



Photo: © Human Wildlife Solutions

# **Human Wildlife Solutions**

## **Overstrand**

### **Monthly Report**

### **September 2021**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 30 September 2021.

A shift in home range use was noted as the Voëlklip Troop moved east and more frequently used the part of their home range and sleepsites above the Voëlklip suburb in September. On multiple occasions in September the troop split and slept separately, but usually re-joined the following day.

The Vogelgat Troop has not entered the urban space for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive month. The virtual fence has successfully deterred the troop from entering the urban area since September 2020. Although no baboons from the Vogelgat Troop entered the urban space this month, individuals continue to enter properties along the R43.

The Onrus Troop was observed on two occasions in September, while the Hamilton Russell Troop was not observed on a single occasion.

The Pringle Bay Troop entered town once this month on 30 September, the first time since 11 August 2021. The troop spent most of its time in the Buffelstal Nature Reserve. Like last month PBM2, PBF1, PBF3 and PBF4 continued to leave the troop in the nature reserve to spend time in town. The individual baboons found human-derived food's (HDFs) easily which served as a constant attraction to town. PBM2 showed little interest in the troop and continued to spend time in town by himself, recording 12 occupied house incursions.

The Hangklip Troop did not enter town this month, however individual baboons were recorded in Pringle Bay on 4 and 25 September, respectively. The individual baboons comprised mainly adult males that entered town to search for HDFs which are easy to find in the CBD, especially outside of Ticklemouse where birds are provisioned with food daily. The Silversands Troop did not enter the urban space this month, however, several incursions were recorded for individual males.

The number of baboon incursions recorded for the Betty's Bay Troop decreased further this month, going down from 117 in August to 99 in September. The Betty's Bay Troop, including individual baboons, was completely excluded from the urban area for ten days this month. This was mainly due to the implementation of the virtual fence in Kleinmond. Notably, BBM1 was humanely euthanised on 18 September. Following the euthanasia, no more physical house break-ins were recorded or reported for the Betty's Bay Troop.

## **2 OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS**

### **2.1 VOËLKLIP TROOP**

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

- Time out of town for the troop remained at 100% in September.
- Time out of town for individuals decreased from 95.8% in August to 91.4% in September. Although this is a significant decrease from August, it is important to note that the number of house incursions and bin raids remained low. HWS rangers do not have access to many of the properties in the various suburbs that the Voëlklip Troop enters. A lack of access to properties, high walls surrounding the properties as well as high and inaccessible roofs mean that rangers cannot encourage the baboons to leave the urban space when baboons are hiding in areas inaccessible to the rangers. Thus, baboons may spend long periods in the urban area (sitting on a roof for example) before leaving.

#### **2.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

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

- No house incursions or bin raids were reported this month.

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

- A single occupied house incursion was reported on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.
- A single bin raid was reported on 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

##### **2.1.2.3 GENERAL**

- Over the last few months, HWS had received hotline calls from farms in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley reporting that baboons had been accessing the farms and some of the farm buildings. Due to the location of these reports, it was thought that the baboons may have been from the Voëlklip Troop, although it could also be baboons from another troop. Since the beginning of September HWS rangers have attempted to limit access of the Voëlklip Troop to these farms in an attempt to keep the baboons foraging in natural vegetation.

- On 08 September after multiple paragliders appeared above Hermanus Heights, the Voëlkliip Troop ran in a north-easterly direction towards the farms and were lost. The troop was not seen for the rest of the day and were only found the following morning around Kanonkop.
- On 10 September the troop split in the afternoon and slept separately. The troop rejoined the next morning near Droëkloof.
- On 17 September VGM1 was seen approaching VKF5 (who was in oestrous) and attempted to mate. VGM1 was however chased off by UNKM1. Throughout the course of the day, both VGM1 and UNKM1 were seen following VKF5 around.
- During the late morning of 21 September, a conflict was observed between UNKM1 and VGM1. Contact between the two males was reported, but no injuries were observed. Later that day UNKM1 was seen mating with VKF5.
- On 21 September the troop split during the day and slept separately. The troop did not rejoin on 22 September and were possibly split between three locations on the evening of 22 September, although only two were confirmed. The troop rejoined on 23 September and slept together that night.
- On the morning of 28 September, the troop was found split between two nearby sleepsites. The troop rejoined early in the morning.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																					
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																			
OVERSTRAND																																					
BABOON TROOP: VOËLKLIIP		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	TOTAL					
MONTH: September	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	29	30	TOTAL					
Troop																																0					
VGM1 BLUE TAG	M																					1	1					1			1	4					
UNKM1	M											1								1										1		6					
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F																				1										1	1					
VKF5 RED TAG	F											1			6								1	1							1	7					
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																										1	1			1	3					
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F																									1	1			2	1	4					
UnID Male	M																															0					
UnID Males	M																															0					
UnID Females	F																			1			1								1,1	5					
UnID Female	F																					1	1					1			1	4					
UnID Individuals																																0					
UnID Juvs																							1								1	4					
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS							
Troop	0,0																															0,00					
Individuals	8,6											85						92					175									30,85					
Roost:	AM	2	2	4	4	18	18	18	18	?	6	?	6,15	5	2	6,9	14	17	?	12	8	13	?	27,13	9	5	8	17	17,15	17	14						
Roost:	PM	2	4	4	18	18	18	18	?	6	6	9,15	5	2	6	15	17	14	12	8	13	13,27	27,13	9	5	8	17	17	17	14	9						
Roost Sites		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	TOTAL					
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				BOSKO																			
ID Features of Baboons																																					
General remarks																																					

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

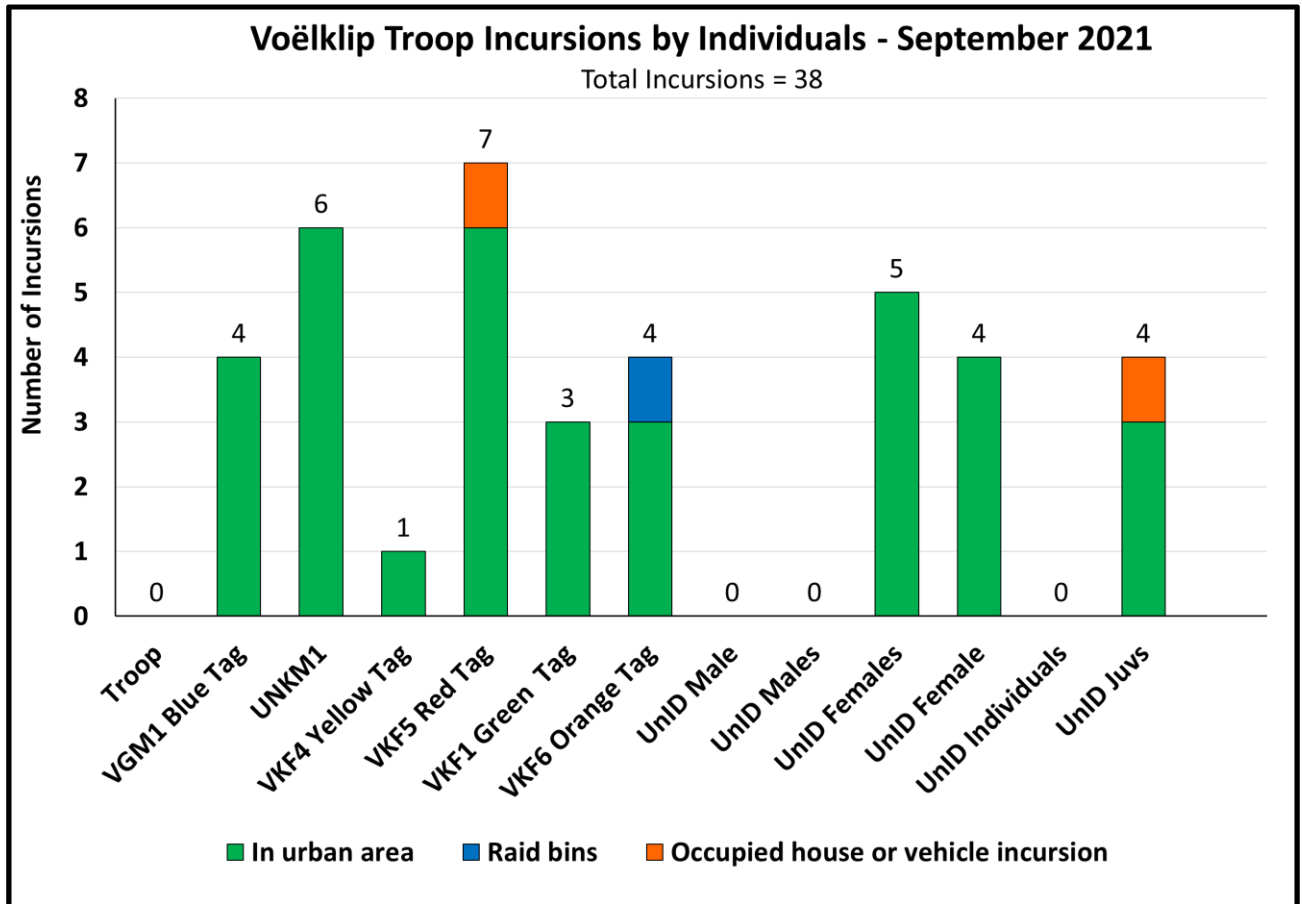


Figure 2.2: Number of incursions by the Voëlkliip Troop and individuals during September 2021.

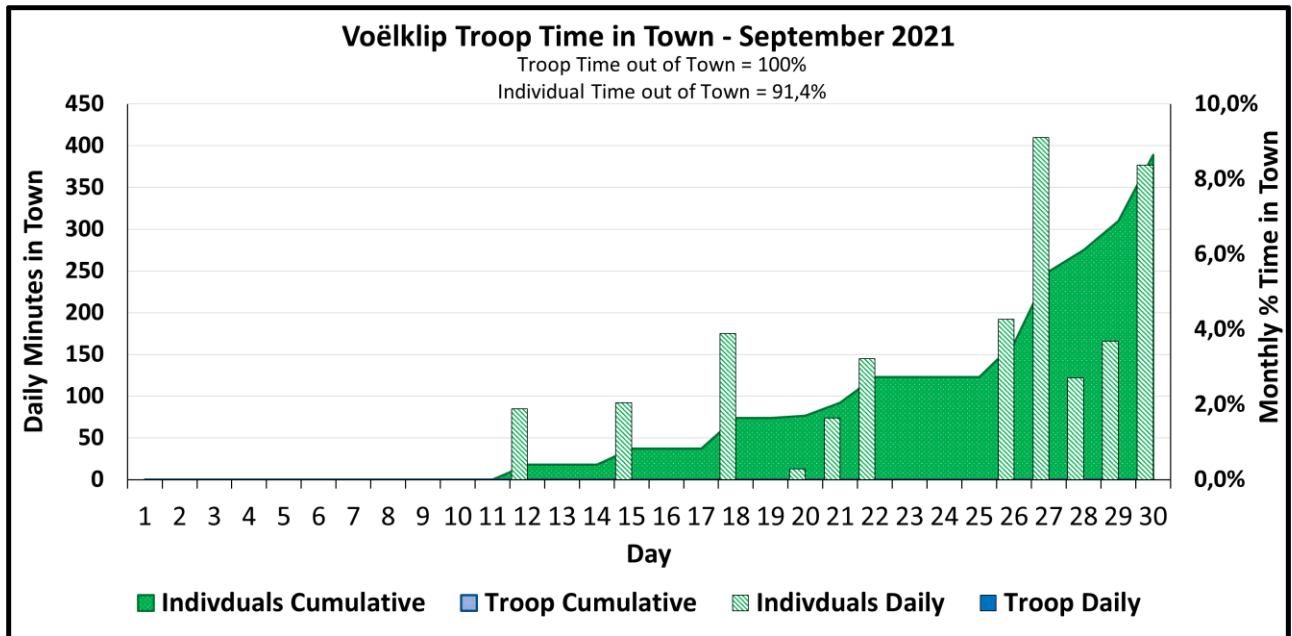


Figure 2.3: Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Voëlkliip Troop during September 2021. Note: Average daylight hours for September was 11 hours and 53minutes.

