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# **Human Wildlife Solutions**

## **Overstrand**

### **Monthly Report**

**October 2021**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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

Although the Voëlklip Troop spent almost five hours in town this month, it is most notable that there were only five incursions which did not qualify as simply being in town. Three incursions were bin raids, and two were occupied house incursions. Like last month, the troop spent considerable time in the eastern half of its range, and often went deep into the mountains to forage.

The Vogelgat Troop has not entered the urban space for the 14<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 area this month, individuals have continued to enter properties between the lagoon and the R43. HWS's mandate is only to keep this troop out of town. Nevertheless HWS rangers also try to keep them off the R43 for their safety, and to prevent them from gaining access to high energy human derived foods (HDF's) from lunch-packs belonging to roadworkers, or their waste. The more the baboons learn how energetically profitable it is to eat HDF's, the more they will attempt to raid human habitations and ultimately the urban area.

The Pringle Bay Troop did not enter town this month. However, like last month, PBM2 continued to leave the troop in the Buffelstal Nature Reserve to spend long periods of time in town in search of HDFs. This month PBM2 recorded 37 occupied house incursions and was reported pulling on doors and windows trying to enter more houses. This is a remarkable statistic considering that this was more than seven **times** as many occupied house raids as that done by the second most active house raider in the Overstrand, namely BBM3 from the Betty's Bay Troop. It was also 16 more occupied house raids than that done by all the other managed baboons in the Overstrand put together. This attests to the habituation level of this young subadult male and his whole troop (with the exception of the two immigrant males from the Buffels River Troop).

HKM1 dispersed from the Hangklip Troop to the Pringle Bay urban area this month. Initially his main attraction to the urban area seemed to be the individual females from the Pringle Bay Troop which were searching for HDF's in town. However, he also learnt that it was profitable to follow PBM2, who was very successful at gaining HDF's from houses. HKM1 therefore spent long periods in town following PBM2 and taking the food that PBM2 had removed from occupied houses. HKM1, a non-raiding male, was clearly being corrupted by PBM2, so HWS put considerable effort into trying to keep both these males out of town.

Apart from HKM1, the Hangklip Troop and individuals did not enter town this month. The Silversands Troop entered the urban area once this month. Like last month, most of the 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 99 in September to 83 in October. The Betty's Bay Troop, including individual baboons, was completely excluded from the urban area for six days. However, the most noticeable change in this troop since the euthanasia of BBM1, was that no further incidents of baboons physically breaking into houses were recorded. Furthermore, the frequency of assertive raids (break-ins, house incursions, threatening people etc.) halved from an average of 42% of all recorded raids over the previous four months, to 20% in October.

This statistic is quite surprising, because during the four months prior to BBM1's euthanasia, assertive raids by BBM1 comprised only about 30% of all assertive raids by the troop. This 50% decline in the proportion of assertive raids can not therefore be ascribed simply to the number of raids now not being made by BBM1. Rather, it may be that, plus the influence of BBM1 on the raiding behaviour of the rest of the troop. For instance, it was often apparent to HWS rangers, that once BBM1 had broken into a house, individuals from the rest of the troop, which had been sitting and watching from the mountain above town, suddenly ran to join BBM1 and take advantage of having an open house in which to raid for HDF's. Data from future months should reveal whether this hypothesis is true.

## **2 OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS**

### **2.1 VOËLKLIP TROOP**

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

- Time out of town for the troop decreased from 100% in September to 98.8% in October.
  - Time out of town for individuals decreased from 91.4% in September to 90.9% in October.
- The number of house incursions however remained low (three recorded), despite baboons spending increased amounts of time in town.

#### **2.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

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

- A single bin raid on Klipspringer Road was reported.

**2.1.2.2 VOËLKLIP & FERNKLOOF**

- Three house incursions were reported this month. These occurred on 3rd Street, 5th Street and 7th Street. On two of the occasions the baboon(s) entered via an open door. Way of entry for the third incursion was determined.
- No bin raids were reported this month.

