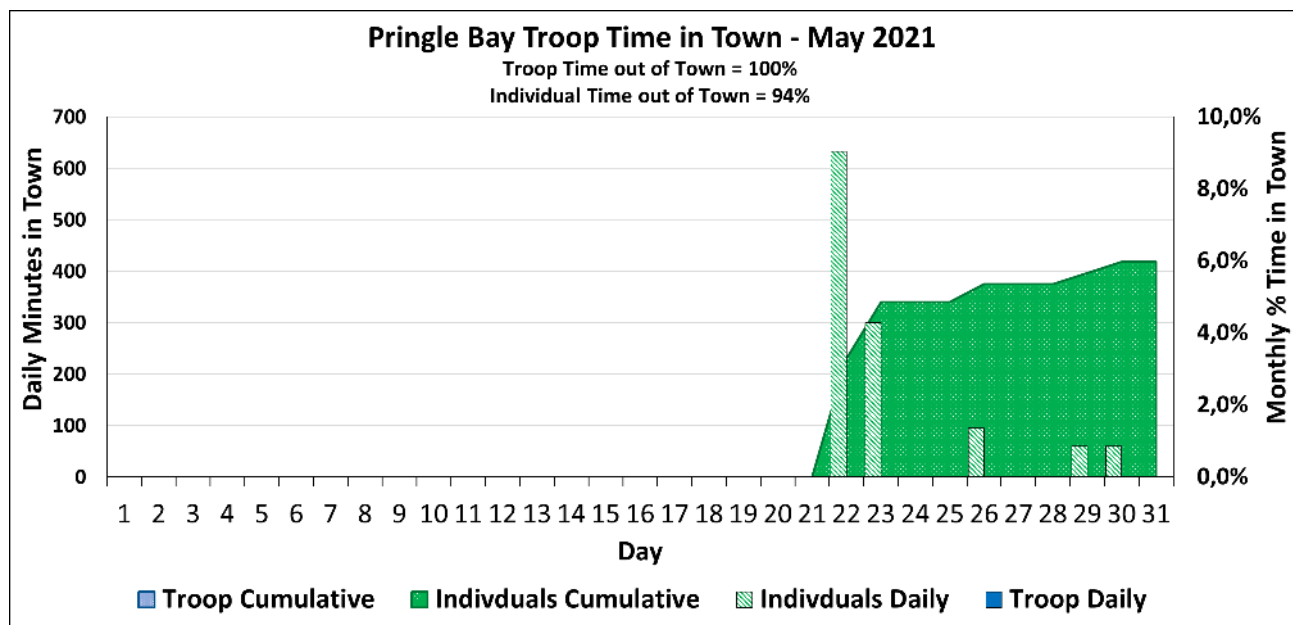
HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																								
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																						
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																																	
BABOON TROOP:		2	Raid bins	5	Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion	8	Breaking &Entering/Damaging property																																	
MONTH: MAY		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																																								
PBM1	M																						1	1						2	1									
PBM2	M																							1																
PBF1	M																																							
PBF2	M																																							
PBF3	F			6													5						6				1													
PBF4	F																						1	6, 6																
UnID Females	M																																							
UnID Female	F																																							
UnID Individuals	F																																							
UnID Juveniles																																								
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														HRS								
Troop	0,0																																0,00							
Individuals	6,0																						633	300			95			60	60		19,13							
Roost:	AM	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	14	17	17	17	17	14	17	17	17	17	17	14	14	12/14	14	14	17	17	14/17	14	14								
Roost:	PM	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	14	17	17	17	17	14	17	17	17	17	14	14	14	12/14	14	17	17	17	14/17	14	14									
Roost Sites						1	Professor						2	Hangklip						3	Axel Kop						4	Pringle Peak						5	Lemoenkop					
						6	Panel Beaters						7	Valley						8	Stink Kop						9	Waldos Farm SS1						10	Waldos Farm SS2					
						11	Pieter's						12	Boulders						13	Buffels Dam 1						14	Buffels Dam 2						15	Buffels Dam 3					
						16	Panel Beaters						17	Concrete House						18	Gullies						19	Rooiels 1						20	River Ridge					
						21	Mountain Top						22	Rooiels 2						23							24							25						
						26							27							28																				
ID Features of Baboons																																								
General remarks																																								