## **2.2 VOGELGAT TROOP**

### **2.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- Time out of town for the troop remained at 100% for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive month.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 98.3% in August to 100% in September.

### **2.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

- The Vogelgat Troop did not approach the urban space in September. Consequently, no urban bin raids or house incursions were reported in September.
- No backpacks were stolen along the R43 in September and a single attempted bin raid along the R43 was recorded. The bin was locked and the baboon was unable to access the bin. The baboon was steered away from the bin by HWS staff.
- The presence of baboons on properties along the R43 was reported to the HWS hotline on multiple occasions in September. Baboons from the Vogelgat Troop were observed to cross the R43 and enter properties along the R43.
- An unknown troop was observed on two occasions in September. On one of these occasions, a hotline call informed HWS staff of the presence of a baboon on a property along the R43. When HWS staff arrived, an unknown troop was found near the boundary of the property. The reported individual that entered the property likely belongs to the troop that occupies the territory to the east of the Vogelgat Troop's territory.
- A female was seen carrying a dead infant on 07 September. The condition of the infant indicated that it had probably died a few days earlier. The cause of death is unknown, but because VGM2 (an adult male) had died a few weeks earlier, infanticide is suspected.

### **2.2.3 VIRTUAL FENCE**

- The Virtual Fence was not activated in September.

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	29	30	TOTAL					
BABOON TROOP: VOGELGAT		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food	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																		
MONTH: September		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	29	30	TOTAL					
Troop																																0					
VGf1	F																														0						
UniD Male	M																														0						
UniD Males	M																														0						
UniD Females	F																														0						
UniD Female	F																														0						
UniD Individuals																															0						
UniD Juvs																															0						
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS							
Troop	0,0																														0,00						
Individuals	0,0																														0,00						
Roost:	AM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	15	?	19	15	?	15	?	?	?	19	?	?	?	?	?	?	15	20	19	?	?	?						
Roost:	PM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	15	?	15	?	?	?	?	?	19	?	?	?	?	?	?	1	15	20	19	15	?	?	1					
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					19	Stillwaters					20	Maanskynbaai SS											
	ID Features of Baboons																																				
General remarks																																					
Please note that the numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																																					

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

### 2.3 ONRUS TROOP

- The Onrus Troop was observed on two occasions in September, once on 15 September and once on 19 September. On 15 September the troop was found in the open area to the east of Berghof Estates and on 19 September it was found in the open area to the west of Berghof Estates. On both occasions, the troop was pushed up towards the mountain. No incursions or raids were reported.

#### 2.3.1 VIRTUAL FENCE

- The Virtual Fence was not activated in Onrus this month.

### 2.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- The Hamilton Russell Troop was not observed on a single occasion in September.

### 2.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- A female from the Vogelgat Troop was seen carrying a dead infant on 07 September 2021.



### 3 OVERSTRAND WEST TROOPS

#### 3.1 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

##### 3.1.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 98.5% of its time out of town in September in comparison to last month’s 91.2%.
- Individual baboons spent 76% of their time out of town this month in comparison to 81% in August.

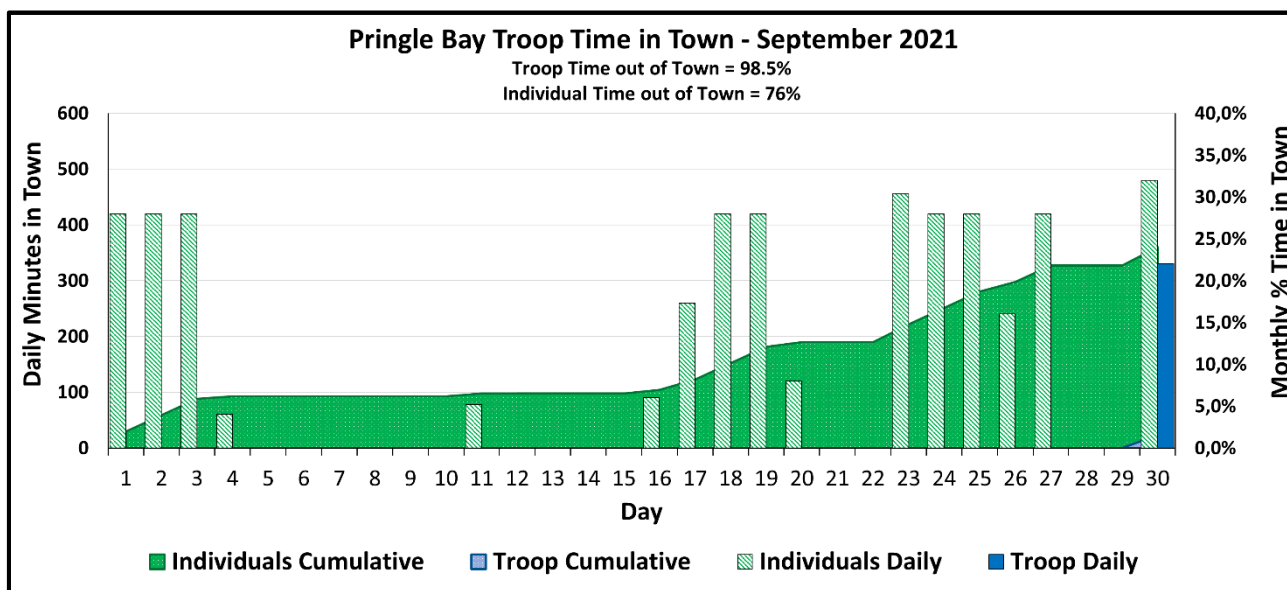


Figure 3.1: Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Pringle Bay Troop during September 2021.

##### 3.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- The troop as a whole entered town once in September in comparison to seven times last month.
- Sub-groups or individual baboons were recorded in town on 16 days this month in comparison to 15 days last month.
- One incursion was recorded for the troop and 66 incursions were recorded for individuals.
- Twenty incursions can be attributed to PBM2. The sub-adult male baboon raided two unsecured bins and entered 12 occupied houses in Pringle Bay. PBM2 was observed attempting to open doors and windows of houses.

- Only one urban incursion was recorded for PBM2 from December 2020 to 10 June 2021. From 11 June to 15 June 2021, PBM2 spent five consecutive days alone in Pringle Bay. During this time PBM2 showed little interest in returning to the troop. Consequently, the dispersal/displaced male baboon protocol was triggered, and PBM2 was cage captured in Pringle Bay on 15 June 2021. PBM2 was relocated to the troop in the Buffelstal Nature Reserve.
- From 30 August to 2 September 2021, PBM2 spent another four consecutive days alone in Pringle Bay and during this time showed little interest in returning to the troop. As a result, relocation was attempted a second time. The attempted cage capture proved unsuccessful but fortunately, PBM2 returned to the troop by his own volition on 4 September. PBM2's behaviour may indicate that he is dispersing or has been displaced. It is also plausible that PBM2 leaves the troop for extended periods to obtain human-derived food. PBM2 was been recorded spending long periods in the Pringle Bay central business district where high-calorie food was abundant and easily obtainable.
- PBF1, PBF3, and PBF4 recorded nine, ten, and eight incursions, respectively. It is noteworthy that since June 2021, these individual baboons regularly formed sub-groups, often with their juveniles, in order to visit Pringle Bay for human-derived foods (HDF's).
- The whole of the Pringle Bay Troop was prevented from entering town from December 2020 to 21 May 2021. Since 22 May individual baboons have entered town sporadically. During their initial forays to town, they were frequently observed eating HDFs. Unfortunately, some of these individual baboons seem to have reverted back to their old behaviour of raiding for HDFs. The individual baboons that most frequently searched for HDF's in town were PBM2, PBF1, PBF3, and PBF4.
- The main baboon attractants in Pringle Bay were birdseed, compost heaps, unsecured bins, open windows, and doors. These food sources continue to attract individual baboons to Pringle Bay to search of HDFs.
- On 30 September 2021, the whole of the Pringle Bay Troop entered the urban area at approximately 10h49. It was noted that although the whole troop appeared to be in town, PBF3's GPS radio collar was not reporting any data points in town and the last data points for PBF3 were recorded for the Rooiels River valley the day before. A search for PBF3 indicated that she was not in Pringle Bay and had not been seen all day.
- On 2 October an HWS field manager drove through the Kogelberg Reserve along the roads to a site near the last location recorded for PBF3. He then walked down the slopes of the valley trying to find the carcass of PBF3. He was unfortunately not able to find it.

- On 4 October two managers walked up the Rooiels Valley from Rooiels, again to look for PBF3 or her collar. Both were found under the shelter of a large rocky outcrop about 20m above the river and about 15m above the last location given for the collar. Only the head and a few half-consumed bones remained from PBF3. The collar was found about 2m from the head. No internal organs or remains were found. PBF3 had very clearly been consumed by a large carnivore, so it is assumed that she must have been killed and consumed by a leopard. Leopards are the only large carnivores that live in the Kogelberg.
- The condition of PBF3's dentition (Fig 3.2) was poor and an inspection revealed that PBF3 was missing several teeth. Three out of four upper incisors were absent and the present one was broken. PBF3's upper left canine was also broken and her upper right canine was absent. The hind molars appeared fine for mastication, however, the broken teeth likely caused an element of pain during foraging. The poor condition of PBF3's dentition suggests that her foraging and chewing efficacy would have been reduced. Between May 2021 to September 2021, PBF3 actively entered town to search for human-derived foodstuffs (HDFs). During this period, thirty-nine urban and non-urban incursions were recorded for PBF3, seventeen of which were occupied house raids. It is plausible that PBF3's extensive and assertive raiding behaviour was related to poor dentition and exacerbated by being winter. The onset of winter is always a period of relative hardship for most herbivores because of decreased day length and foraging time and increased energy demands because of the cold and long nights. Quality of forage is also generally lower during winter because plants are obviously also affected by the lower temperatures by decreased daylight hours for photosynthesis.