**2.1.2.3 GENERAL**

- On 3 October HWS staff attempted to prevent the Voëlklip Troop from accessing the farms to the north of Hermanus Heights. At approximately 11h40, multiple paragliders appeared above Hermanus Heights. The troop was alarmed and ran into the farms and visual was lost. The The troop was found later that day further to the east of the farms closer to Fernkloof Nature Reserve.
- On 10 October an off lead dog chased two baboons from the rocky outcrop west of the Zig Zag footpath leading to the top of Mosselberg. The dog chased the baboons down the mountain and the baboons subsequently fled into town. No physical contact was observed between the baboons and the dog. The dog returned to the owner after it chased the baboons and the owner and the dog continued to walk along the contour path.
- UNKM1 was observed mating with an untagged female on 11 October.
- On 14 October at approximately 08h00 the troop disappeared on top of the mountain above the three dams. They were only seen later that day at 18h20 when they reappeared behind Kanonkop. The troop slept by Adder Ladder that evening. The following morning the troop disappeared again when they moved on top of the mountain, but were not observed for the rest of the day. Similar events were recorded on 18, 20, 26, 28 and 29 October. HWS suspects that this behaviour might somehow be related to the fire that broke out above the three dams on the evening of 13 October, but this cannot be confirmed.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																													
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																											
OVERSTRAND																																													
BABOON TROOP:		VOËLKIP																																											
MONTH: October		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	31	TOTAL											
Troop																																													
VGM1 BLUE TAG		M										1	1												1	1								1	2										
UNKM1		M								1			1							1							1								4										
VKF4 YELLOW TAG		F					2	1					1															1							3										
VKF5 RED TAG		F										1										1,1				1		1							5										
VKF1 GREEN TAG		F																																	0										
VKF6 ORANGE TAG		F																																	0										
UnID Male		M																																	0										
UnID Males		M																																	0										
UnID Females		F											1						1							1								3											
UnID Female		F					2	1	1						6					1		1,1				1		1						9											
UnID Individuals																																	6	1											
UnID Juvs												5								1								1						3											
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														HRS													
Troop	1,2																						76										218	4,90											
Individuals	9,1						73	85	352		125	425		54				190	102		148				219	50	373							36,60											
Roost:	AM	9	18	2	4	4	3	5	6	14	12	14	7	14	6	5	7	17	16	10	6	7	17	17	17	17	15	15	6	19	6	7													
Roost:	PM	18	2	4	4	3	5	6	14	13	26	17	14	6	5	7	17	14	7	6	7	17	17	17	17	15	7	6	7	7	17														
Roost Sites						1	Golf Course							2	Heights Dam							3	Green Kloof							4	Platte Klip							5	Adder Ladder						
						6	Lower Dam							7	Middle Dam							8	Upper Dam							9	Dragon's Back							10	Droë Kloof						
						11	Blaaie Kloof							12	Big Titanic/Cave							13	Small Titanic							14	10th Ave Kloof							15	11th Ave Kloof						
						16	A-Shape							17	Bos Klip							18	Hermanus Heights							19	Steyn's Kloof							20	In Town						
						21	Tallie's Kloof							22	Kanonkop							23	BHB Waterfall							24	Rooiklip							25	ZigZag						
						26	9th Avenue Kloof							27	Shade Rock							28	BOSKO																						
ID Features of Baboons																																													
General remarks						Red indicates non-urban raids or incursions.																																							

Figure 2.1: The Voëlklip Troop incident sheet for October 2021.