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

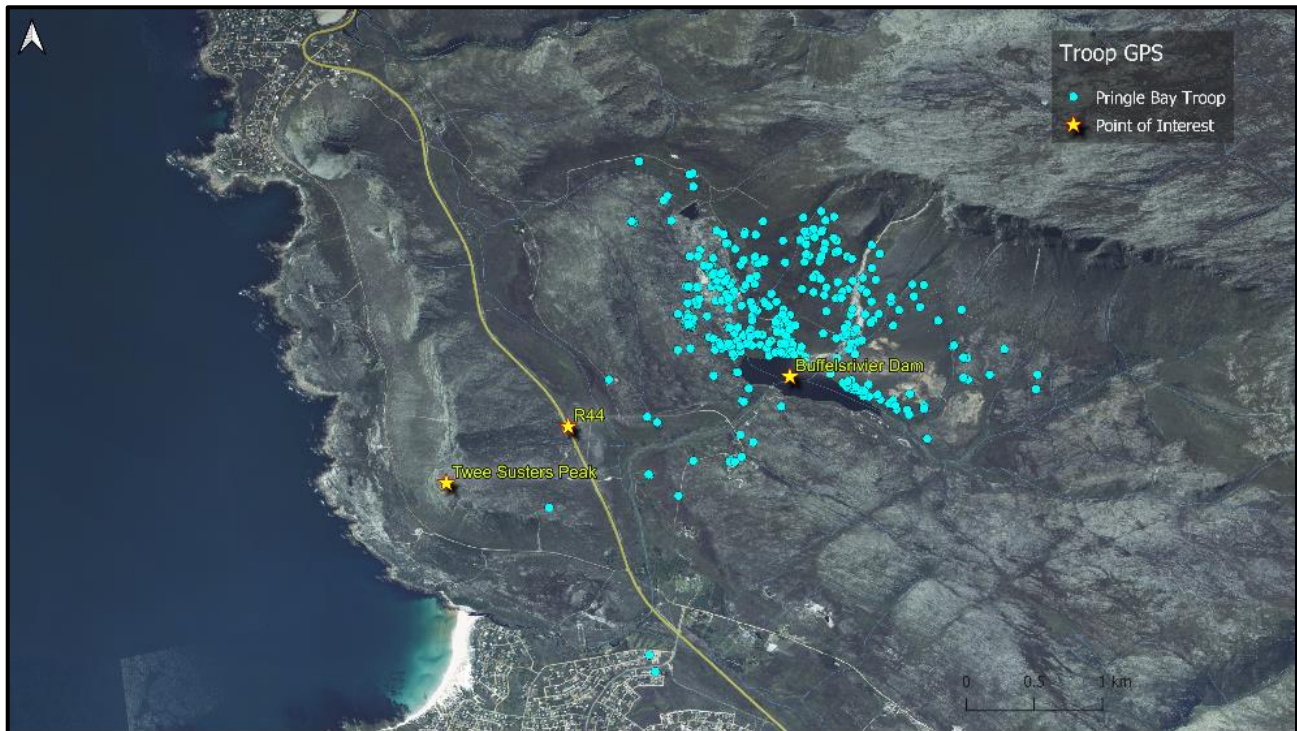




**Figure 3.2:** Incursions by the Pringle Bay Troop and individuals during May 2021.



**Figure 3.3:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Pringle Bay Troop during May 2021. Note: Percentage Time in town is recorded as a percentage of the average daylight hours (sunrise to sunset) for each month of the year.



**Figure 3.4:** GPS locations of the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar during May 2021.

## 3.2 HANGKLIP TROOP

### 3.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- HWS officially commenced management of the Hangklip Troop on 29 May 2021, after the troop spent several days in Pringle Bay.
- No time in town was recorded for the troop or individual baboons from 29 May to 31 May.
- It is important to note that historically individuals from the Hangklip Troop have previously been recorded in Pringle Bay during the winter months.

### 3.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- On 29 May, the Hangklip Troop was located at the Lemoenkop Sleep Site. The troop was encouraged to move back towards the Hangklip Hotel.
- On 30 May, the Hangklip Troop was observed coming down the mountain and then dividing into two sub-groups. One sub-group moved into the Sea Farm Private Nature Reserve while the other occupied the coastal area close to the lighthouse. An accurate count could not be conducted due to the dense rooikrans thicket and coastal fynbos.
- The natural area between the Hangklip Hotel and Silversands is heavily infested by rooikrans, which

is an artificial food source. The abundance of rooikrans allows the baboons to overcome nutritional stress which can lead to an unnatural increase in birth rates and population size. This increase in population could lead to the formation of a fission troop. A similar phenomenon has been recorded in the Tokai Plantation on the Cape Peninsula.

- The formation of a possible fission troop forming in the Hangklip Area is plausible due to the presence of different identifiable individuals that have been observed to the west and east of the Sea Farm Private Nature Reserve. In the west, there is an adult male with a small cavity above its right nostril and it is also missing its left thumb. Another adult male has an injured right hand which it is unable to use for walking and foraging. In the east, there are three baboons (an adult male, adult female and a juvenile) which have amputated tails close to the base.

### **3.3 BETTY'S BAY TROOP**

#### **3.3.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- The Betty's Bay Troop spent 86.7% time out of town during May.
- Individual baboons spent 81.3% time out of town this month.

#### **3.3.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

- The troop entered town 19 times this month and raided an unoccupied house.
- Sub-groups of baboons and individual baboons entered town 27 times this month.
- BBM1 caused non-malicious damage to property twice, entered five unoccupied houses and 12 occupied houses and broke and entered or damaged property 15 times.
- On 21 May, BBM1 broke a sliding door at Anglers Road. Shortly after the incident, a juvenile baboon was observed pulling on a window frame. This observation shows that BBM1's assertive raiding behaviour is being learned by the youngest members of the troop.
- On 28 May, BBM1 entered town at Bass Road and relentlessly attempted to break into houses. BBM1 was prevented from breaking multiple sliding doors and windows. The more BBM1 was prevented from breaking and entering and obtaining HDF's, the further and faster the baboon ran to evade the rangers. After three hours of intense management by three baboon rangers, BBM1 finally outran them and broke a window on Clarence Drive. BBM1 was prevented from entering the house and obtaining HDFs. After the incident, BBM1 continued to search for HDF's and eventually entered two unoccupied houses and one occupied house. It is important to note that during this period BBM1 did not pay any attention to natural forage while in town. This 'craving' behaviour strongly suggests that BBM1 is severely addicted to sugar in the form of HDFs.