**Figure 3.2:** Condition of PBF3's dentition. Note missing and worn teeth.

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	29	30	TOTAL
PRINGLE BAY		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	TOTAL
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	29	30	TOTAL
BABOON TROOP:																																
MONTH: September																																
Troop																																
BRM1																																
PBM2																																
BRM2																																
PBF1																																
PBF3																																
PBF4																																
PBF5																																
UnID Females																																
UnID Female																																
UnID Individuals																																
UnID Juveniles																																
%																																
Troop																																
Individuals																																
Roost:																																
Roost:																																
Roost Sites																																
ID Features of Baboons																																
General remarks																																

Figure 3.3: The Pringle Bay Troop incident sheet for September 2021.

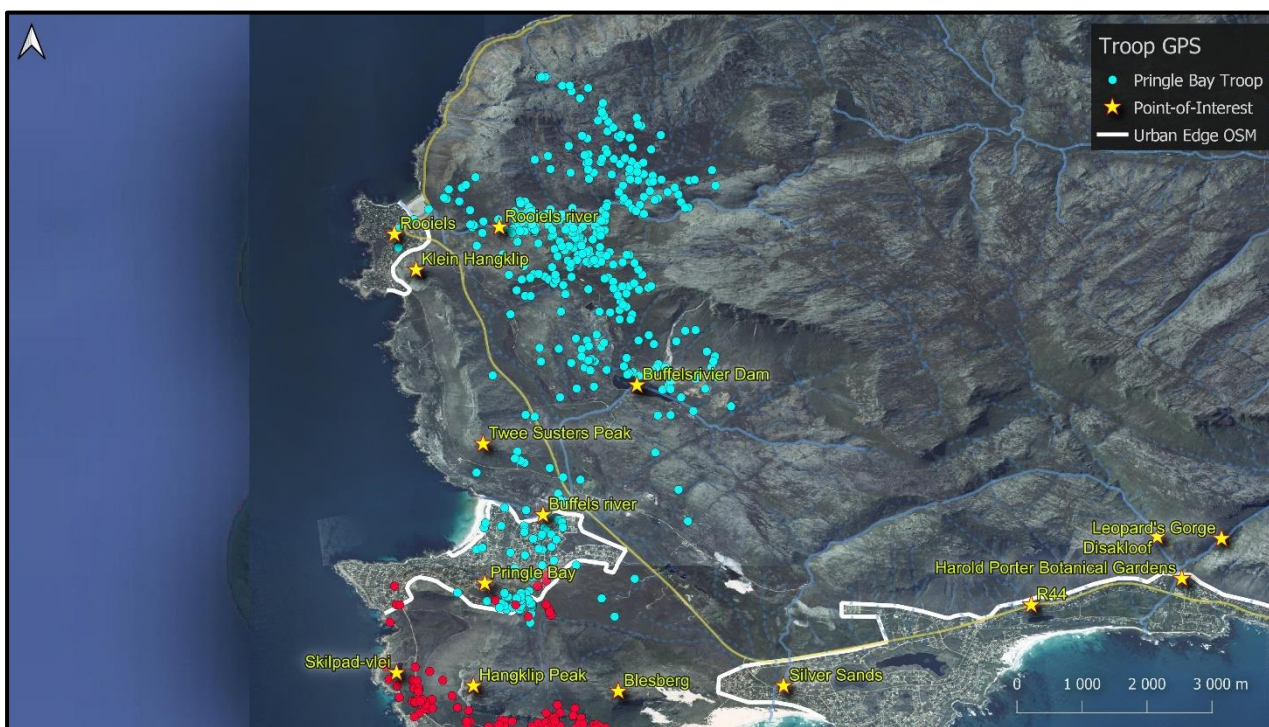


Figure 3.4: GPS locations of PBF3 in the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar during September 2021.

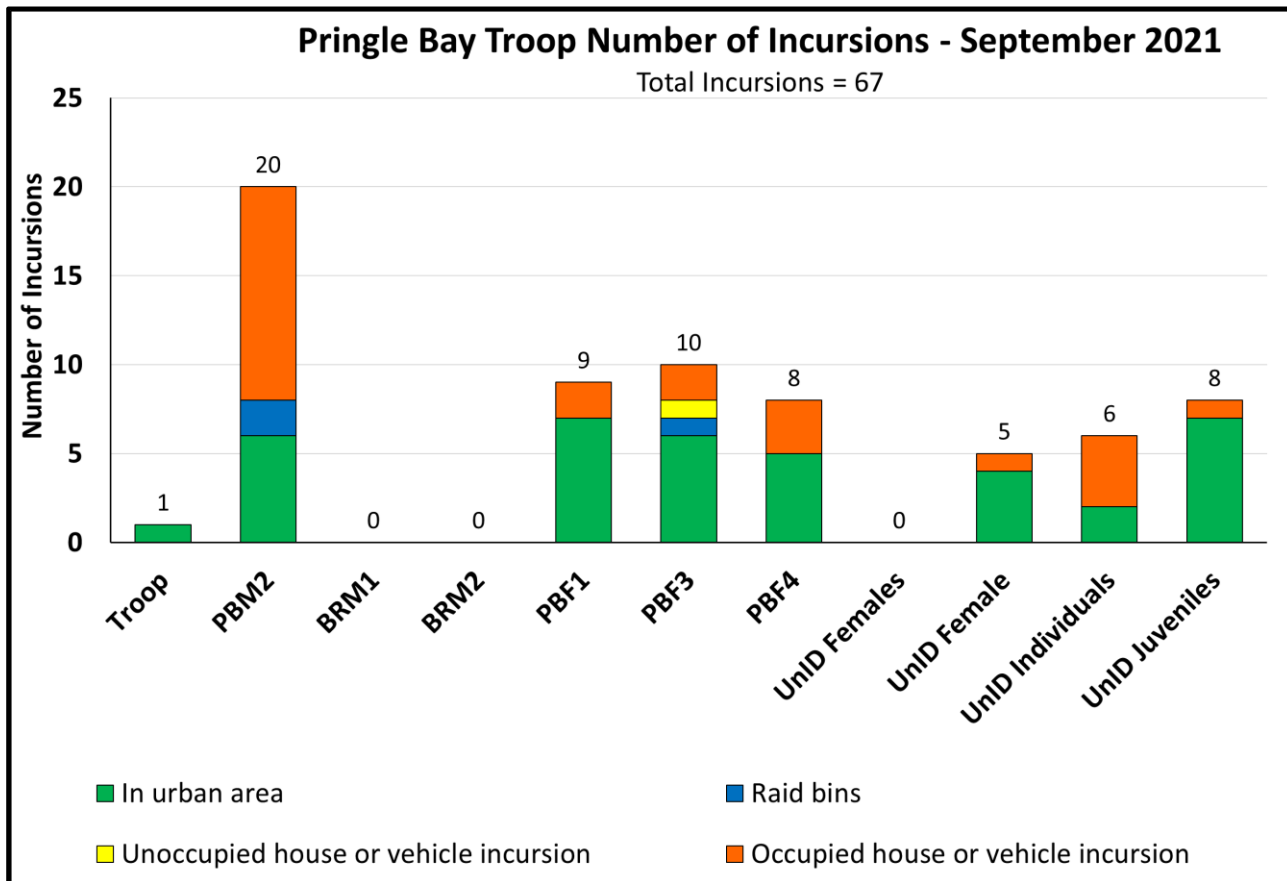


Figure 3.5: Number of incursions by the Pringle Bay Troop and individuals during September 2021.

### 3.2 HANGKLIP TROOP

#### 3.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- No time in town was recorded for the Hangklip Troop in September.
- Time out of town for individuals was 98.1%.

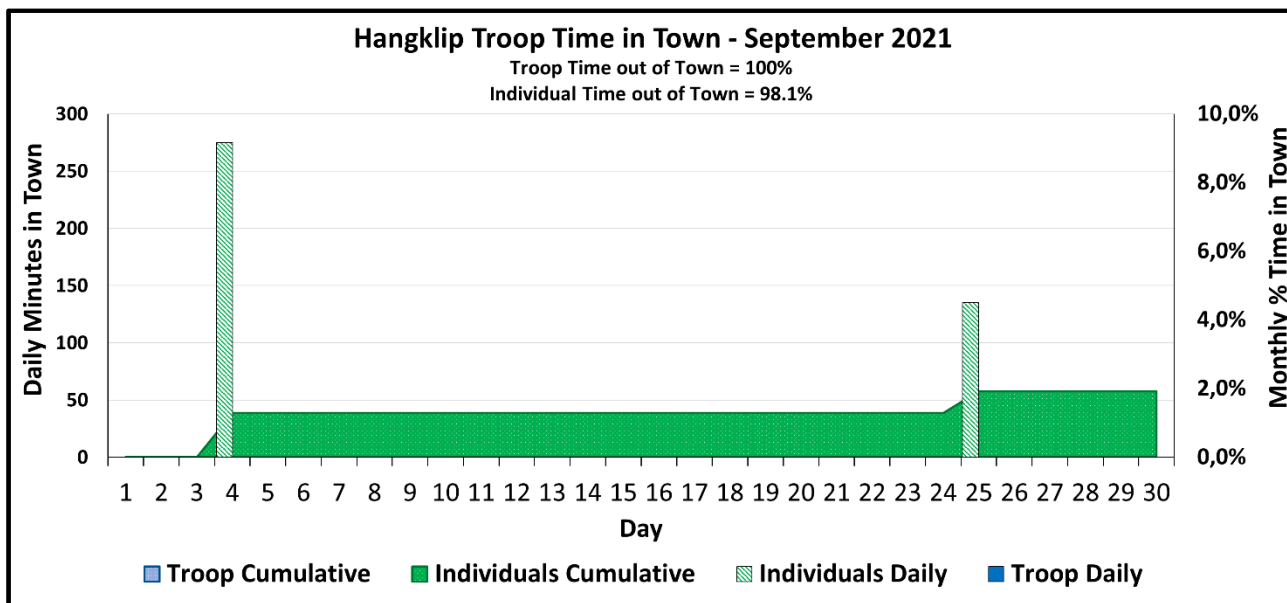


Figure 3.6: Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Hangklip Troop during September 2021.

### 3.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Individual baboons from the Hangklip Troop were recorded in the Pringle Bay on 4 September and 25 September.
- On 4 September, an unidentified male baboon from the Hangklip Troop took a sandwich from a food stand in the Pringle Bay central business district (CBD).
- There are numerous attractions to baboons in the CBD such as birdseed, cookie crumbs, unsecure bins, and open shops.
- On 6 September the Hangklip Troop and the Silversands Troop were seen at the Sea Farm Gate. Aggressive interactions were observed between adult male baboons. Following the interactions, both troops moved to the coastline and headed in opposite directions.
- On 28 September the Hangklip Troop moved north from their sleep site at Hangklip towards Pringle Bay. The virtual fence was activated which caused the troop to move back south to the coastline at Maasbaai.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																	
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																										
HANGKLIP		2	Raid bins	5	Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																										
MONTH: September		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	TOTAL	
Troop																																	
HKM1	M																																
HKM2	M																																
HKM3 (satellite GPS Collar)	M				1																										1		
UnID Males	M				1, 1, 7																					1					4		
UnID Male	M																																
UnID Females	F																																
UnID Female	F																																
UnID Individuals																										1					1		
UnID Juveniles																																	
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS			
Troop	%	0,0																													0,00		
Individuals		1,9				275																				135					6,83		
Roost:	AM	1	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	5	5	3	1	3	3	3	4	5	3	3	3		
Roost:	PM	1	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	5	5	3	1	3	3	3	4	5	3	3	3		
Roost Sites	1	Sea Farm Gate											2	Brodie Link South							3	Hangklip			4	Hotel Bluegums					5	Maasbaai	
	6												7								8				9						10		
	11												12								13				14						15		
	16												17								18				19						20		
	21												22								23				24						25		
	26												27								28												
	26												27								28												
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks		Please note that numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																															

Figure 3.7: The Hangklip Troop incident sheet for September 2021.