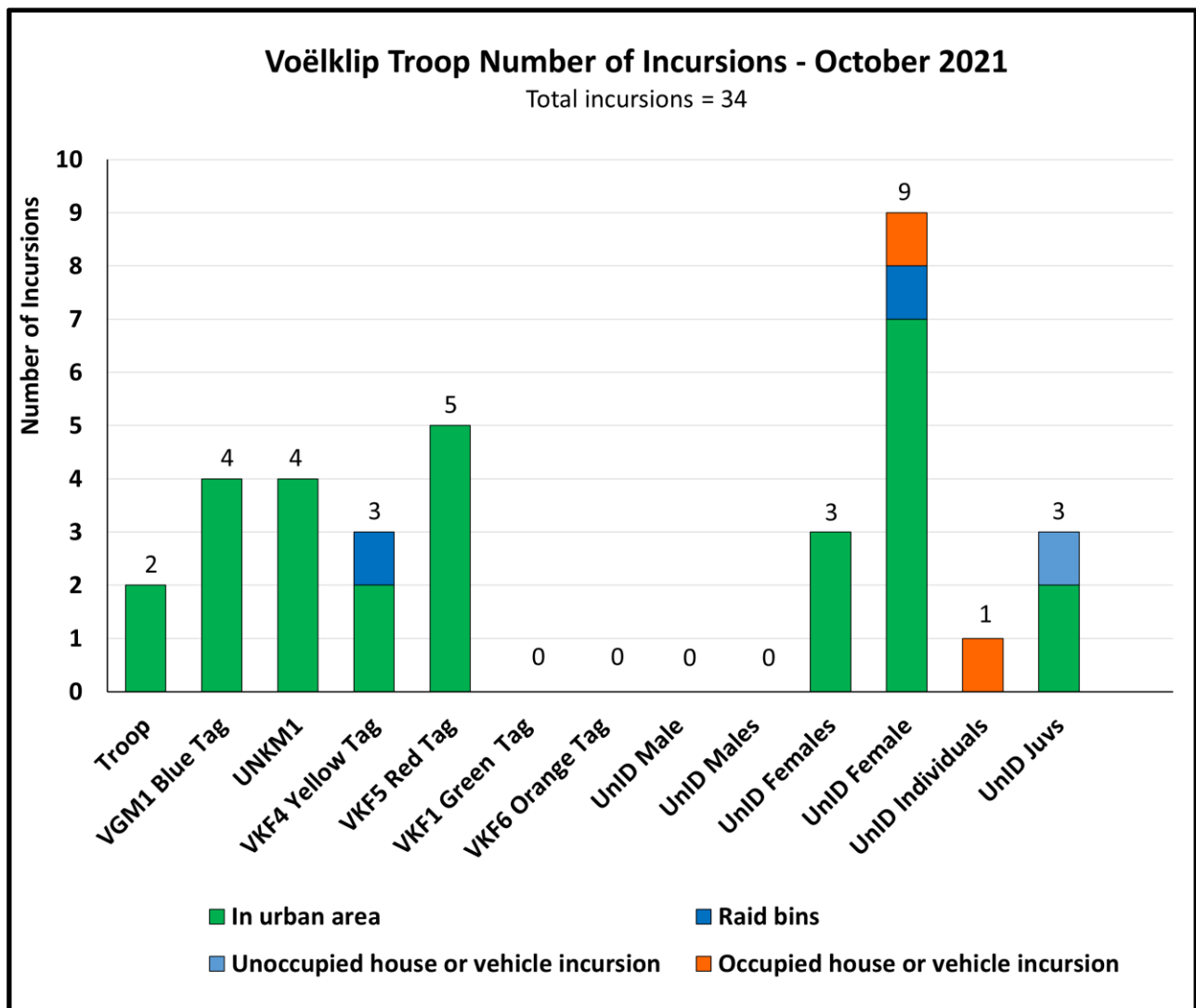
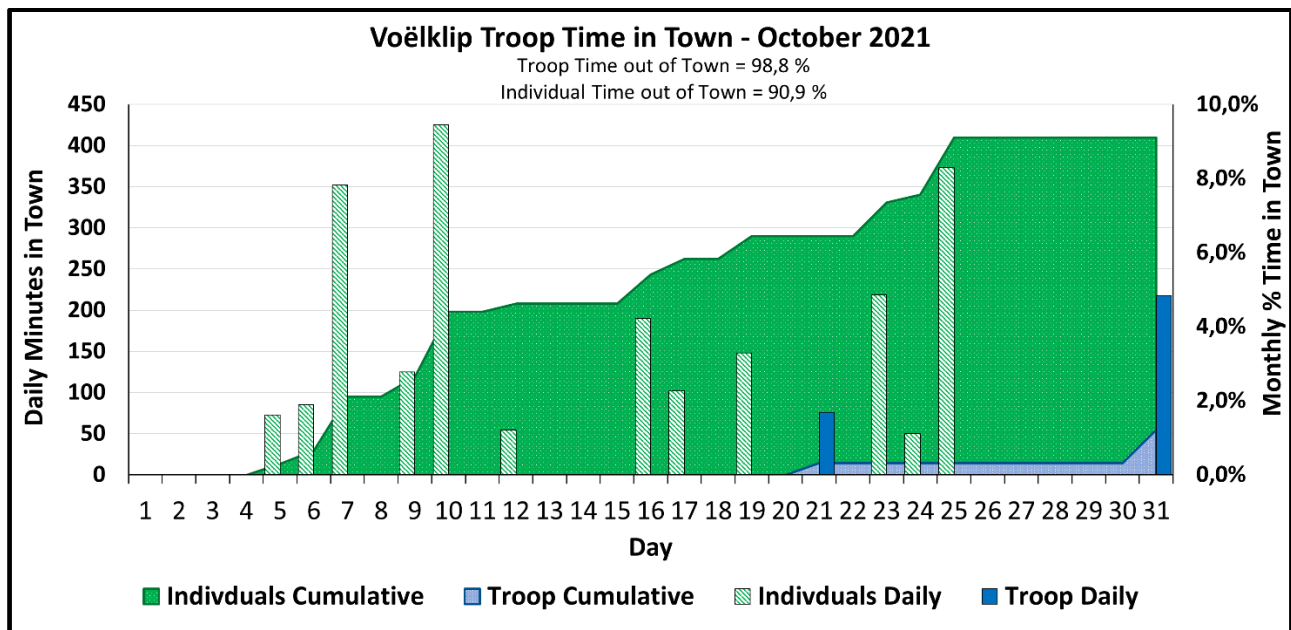


Figure 2.2: Number of incursions by the Voëlklip Troop and individuals during October 2021.





**Figure 2.3:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Voëlkliip Troop during October 2021. Note: Average daylight hours for October was 12 hours and 58 minutes.

## 2.2 VOGELGAT TROOP

### 2.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of town for the troop remained at 100% for the 14th consecutive month.
- Time out of town for individuals remained at 100%.