- On 29 May, BBM1 broke a sliding door and entered a house on Clode Street. BBM1 dropped Jungle Oats in the gutters. During the competition for HDF's, individual baboons broke off sections of the gutters to carry the food away and consume it alone.
- BBM2 raided four unsecured bins, entered one unoccupied house and five occupied houses, and stole food directly from visitors at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.
- BBM3 raided five unsecured bins, caused non-malicious damage to a house, entered six occupied houses, stole food directly from people on three occasions and broke one sliding door.
- BBM3 and BBF1 frequently do not associate with the troop and often move in a different direction, on the mountain and in town. Both individuals have been observed pulling on window frames and sliding doors, as well as testing door handles to gain access to houses. BBF1 regularly accompanies BBM3 during raiding incursions.
- BBM4 raided one unsecured bin, entered one unoccupied house and six occupied houses, displayed threatening behaviour once and caused damage to a door.
- On 1 May, BBM4 attempted to steal food directly from a family having a picnic at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. The family consisted of a mother and four young children. When BBM4 ran towards the family, one of the children responded by running towards the baboon. BBM4 reacted by charging directly at the child. Fortunately, HWS was able to intervene and mitigate a potentially dangerous incident.
- BBM4 has been observed picking up juvenile baboons and presenting to the adult males while fear grimacing. This is submissive behaviour observed in baboons. BBM4 also frequently moved into town alone to look for raiding opportunities. BBM4's presence in town could be exacerbated by this intra-troop conflict between the adult males and BBM4. Conflict between adult males and sub-adult males is natural baboon behaviour that generally results in young adult males dispersing to another troop. This natural phenomenon is how genetic diversity is maintained by preventing inbreeding. If the intra-troop conflict persists, BBM4's presence alone in town could increase. History shows that dispersing males with easy access to HDF's often fail to disperse and end up spending long periods in town.
- When BBM4 is in town, the baboon likes to follow BBM1. BBM4 has also been observed pulling on window frames. This behaviour is likely to have been learned from shadowing BBM1 and getting rewarded with HDF's after BBM1 has broken into a house.
- On 7 May, a resident reported through the hotline that a baboon entered their occupied house at 18h57, well after sunset.
- It is important to note that HWS report on incursions that have been witnessed first-hand or on information provided by residents. Residents are encouraged to contact the baboon hotline (072 028 0008) to ensure that all incursions can be recorded accurately.

### 3.4 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- No births or deaths were recorded this month. BRM2, a young adult male from the Buffelsriver Troop immigrated to the Pringle Bay Troop.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																													
SECTOR					CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																								
OVERSTRAND					1	In urban area														4	Attacking pets							7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																
BABOON TROOP:			BETTY'S BAY		2	Raid bins														5	Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion							8	Breaking &Entering/Damaging property																
MONTH: MAY			YEAR: 2021		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		1				1	1	1		1		5			1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		16												
BBM1 (satellite collar)	M	5			3, 8		5, 8	6, 8		8		8			8	6	3, 6, 8, 8	5, 6		6	6, 8	8	6, 8	6	1, 6	6, 6, 8	8		5, 5, 6, 8	8			35												
BBM2	M					1									2, 5	6	2, 6			2, 6, 6			1	2		6, 6, 8		6			7		13												
BBM3	M	1			1						6		7, 7			2	6	6	2			2	6, 6	1	2, 3	6, 6, 7, 8				2	6		21												
BBM4 (sub-adult)	M	7			1	1				6, 6, 6	1	8			1					6		2	1	1					5, 6, 6				16												
BBF1	F	1			1					6		7, 7				2	6	6	2				1	1	2, 6	6, 7, 8							16												
BBF2	F																										1						2												
UnID Male	M												1								1												1												
UnID Females	F					1														1													2												
UnID Female	F	5			1												2		2						2	6		2, 5	2		2		10												
UnID Individuals		1					5	6, 9	1						2, 5	2	6	2	1	2, 6, 6, 8	1	5		1	1	6	5	6	2, 2	8	1		26												
UnID Juveniles		1			1						6				6		2					1		6		6		2, 5	2		2		12												
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS															
Troop	13,3	35				87	125	97		223		227			134	88	219	130	194	51	307	80	50			191	80		125	76	30	42,48													
Individuals	18,7	314			237	39	71	262	48	36	158	4	298		265	242	47	50	52	164	79	78	53	250	121	207	56	113	205	58	85	59,87													
Roost:	AM	13	1	12	12	1/2	1	2	7	14	15	2	2	2	2	1/8	1	1	13	8/12	1	16	1/17	1	13	15	14	1	17	1/8	18	1	11												
Roost:	PM	1	12	12	1/2		1	2	7	14	15	2	2	2	2	1/8	1	13	8/12	1	16	1/17	1	13	15	14	1	17	1/8	18	1	11	12												
Roost Sites		1	Disa Kloof											2	Leopard Kloof							3	Leopard Kloof Lower							4	Leopard Kloof Upper							5	Sunny Seas						
		6	Sunny Seas West											7	Sunny Seas East							8	Bass Lake							9	Bass Lake West							10	Bass Lake East						
		11	Jocks Bay											12	Zigzag							13	Church							14	Kleinmond Lookout							15	Kopje						
		16	Caltex											17	Waterfall							18	Unknown							19								20							
		21												22								23								24								25							
		26												27								28																							
ID Features of Baboons																																													
General remarks																																													

Figure 3.5: The Betty's Bay Troop incident sheet for May 2021.