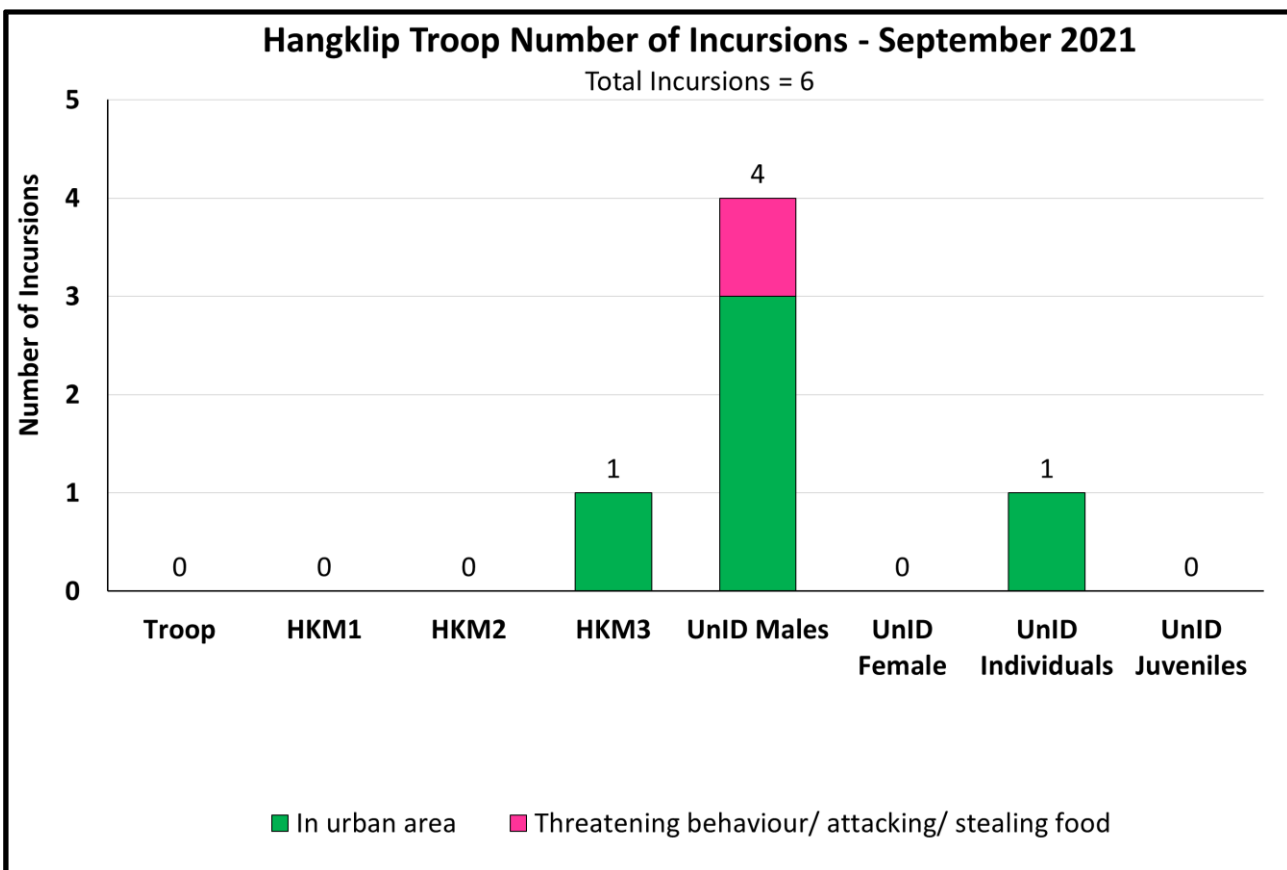
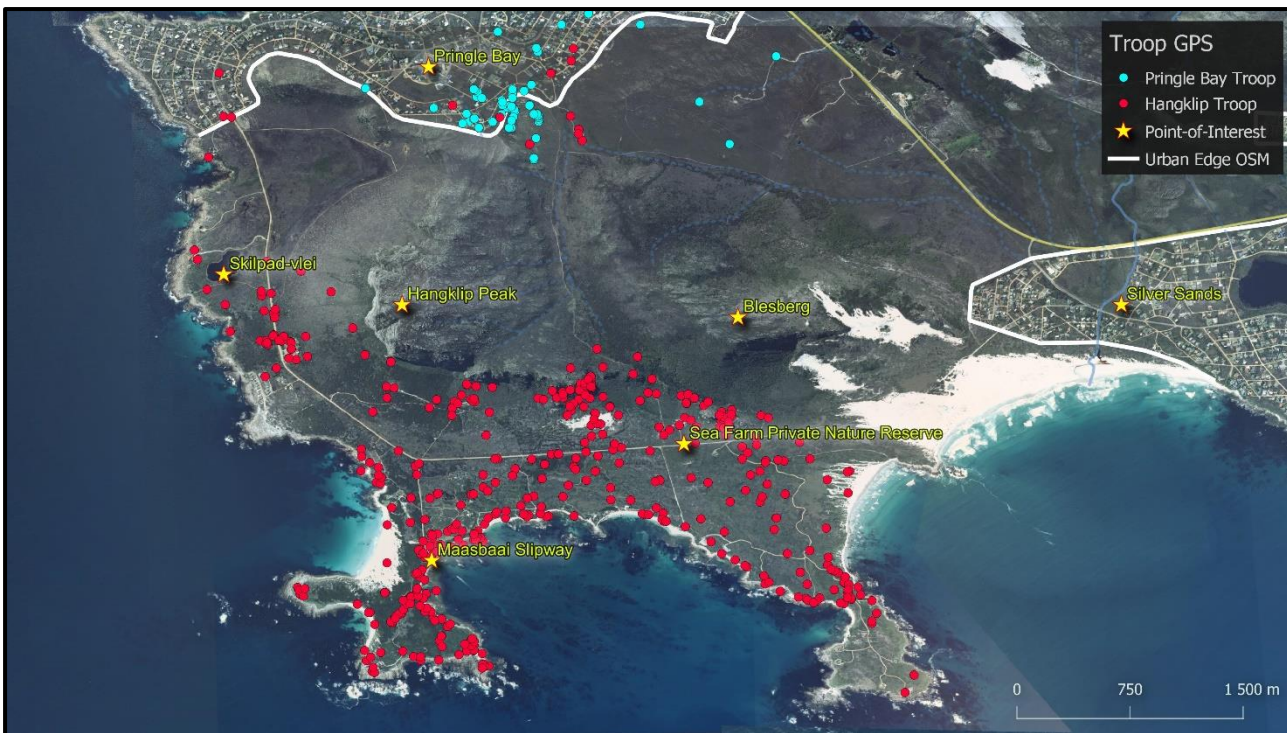


Figure 3.8: Number of incursions by the Hangklip Troop and individuals during September 2021.

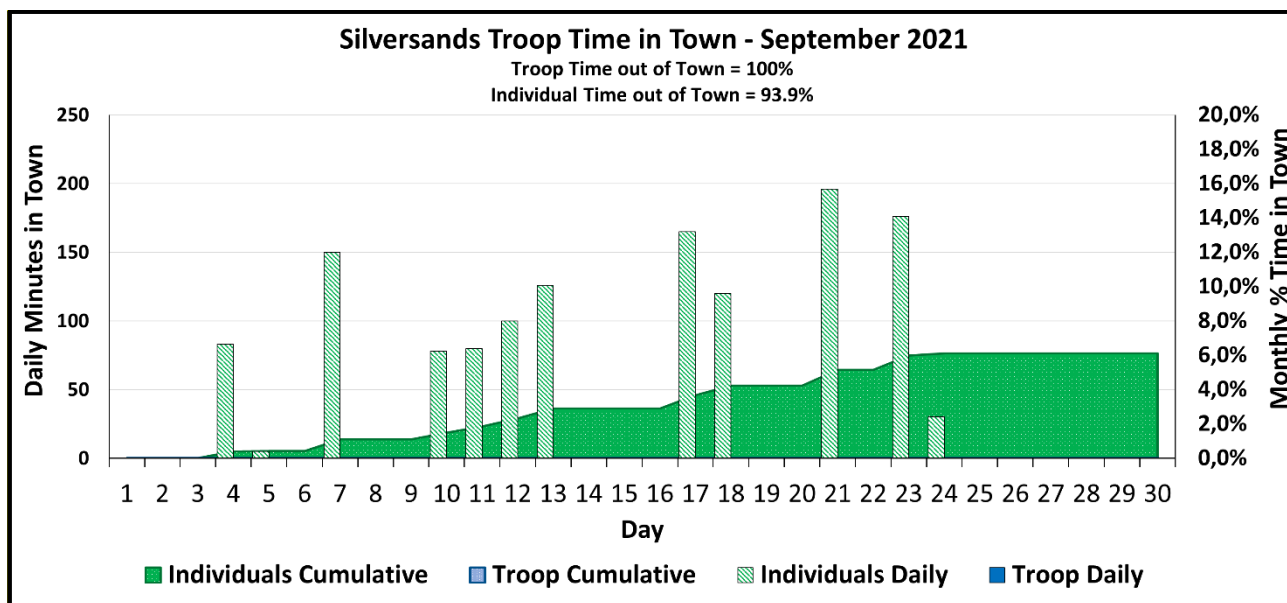


**Figure 3.9:** GPS locations of HKM3 in the Hangklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar during September 2021.

### 3.3 SILVERSANDS TROOP

#### 3.3.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of town for the troop increased from 99.8% in August to 100% this month.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 84.5% last month to 93.9% this month.



**Figure 3.10:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Silversands Troop during September 2021.



### 3.3.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- The troop as a whole did not enter town this month.
- Sub-groups of baboons or individual baboons entered town on 12 days this month in comparison to 27 days last month. Adult male baboons were responsible for most of the incursions.
- Baboons were observed visiting the same houses on Senecio Close again this month. This behaviour supports reports by residents that baboons have been fed regularly in Silversands. Feeding wildlife is illegal, this includes the provisioning of birdseed which indirectly attracts baboons. The physical addresses of known feeders have been provided to the Overstrand Municipality.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																								
SECTOR			CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																					
OVERSTRAND			1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																																																
BABOON TROOP: Silversands			2	Raid bins	5	Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																																
MONTH: September			3	Non malicious damage	6	Occupied house or vehicle incursion	9	Nocturnal incursion																																																
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	29	30	TOTAL																								
Troop																																																								
SSM1 (short tail)	M				1					1		1	1					1							1						6																									
SSM2	M							1		1								1													5																									
UnID Males	M				1,1			1		1		1	1	1				1				1		1,1							10																									
UnID Male	M																																																							
UnID Male	M																																																							
UnID Male	M																																																							
UnID Females	F																																																							
UnID Female	F																																																							
UnID Individuals																																																								
UnID Juveniles																																																								
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																											HRS																											
Troop	%																															0,0																								
Individuals		6,1			83	5		150			78	80	100	126				165	120			196		176	30						21,82																									
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																									
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																									
Roost Sites		1	Unknown										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																																
ID Features of Baboons																																																								
General remarks		Please note that numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																																																						

Figure 3.11: The Silversands Troop incident sheet for September 2021.