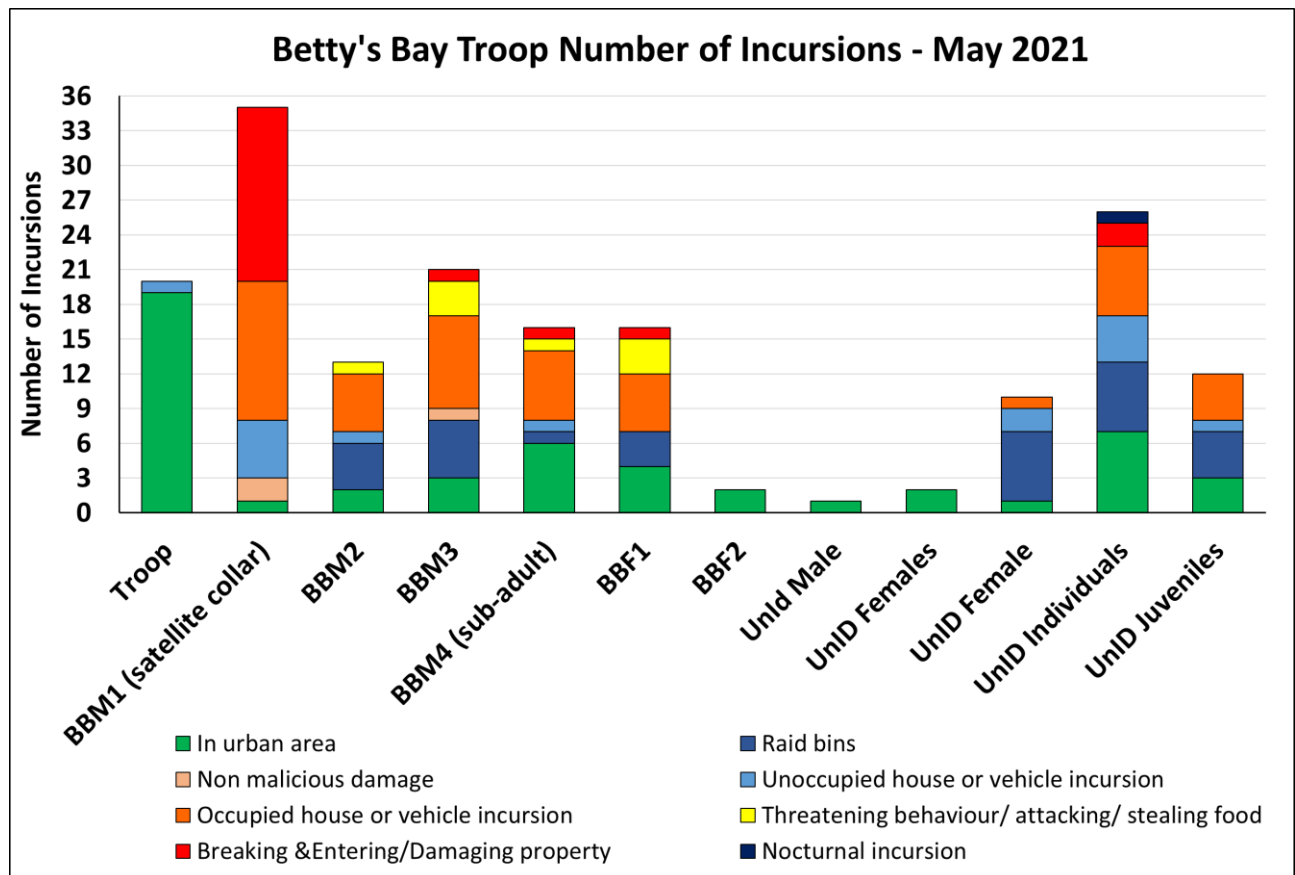
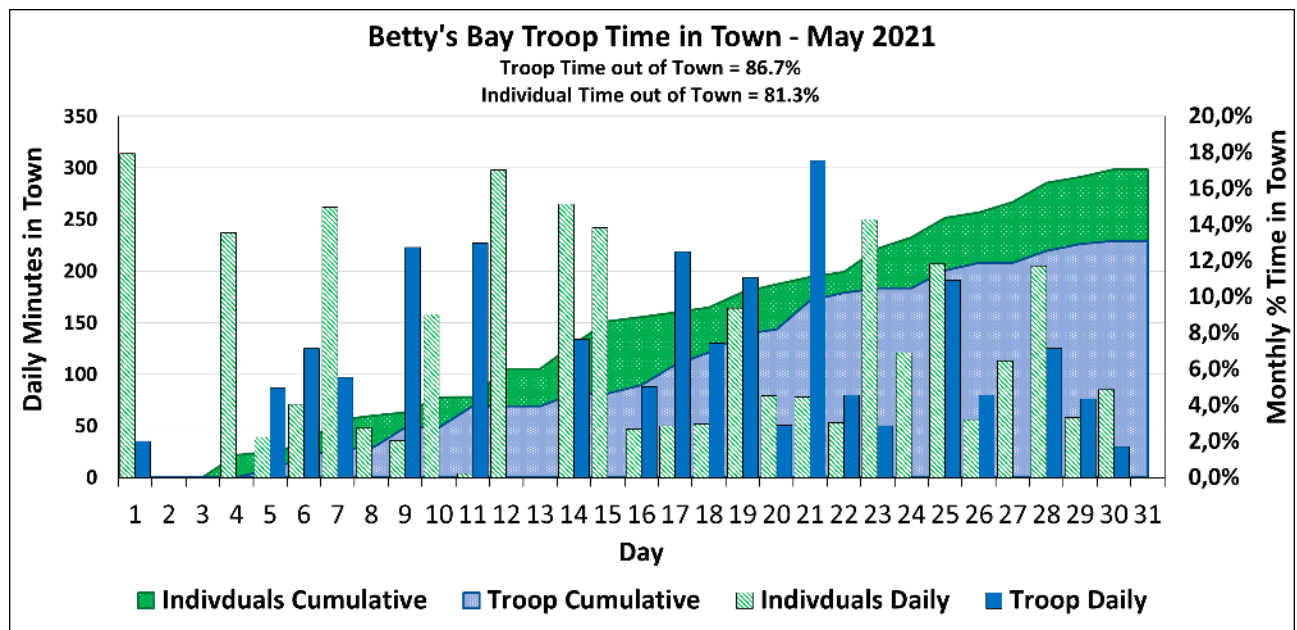