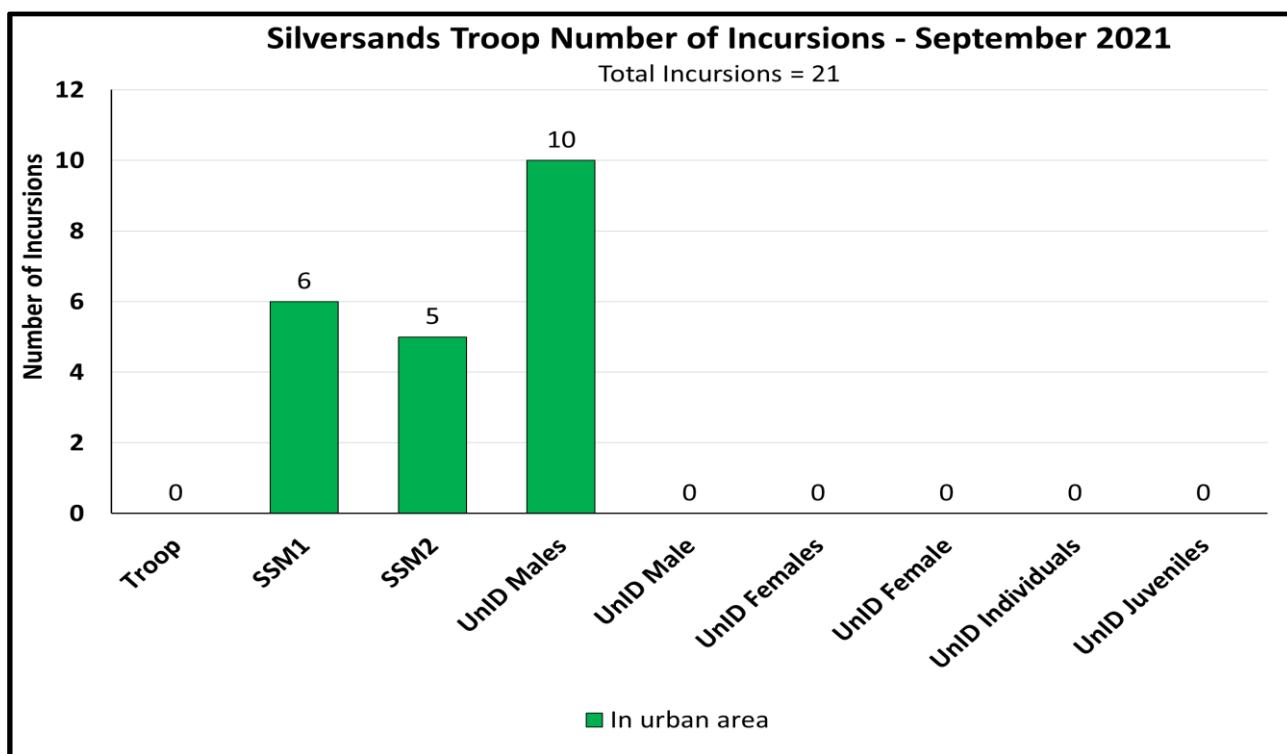


Figure 3.12: Number of incursions by the Silversands Troop and individuals during September 2021.

### 3.4 BETTY’S BAY TROOP

#### 3.4.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Betty’s Bay Troop spent 95.1% time out of town during September.
- Individual baboons spent 89.7% time out of town.

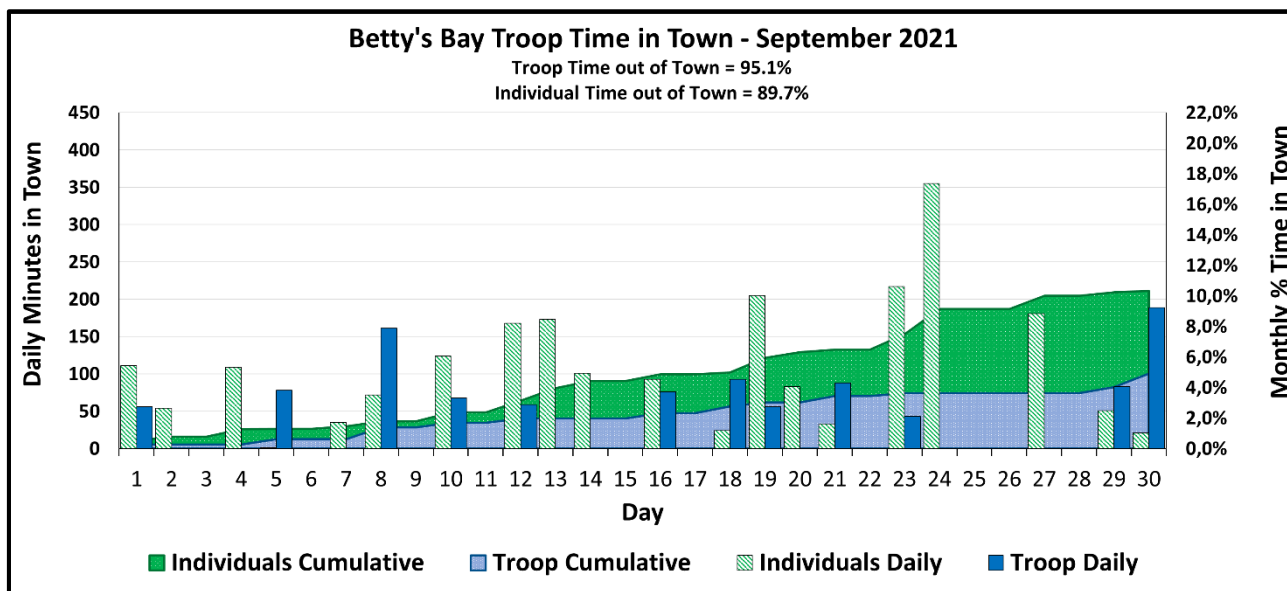


Figure 3.13: Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Betty’s Bay Troop during September 2021.

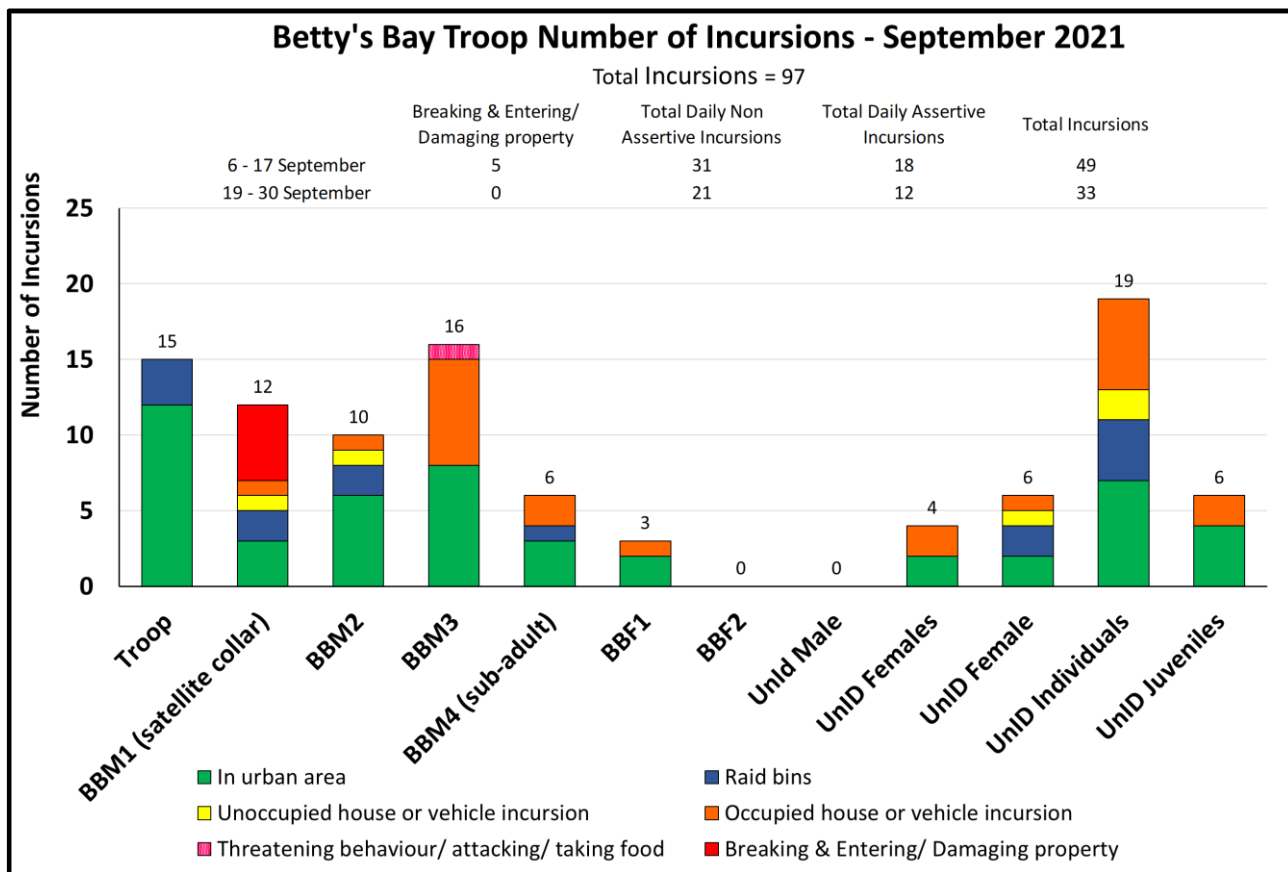
#### 3.4.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Baboons were recorded completely out of town for ten days this month.
- BBM1 raided two unsecured bins, one unoccupied house, one occupied house and physically broke into five houses.
- On 18 September, on instruction by The Overstrand Municipality, BBM1 was cage captured in Kleinmond and humanely euthanised in accordance with the CapeNature damage-causing baboon management guidelines.
- The main management challenge experienced in Kleinmond was the presence and abundance of fruiting guava, loquat, and lemon trees growing in residential gardens. Baboons were frequently observed targeting the variety of fruit trees and their movements through town were largely determined by tree locations. It is challenging to encourage baboons to forage on nutrient-poor fynbos when a plethora of fruiting trees are growing in town.