Figure 3.6: Incursions by the Betty's Bay Troop and individuals during May 2021.





**Figure 3.7:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Betty's Bay Troop during May 2021. Note: Percentage Time in town is recorded as a percentage of the average daylight hours (sunrise to sunset) for each month of the year.

## 4 GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS

### 4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

No births and one natural death, due to infanticide, were recorded in the managed troops this month and are summarised in the tables below. The population data of the four closely managed troops can be seen in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 below.

TROOP	OCTOBER	JUNE	MAY 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	1	0	4	3	+1
Vogelgat*	N/A	22	0	0	0	0	1	0.
Pringle Bay	16	16	0	0	0	5	4	+2
Betty's Bay**	N/A	19	0	0	0	0	0	0.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+3</b>

**Table 4.1:** Population data for the four closely managed troops in the Overstrand in April 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. \*\* Count of the Betty's Bay Troop completed in May 2021.

Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (July - May)	May 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	0
Natural	2	6	1	8
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</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

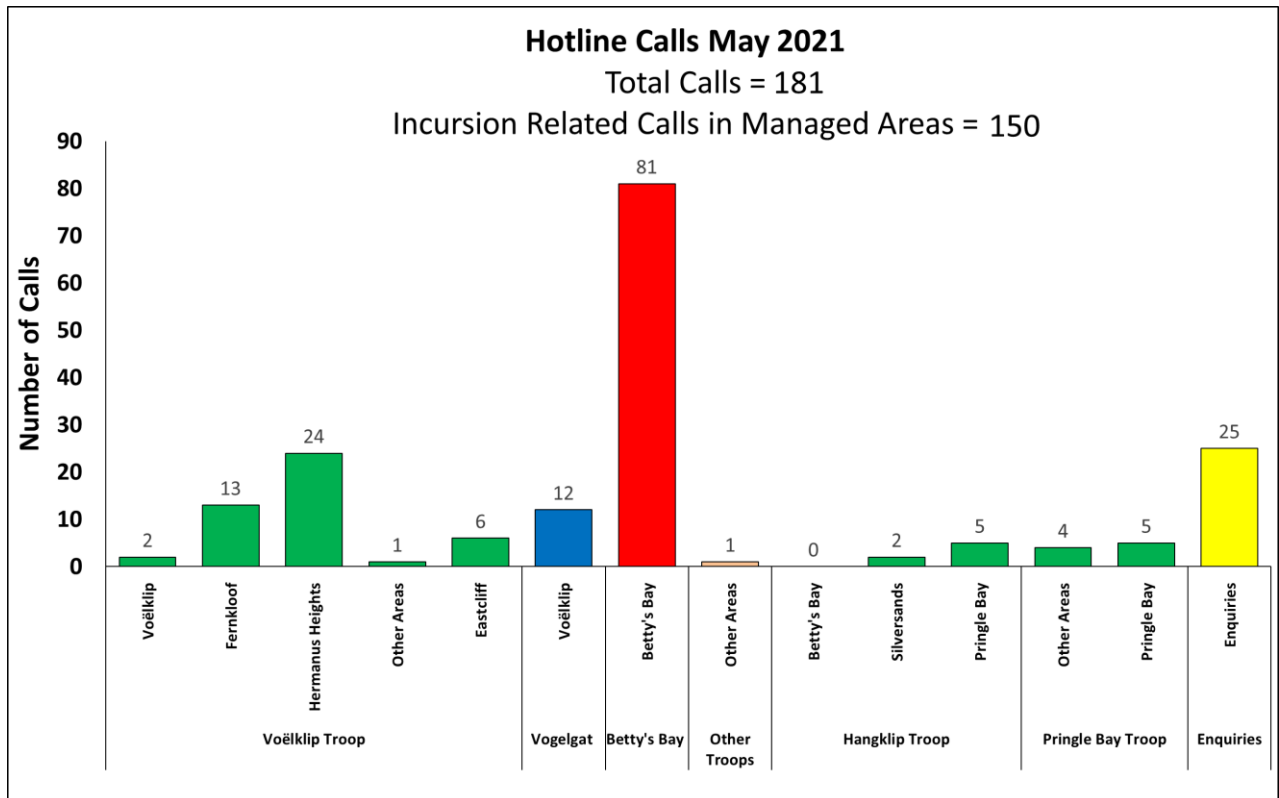
An increase in hotline calls received was again observed this month. A total of 181 calls were received of which 149 were incursion related in managed areas. A significant increase in calls from Betty's Bay was experienced during May reaching 81 calls, up from 34 in April. This can be attributed to management of the Betty's Bay Troop being for 20 days longer than in April when the management of this troop began.