- The mature fynbos growing on the mountain slopes in Kleinmond also proved challenging for management. The dense vegetation made it difficult for the baboon rangers to access the mountain slopes to hold effective lines because they were mostly limited to the use of official footpaths. Furthermore, the dense shrubland provided the baboons with concealment which made it difficult for the baboon rangers to stop the baboons once they came down the mountain towards town.
- The virtual fence was a welcomed addition to the HWS toolbox in Kleinmond after its restricted use in Betty’s Bay. Use of the virtual fence regularly encouraged the troop to move into the mountains north of Sandown Peak. The frequent use of the virtual fence was largely responsible for keeping baboons completely out of town for 10 days this month and the troop out of town for 18 days.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																				
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																		
OVERSTRAND																																				
BABOON TROOP: BETTY'S BAY		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	TOTAL				
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2021		1 In urban area			4 Altercation with pets			7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food			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								
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	TOTAL				
Troop		1			1			1		1		1		1		2, 2, 2	1		1	1		1		1							1	1	15			
BBM1 (satellite collar)	M					1					1		8, 8		2, 2, 5		1	6, 8, 8			8											12				
BBM2	M									1		1		1		2					2		5			1				6		10				
BBM3	M	1	1		1				1	6, 6, 6		1		1	1	6						6, 6					7		1			16				
BBM4 (sub-adult)	M				1				1				1								6		6								2	6				
BBF1	F															6						1						1			3					
BBF2	F																															0				
UnID Male	M																															0				
UnID Females	F				1								1		6						6											4				
UnID Female	F					1			1				2, 2, 5																	6	6					
UnID Individuals		6			2, 5				6		1		2	2, 6			1			1		1	5, 6		1	2	2	1	6	1	19					
UnID Juveniles					1				1						6										1		1	1	6		6					
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														HRS				
Troop	%	4,9	56			78			161		68		59		76		93	56		88		43						83	189	17,50						
Individuals		10,3	111	54		109	1		35	72		124		168	173	101		93		24	205	83	33		217	355			181		51	21	36,85			
Roost:	AM	26	25	25	25	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	25, 26	26	21	27	25	25	26	26	26	26	26	21	21	21	26	26	26	25					
Roost:	PM	25	25	25	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	25, 26	26	26	21	27	25	25	26	26	26	26	26	21	21	21	26	26	26	25	26				
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	Harold Porter Gardens					20	Palmit				
	21	Kasteel Kop											22	Pimples					23	Isaacs River Kloof					24	Jean's Hill					25	Heuningklip				
	26	Sandown Peak											27	Three Sisters					28																	
	ID Features of Baboons																																			
	General remarks																																			
*BBM1 euthanised on 18 September 2021.																																				

Figure 3.14: The Betty’s Bay Troop incident sheet for September 2021. Orange shaded area represents 12 days before BBM1’s euthanasia (18 September 2021) and the blue shaded area represents 12 days thereafter.



**Figure 3.15:** Number of incursions by the Betty’s Bay Troop and individuals during September 2021. The number of incursions by the troop for the 12 days before and after the euthanasia of BBM1 is included as a sub table.

It is evident from the sub-table in Fig.3.15 that the euthanasia of BBM1 had an immediate and dramatic effect on the raiding behaviour of the Betty’s Bay Troop as a whole. For the remainder of the month, there was not a single incident of a baboon breaking and entering a building, and all other raiding categories decreased by one third.

### 3.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- One birth was recorded in the Betty’s Bay Troop on 24 September 2021.
- BBM1 was humanely euthanised in accordance with the damage-causing baboon guidelines on 18 September 2021.
- PBF3’s carcass was found with clear signs of predation. It assumed that she must have been killed and consumed by a leopard.

## 4 GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS

### 4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

One birth was recorded in the Betty's Bay Troop. Three deaths were recorded this month, one infanticide in the Vogelgat troop, the humane euthanasia of BBM1 and a suspected predation on PBF3. BBM1 was the first management death HWS has been instructed to perform by the Overstrand Municipality since February 2020. The population data of the six more closely managed troops can be seen in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 below.

Troop	October	June	June	September 2021			Total observed Births	Total observed Deaths	Total observed Migrations
	2019	2020	2021	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration	(1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021)	(1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021)	(1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021)
Voëlklip	29	29	27	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Vogelgat	N/A	22	29	0	1	0	1	2	0.
Pringle Bay	16	16	17	0	1	0	0	2	0.
Betty's Bay	N/A	19	20	1	1	0	3	1	0.
Hangklip	N/A	N/A	30	0	0	0	0	0	0.
Silversands	N/A	N/A	43	0	0	0	0	0	0.
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-1</b>

**Table 4.1:** Population data for the six more closely managed troops in the Overstrand in August 2021. Emigration/Immigration figures show animal movements between troops.

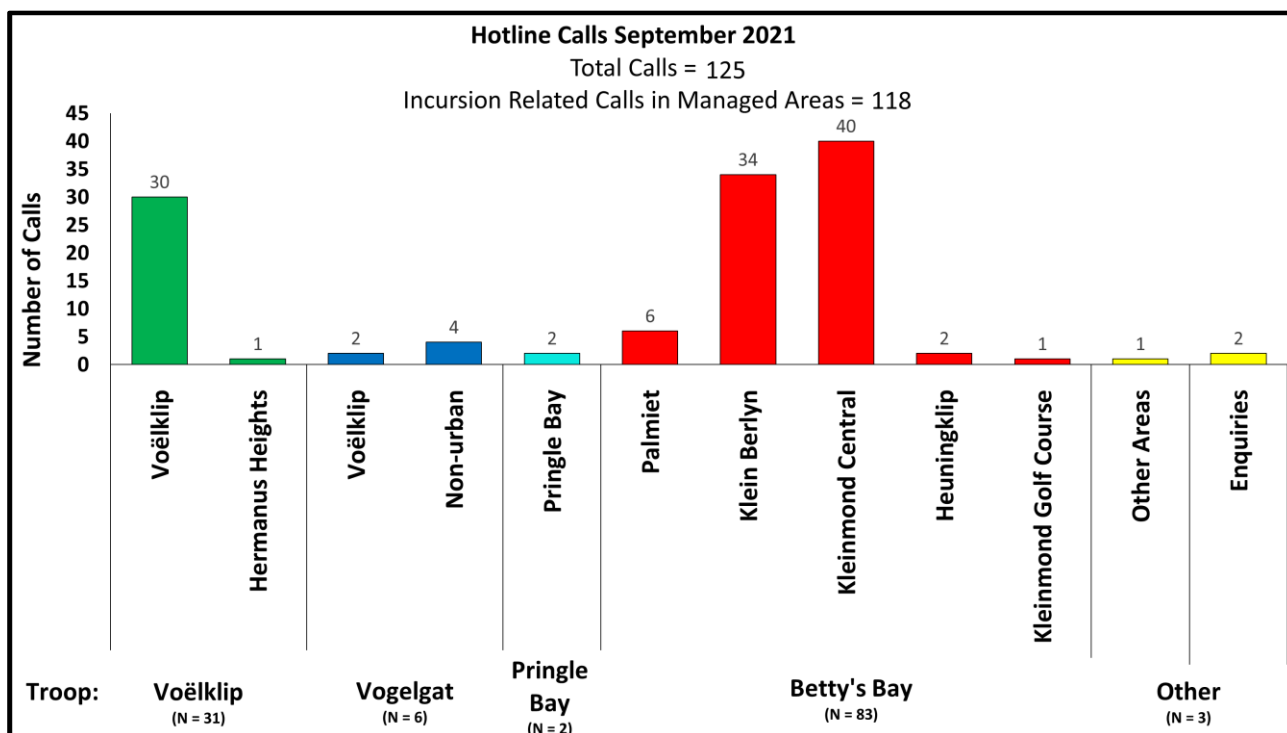
Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (July - June)	2021/22 (July - September 2021)	September 2021	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	3	0	1	1	4
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	1	0	4
Direct *	1	2	1	0	4
Indirect **	0	0	0	0	0
Natural	2	7	3	2	12
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</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

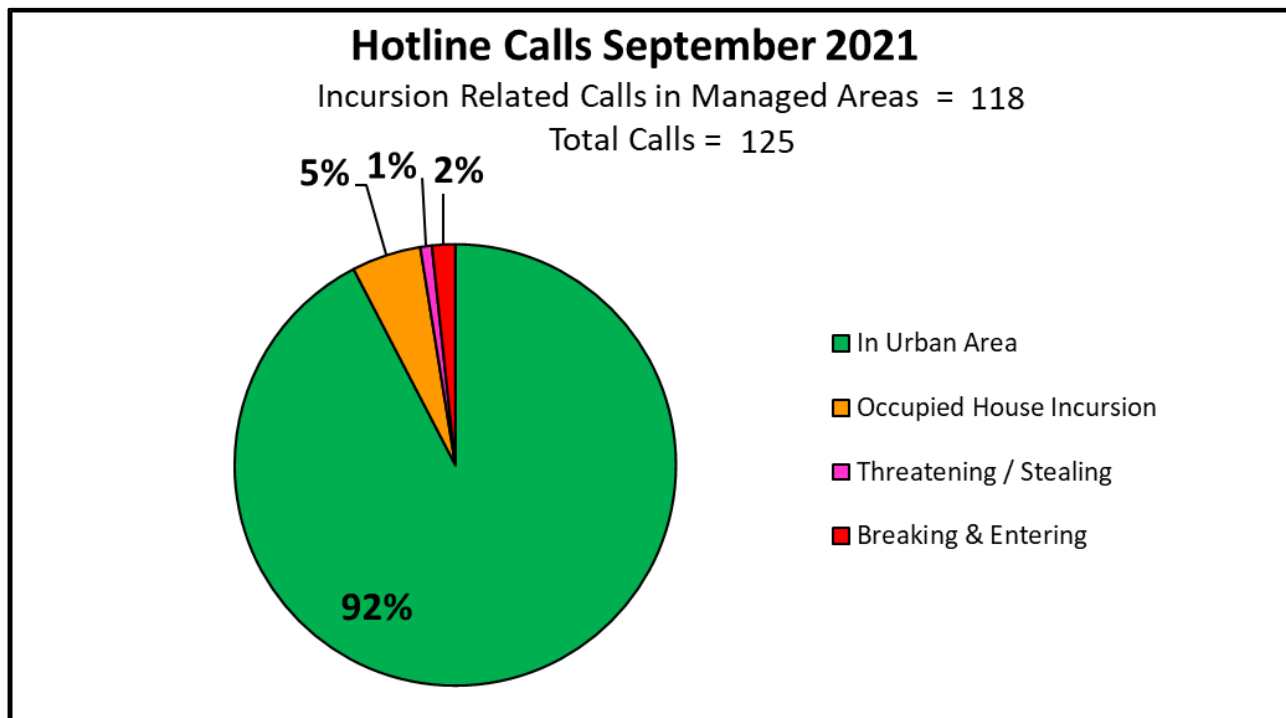
Based on the hotline data September was a good month for the Baboon Management Programme with the total number of calls declining by 12%. Furthermore, calls related to assertive raids declined from 20 calls in August to only nine in September. The hotline received 125 calls this month of which 118 were incursion related.

The majority of calls (83 calls) were received from the Kleinmond area in relation to incursions by the Betty’s Bay Troop. However, 75 of these calls were only reporting baboons in the urban area, with the remaining eight calls reporting assertive incursions. The Voëlklip Troop moved further east this month and consequently, a large number (30) of calls were received from Voëlklip. Calls relating to the Vogelgat Troop also significantly decreased this month. This was most probably related to the death of VGM2 (in August) which regularly entered the urban area on his own.