Most of the incursion related calls this month were from the Betty's Bay area with 81 calls received. During previous months the majority of calls originated from the Voëlklip Suburb. This month, however, only 14 calls were received, with the majority being related to individuals from the Vogelgat troop entering town. This can be attributed to the Voëlklip Troop foraging further west and visiting the farms above Hermanus Heights this month, as well as the continued efficacy of the Virtual Fence in keeping the Vogelgat Troop out of the urban area.

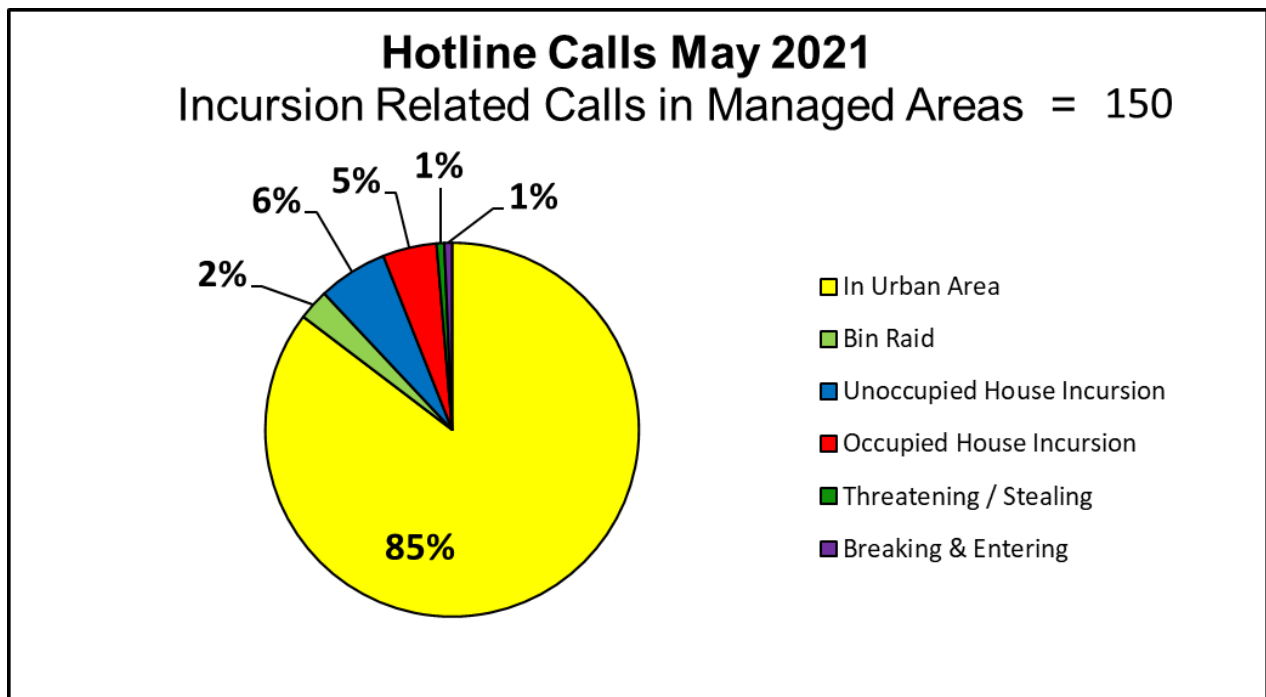
Significantly more hotline calls were received during May 2021 (181) compared to May 2020 (96). However, if one discounts the hotline calls made in response to the Betty's Bay Troop this year, the difference in calls year on year is insignificant.

This month 128 (85%) hotline calls were reporting baboons in the urban area. Twenty-two other incursion related calls were received. However, it is of great concern that 18 of these were related to assertive incursions such as house raids and damaging property. Most of these assertive incursions were related to the Betty's Bay Troop.

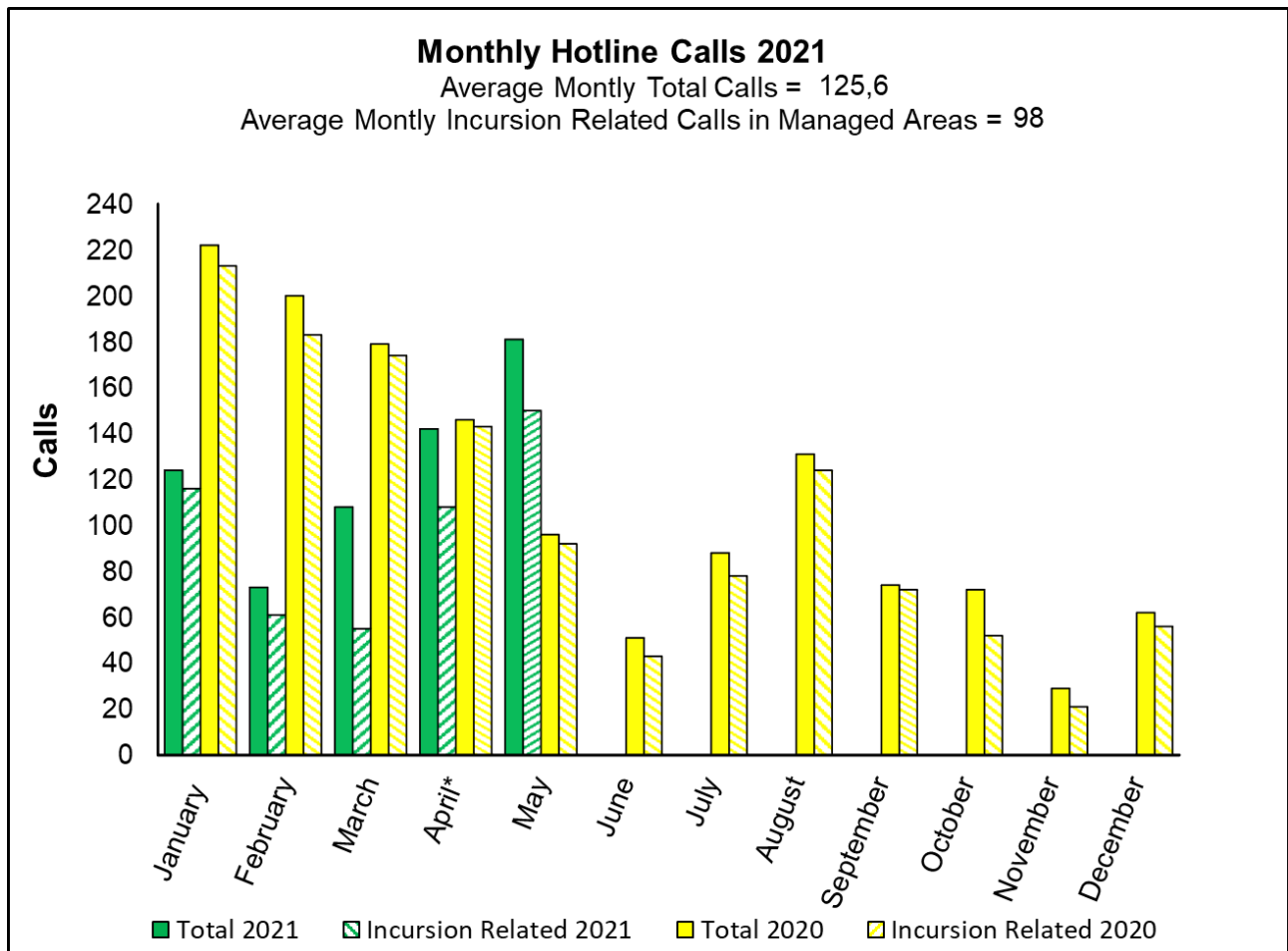
HWS would like to thank the public for making use of the hotline in notifying of baboons in the urban area. This allows field staff to respond more effectively and efficiently. HWS also encourages members of the public to still report incidents to the hotline even if the baboons have already moved through because it contributes to record keeping.



**Figure 4.1:** Hotline calls in baboon affected areas for May 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 4.2:** Composition of incursion-related hotline calls during May 2021. Note: This chart represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of known incursions by baboons.



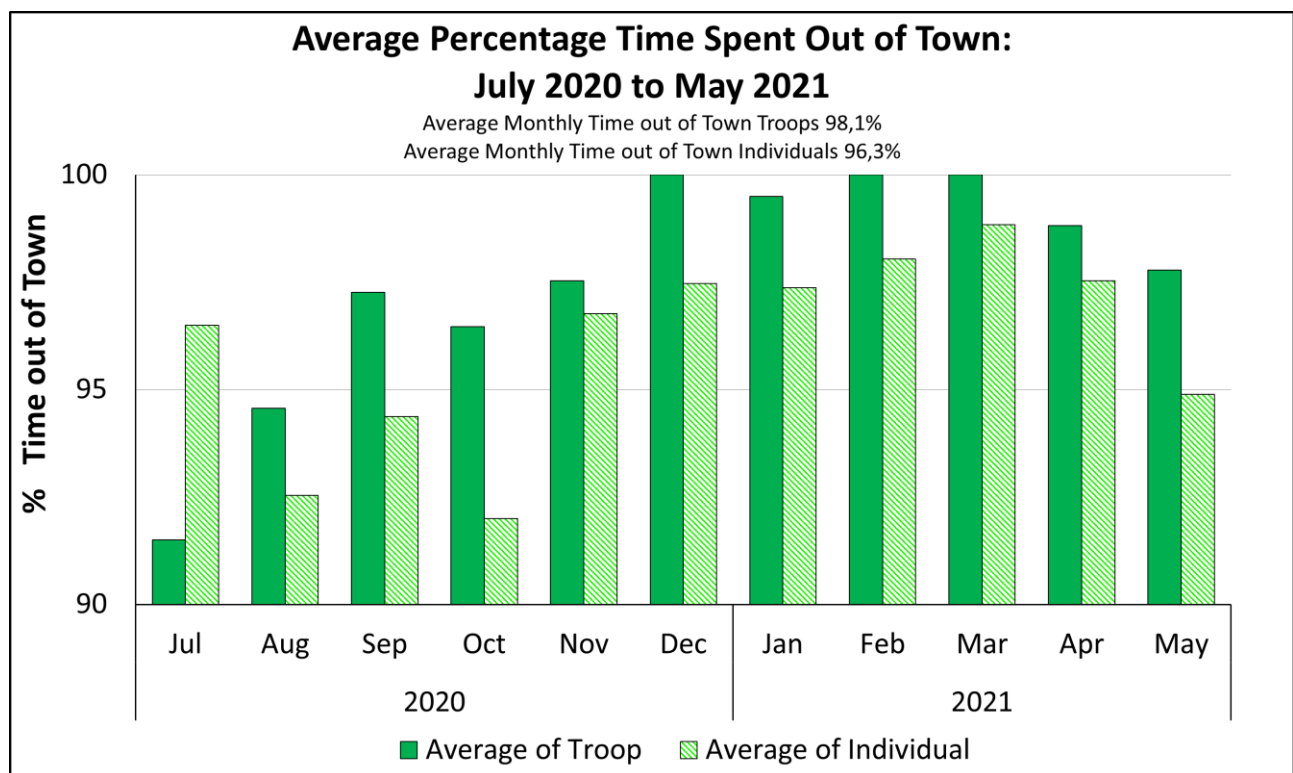
**Figure 4.3:** Total and Incursion Related Hotline calls in baboon affected areas for 2020 and 2021. Incursion related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which baboon troops are known to occur and are actively managed. \*Addition of Betty's Bay as a managed Troop.