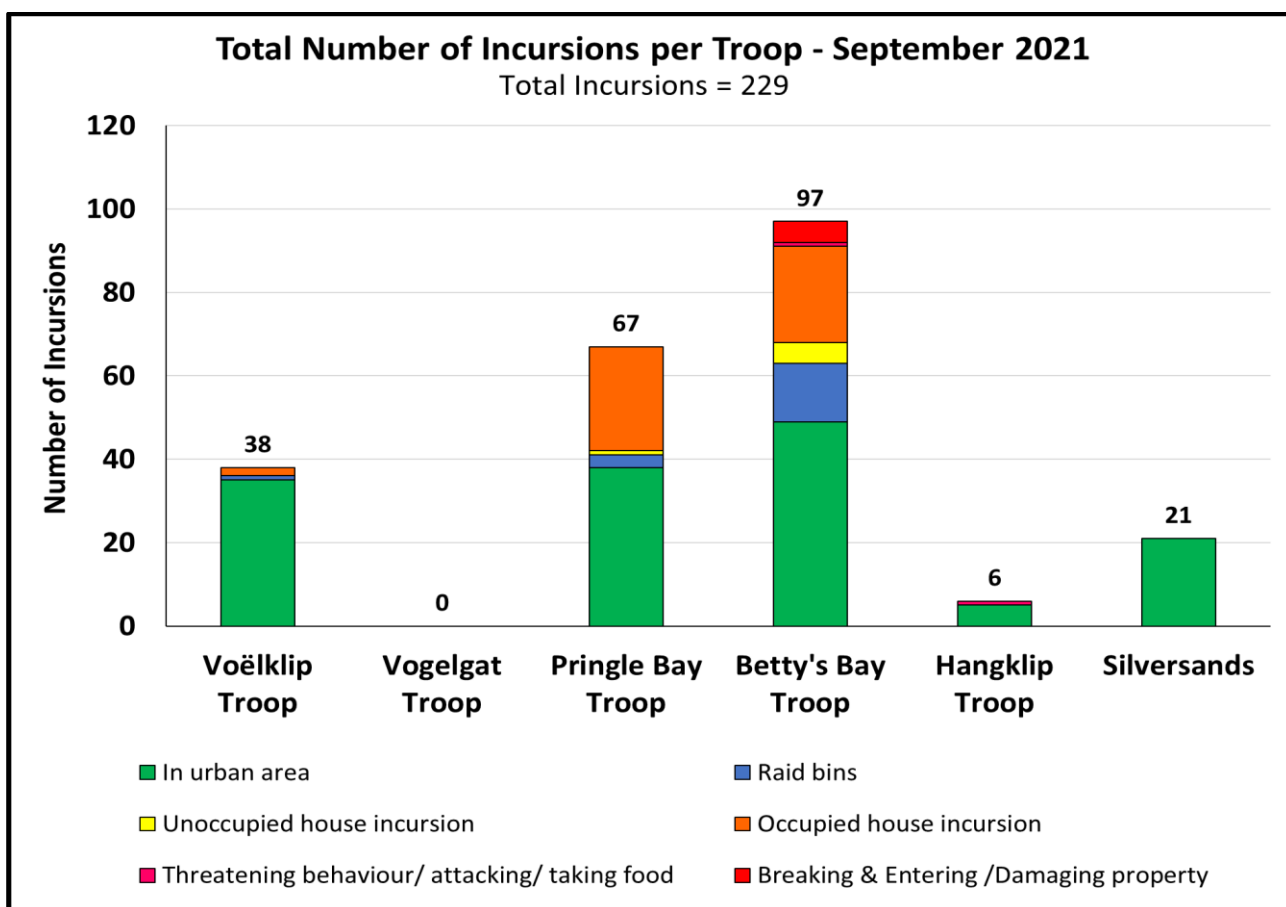
**Figure 4.1:** Hotline calls in baboon affected areas for September 2021. Incursion related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which baboon troops are known to occur and are actively managed. ‘Other Areas’ represent those areas beyond the urban edge or the range of managed baboons.

Over the past few months, an average of just under 80% of hotline calls were simply reporting the presence of baboons in the urban areas. This month this statistic increased to 92% of all calls (Fig. 4.2). The remaining 8% of calls were reporting assertive incursions by baboons.



**Figure 4.2:** Composition of incursion-related hotline calls during September 2021. Note: This chart represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of known incursions by baboons.

### 4.3 RECORDED INCURSIONS



**Figure 4.3:** Total observed incursions per troop during September 2021. Observed incursions are not hotline related and are incursions observed by HWS field staff.

It is evident from Figure 4.3 that the levels of raiding in general, and assertive raiding in particular, are much higher in the Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay Troops than they are in the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops. This trend has been apparent for several months, so it was decided to look at this trend in more detail, from when several individuals started raiding Pringle Bay in a concerted manner during mid-winter (June 2021).

Troop	Number of IncurSION Days (Total Days = 122)	Total Time (hours) in Town	Average Time (min) in Town per Day	Average Time (min) in Town per IncurSION Day
Voëlklip Troop	30	68,8	34,0	132,5
Vogelgat Troop	15	15,4	7,5	45,8
Pringle Bay Troop	68	373,2	183,3	324,7
Betty's Bay Troop	97	295,4	144,9	180,0

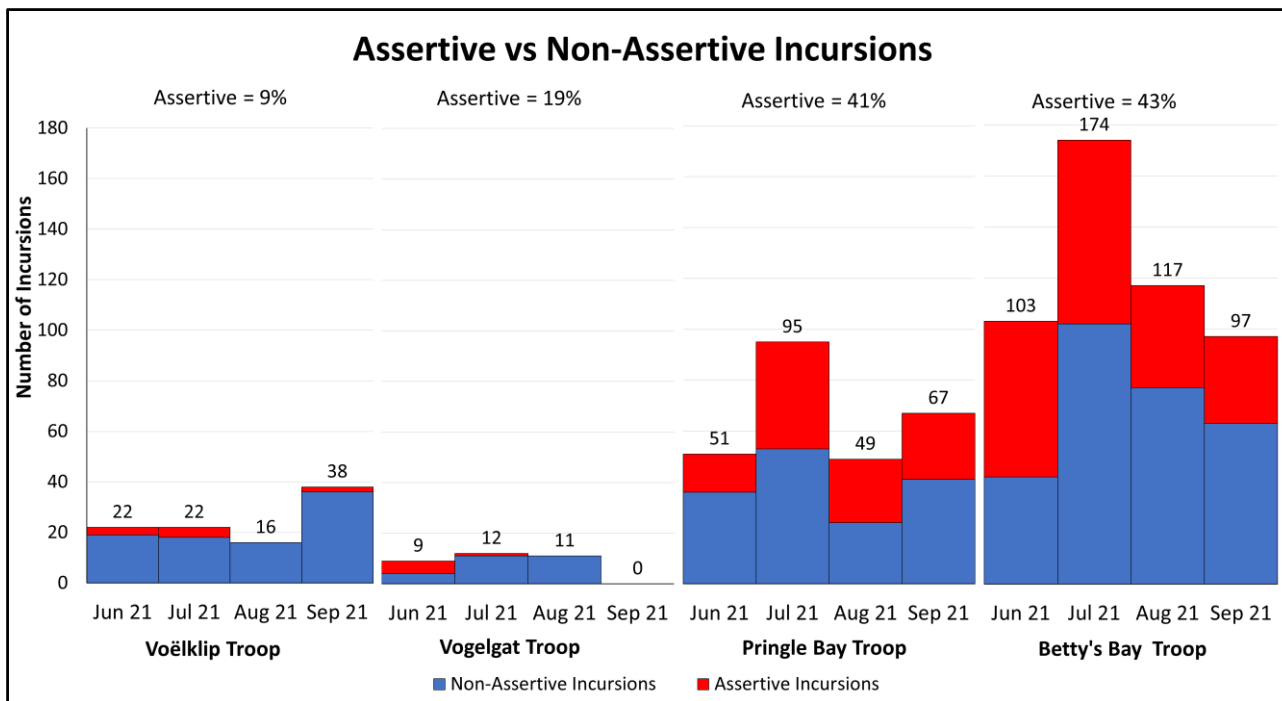
**Table 4.3:** The rate and duration of incursions and average time in town for the four most intensively managed troops from June to September 2021. The total duration of this period is 122 days. IncurSION days are defined as those days during which at least one baboon from a particular troop entered the urban area. All these data refer to the time individuals, or the troop as a whole, were in the urban areas.

There are three distinct trends that are evident from Table 4.3. The first, is that the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Troops made incursions into the urban areas at least twice as often as the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops. The second, is that the amount of time the Pringle Bay or Betty's Bay Troops spent on average per day in the urban areas was at least four times higher than those for the other two troops. The third trend was that on any day in which baboons were in town, the average duration of time in town for that day was always much greater for the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Troop. What is particularly notable here, is that the average duration of time in town per incurSION day for the Pringle Bay Troop was almost double that of the Betty's Bay Troop and about 2.45 times greater than that for the Voëlklip Troop.

The management effort for the Vogelgat Troop is much less than for the other three troops, because it is still a relatively 'wild troop' and quite easily managed almost exclusively with the virtual fence. However, the management effort for the other three troops per baboon is very similar but obviously with very different results. The Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Troops are clearly much less averse to challenging the aversive tools used by management, and also seem much more determined to get into town and access HDFs. Both these features indicate that the Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay Troops are much more habituated than the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops.

Apart from habituation, another feature that is evident from comparing the data for these four troops, is the levels of aggression of individuals within these troops. The rate of assertive and non-assertive incursions for these four troops over the same four months (June – September) are recorded in Figure 4.4 and Table 4.4. It is very clear from Figure 4.4 that all levels of incursions by the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Troops are orders of magnitude higher than those for the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops.





**Figure 4.4:** Monthly total Assertive vs Non-assertive incursions (by the troop and individuals) recorded for the Voëklip, Vogelgat, Pringle Bay and Betty’s Bay troops from June to September 2021.

Troop	Non-Assertive Incursions	Assertive Incursions	Total Incursions	Total Time in Town Troop + Individuals (hours)	% Assertive Incursions	Assertive incursions per hour in Town
<b>Voëklip Troop</b>	89	9	98	68,8	9%	0,1
<b>Vogelgat Troop</b>	26	6	32	15,4	19%	0,4
<b>Pringle Bay Troop</b>	154	108	262	373,2	41%	0,3
<b>Betty's Bay Troop</b>	284	207	493	295,4	42%	0,7

**Table 4.4:** Recorded incursions (by the troops and individuals) from June to September 2021 for the Voëklip, Vogelgat, Pringle Bay and Betty’s Bay Troops. Note: Total time in Town represents the total time at least one baboon was recorded in the urban area.

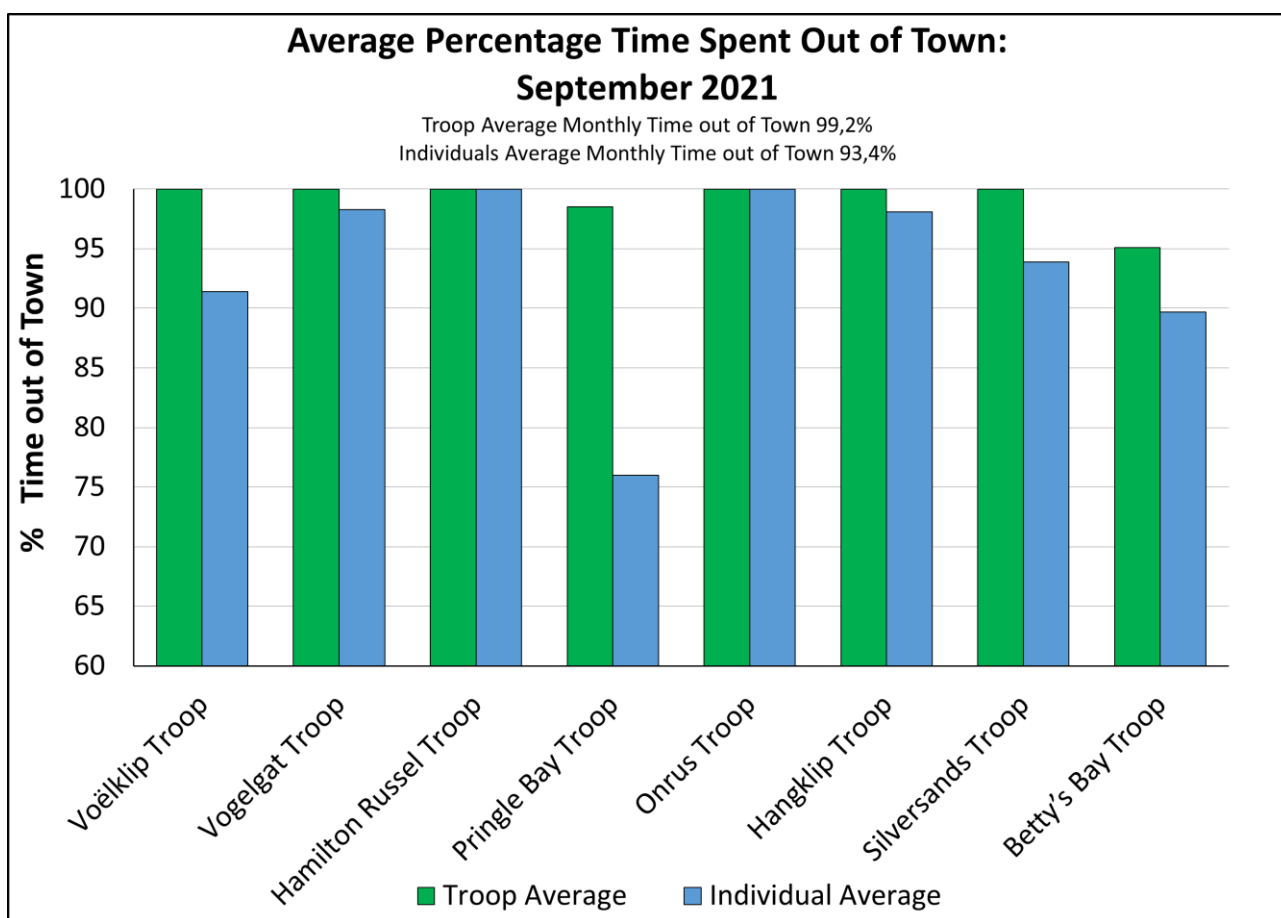
A comparison of the relative frequencies of assertive and non-assertive incursions by these four troops illustrated in Table 4.4 shows some remarkable differences. Over the same time period, the Betty’s Bay Troop made a total of more than three times more incursions into urban areas than the Voëklip Troop. Furthermore, the number of assertive incursions by the Betty’s Bay Troop was 23 times greater than that for the Voëklip Troop, similarly, the Pringle Bay Troop made 12 times as many assertive incursions as the Voëklip Troop.

Another feature illustrating the more assertive raiding behaviour of the Betty’s Bay and Pringle Bay Troops, was their ratios of assertive to non-assertive raids were both over 40% while that for the Voëlklip Troop was only 9%. Vogelgat Troop had a ratio of 19%, but this troop had a very small sample size (6 assertive raids) and most of the incursions were made by a single male, VGM2.

Finally, if there were baboons in town, the Betty’s Bay Troop was seven times more likely to undertake an assertive raid than if the Voëlklip Troop was in town.

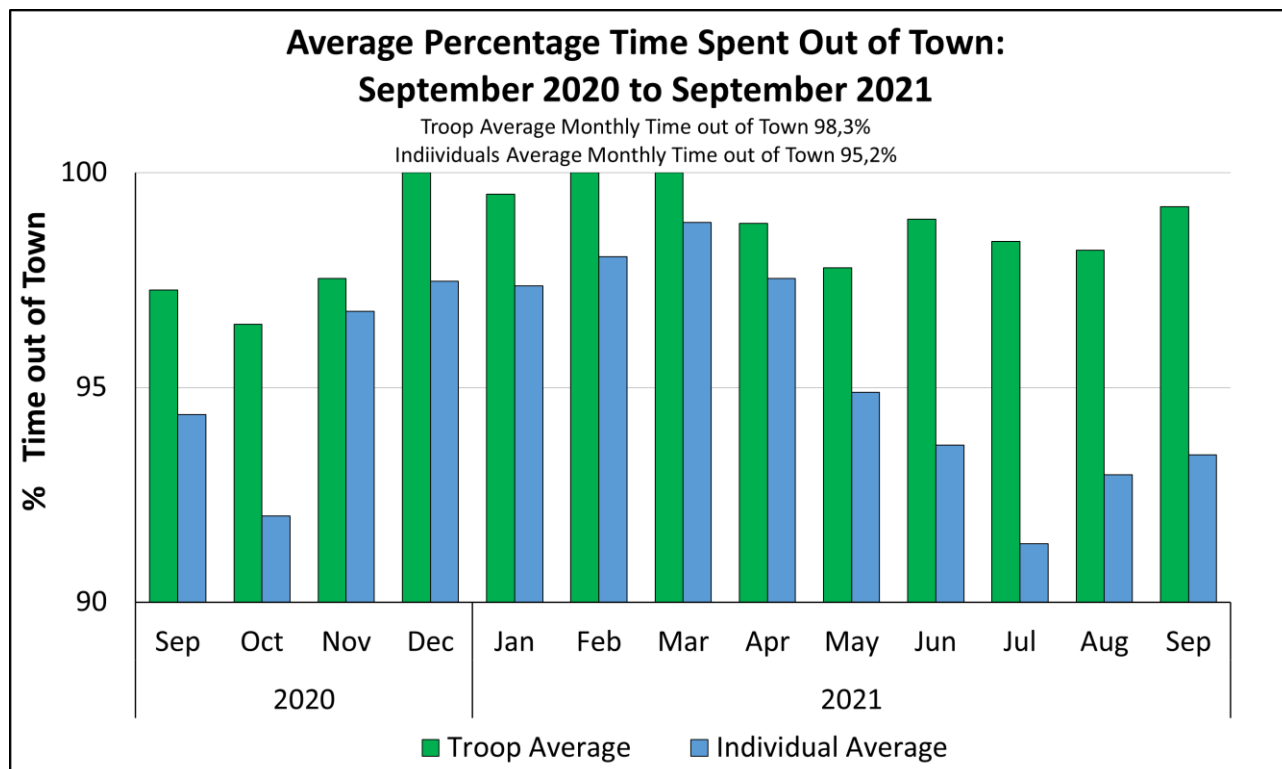
#### 4.4 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

The average time out of town of managed troops increased to 99.2% this month (Fig. 4.5). Individuals from all troops spent an average of 93.4% time out of town. The Pringle Bay and Betty’s Bay Troops were the only two troops which were not 100% out of town. Similarly, these two troops also had the lowest values for individuals being out of town. This was particularly pronounced for the Pringle Bay Troop where the sub-adult male PBM2 spent many consecutive days in town, either with some adult females or alone in town.



**Figure 4.5:** Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during September 2021.

The trend for baboons spending more time in town during winter is well illustrated in Fig. 4.6. This is more clearly illustrated by looking at the pattern for individuals rather than troops, although there too the trend is evident.



**Figure 4.6:** Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town over the past thirteen months (September 2020 to September 2021).

## 4.5 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.
- It is suggested 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.

- 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 were seen eating seed, cookie crumbs and bread intended for birds. Provisioning food increases the amount of time spent in town by baboons and increases the risk of incursions into homes. It also makes the jobs of the baboon rangers more difficult because the baboons are reluctant to leave an area where there is an abundance of easily accessible food. Residents are reminded that it is illegal to feed any wild animal. 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

The home range shift during September of the Voëlklip Troop to the east to above the suburb of Voëlklip, was associated with an increased number of incursions into the urban space. The steep terrain and the tall and dense vegetation in this area made monitoring individual baboons very difficult and consequently, the time in town for individual baboons doubled from 4.2% in August to 8.6% in September. Despite the increased time in town for individual baboons, the number of assertive raids remained low and a single house incursion and bin raid were reported. This house raid could also have been prevented, but baboons will not refuse easy access to food through open windows. Despite this, the troop remained out of time 100% of the time.

This mild response by the Voëlklip Troop to an increase in raiding opportunities typifies the differences between the two main managed troops (Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops) in the Overstrand East versus the two main troops (Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay Troops) in the Overstrand West. These differences are clearly highlighted in an analysis of the raiding data of these four troops from the past four months (Tables 4.3 and 4.4; Fig. 4.4). It is evident from this analysis, that both the Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay Troops made many more incursions into the urban areas, spent longer on average in town when they made these incursions, and made many more assertive raids per urban incursion than the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops.

These trends are evident despite the fact that in the Pringle Bay Troop the two adult males are ‘wild’ males that have only made very brief visits to Pringle Bay while following their females and have never taken food from within the urban area. This highlights the fact that the raiding in this troop is led by females and by one sub-adult male. As mentioned in the August 2021 monthly report, this dominance of females raiding for HDF’s in this troop, seems to be indicative of the long raiding history of this troop, which has had several wildlife documentaries recording this.

By contrast, the Betty’s Bay Troop has a much shorter raiding history and assertive raiding was done almost exclusively by three adult males and one sub-adult male. Interestingly the level of assertive raiding by the Betty’s Bay Troop is seven times higher per hour in town than that for the Voëlkliip Troop (Table 4.2), which actually has a much longer history of pronounced raiding in town. The use of paintball markers to try and keep baboons out of town began in Hermanus long before its use was officially taken up in Cape Town in 2012.

The most significant event to happen in the Overstrand baboon management programme during September, was undoubtedly the euthanasia of BBM1. This male was a highly assertive raider which had perfected the art of breaking into houses by lifting and twisting sliding doors within a few seconds. Most house break-ins by this troop had been done by BBM1, but at least two other males and one adult female had learnt from him and started to successfully copy this behaviour. Fortunately, since the removal of BBM1, no other incidents of a baboon physically breaking into a house have been recorded. Furthermore, during the remaining 12 days of September, the incidence of all other raiding categories by this troop decreased by one third.

## **HWS Holdings CC**