### 4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During May 2021, the average time out of town of managed troops declined to 97.8%. The highly habituated Betty's Bay Troop was the only troop which did not achieve 100% Time out of Town this month. Average Time out of Town for Individuals within the troops also declined to 94.9%, down from 98.8% the previous month. Individual time in town is only counted if individuals or small groups of baboons enter the urban area alone.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN	TROOP (%)	INDIVIDUAL (%)
Voëlklip Troop	100.0	95.1
Vogelgat Troop	100.0	98.9
Onrus Troop	100.0	100.0
Hamilton Russel Troop	100.0	100.0
Pringle Bay Troop	100.0	94.0
Betty's Bay Troop	86.7	81.3
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	97.8	94.9

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



**Figure 4.4:** Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town to date during the current management year (July 2020 to June 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 and Betty's Bay.
- **Waste removal should start on the urban edge** close to a troop's natural range 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.
- Baboon-proof bins are required throughout the western region of the Overstrand. Betty's Bay should be regarded as a high priority because there are very few baboon proof bins in place.
- Residents are encouraged not to feed wildlife, including birds. This month, baboons have been observed eating seeds, cookie crumbs and bread intended for birds.
- Residents are encouraged to record and **report the feeding of wildlife** to the baboon hotline (072 028 0008).
- Residents should not make use of pellet guns or paintball markers to deter baboons from their properties. Residents are encouraged to contact the baboon hotline (072 028 0008) to request assistance.
- Residents are requested not to hinder HWS in their efforts to encourage baboons to move out of town. Statistics show that human-induced injuries and deaths increase when baboon's frequent urban areas.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

Strategic use of the Virtual Fence proved very successful for most of the troops in the Overstrand this month. The Vogelgat Troop was prevented from entering the urban space for the ninth consecutive month. The troop spent the majority of its time towards the eastern regions of its home range. Individual or small groups of baboons from the Vogelgat Troop were observed to cross the R43 and enter plots below the R43 on multiple occasions. These plots are outside of the urban space and HWS consequently does not actively

manage the baboons in this area. As some of these plots are however developed, we would like to encourage residents in this area to report sightings of baboons on their plots to the HWS Baboon Hotline.

The Pringle Bay Troop exclusively utilised the Buffelstal Nature Reserve this month. This troop has been out of town for six consecutive months since 1 December 2020. A young adult male, BRM2 joined the troop which resulted in high levels of conflict. PBM1 and PBF4 left the troop in the nature reserve and moved back to Pringle Bay to protect the infants. PBF3 (satellite GPS collar) requires constant management to prevent it from returning to Pringle Bay in search of HDFs.

The Hangklip Troop was successfully encouraged to move away from Pringle Bay this month. The baboon population and the total number of troops in the Hangklip area still need to be determined. Individual baboons have been recorded in Pringle Bay and Silversands, Betty's Bay on the same day. The progressive removal of invasive plants (primarily rooikrans) that currently provide the baboons with an artificial food source could, in the future, cause baboons to search for foraging opportunities in town. It is imperative that residents do not provision food for wildlife that will attract baboons to the urban area.

Baboons from the Betty's Bay Troop were present in town on 27 days out of 31 days this month. The troop (as a whole) was successfully prevented from entering town on twelve out of 31 days during the reporting period. Concerningly, the assertive raiding behaviour of the adult males has been observed in other members of the troop after only a short period of active management. Various factors such as excessive habituation, exotic fruiting trees, easy to access HDF's, the provisioning of food for wildlife, steep topography and the regular presence of small sub-groups continued to pose major challenges for the management of the Betty's Bay Troop.

## **HWS Holdings CC**