### 2.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- As in September, the Vogelgat Troop did not approach the urban space in October. Consequently, no urban bin raids or house incursions were reported in October.
- Two attempted bin raids were recorded along the R43. An adult male attempted to access one of the construction bins along the R43 twice on 13 October, but the bin was locked and the baboon was steered away by HWS staff.
- On 02 October dogs from one of the properties along the R43 were observed chasing the Vogelgat Troop away from the property. The dogs continued chasing the baboons outside of the property's boundary, but returned later on.

- The presence of baboons on properties along the R43 was reported to the HWS hotline on multiple occasions in October. On 12 October, a hotline call reported that a baboon had pushed a person over to enter a residence. This report could not be confirmed by HWS staff.
- HWS field staff observed some baboons moving from the mountainside of the R43 to the lagoon side by using the newly constructed culverts that run underneath the R43. This is clearly a safer way to cross the R43.
- An unknown troop was observed twice in October. On 20 October a hotline call reported baboons near the boundary of one of the properties along the R43. During this time the Vogelgat Troop was much further west, so it was assumed that the reported baboons were from the troop that occupies the territory to the east of the Vogelgat Troop.

### **2.2.3 VIRTUAL FENCE**

- The Virtual Fence was not required for the Vogelgat Troop in October.

## **2.3 ONRUS TROOP**

- The Onrus Troop was observed on one occasion in October. On 25 October a hotline call reported baboons in the open area to the east of Berghof Estates. Upon arrival HWS staff observed the troop in the tree line near the base of the mountain. The troop continued moving higher up the mountain and visual was lost. No incursions were reported or observed.

### **2.3.1 VIRTUAL FENCE**

- The Virtual Fence was not required for the Onrus Troop this month.

## **2.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP**

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

## **2.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS**

- An untagged female from the Voëlklip Troop was seen carrying a new infant on 07 October.

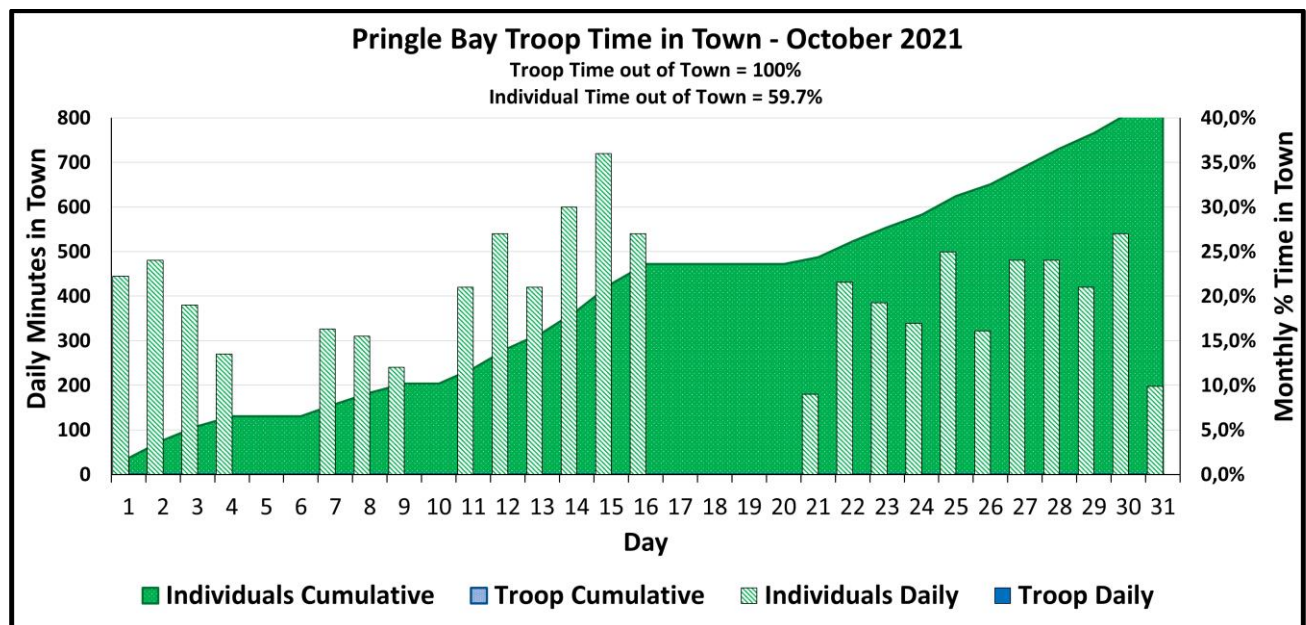


### 3 OVERSTRAND WEST TROOPS

#### 3.1 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

##### 3.1.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 100% of its time out of town in October in comparison to last month's 98.5%.
- Individual baboons spent 59.7% of their time out of town this month in comparison to 76% in September.



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

##### 3.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

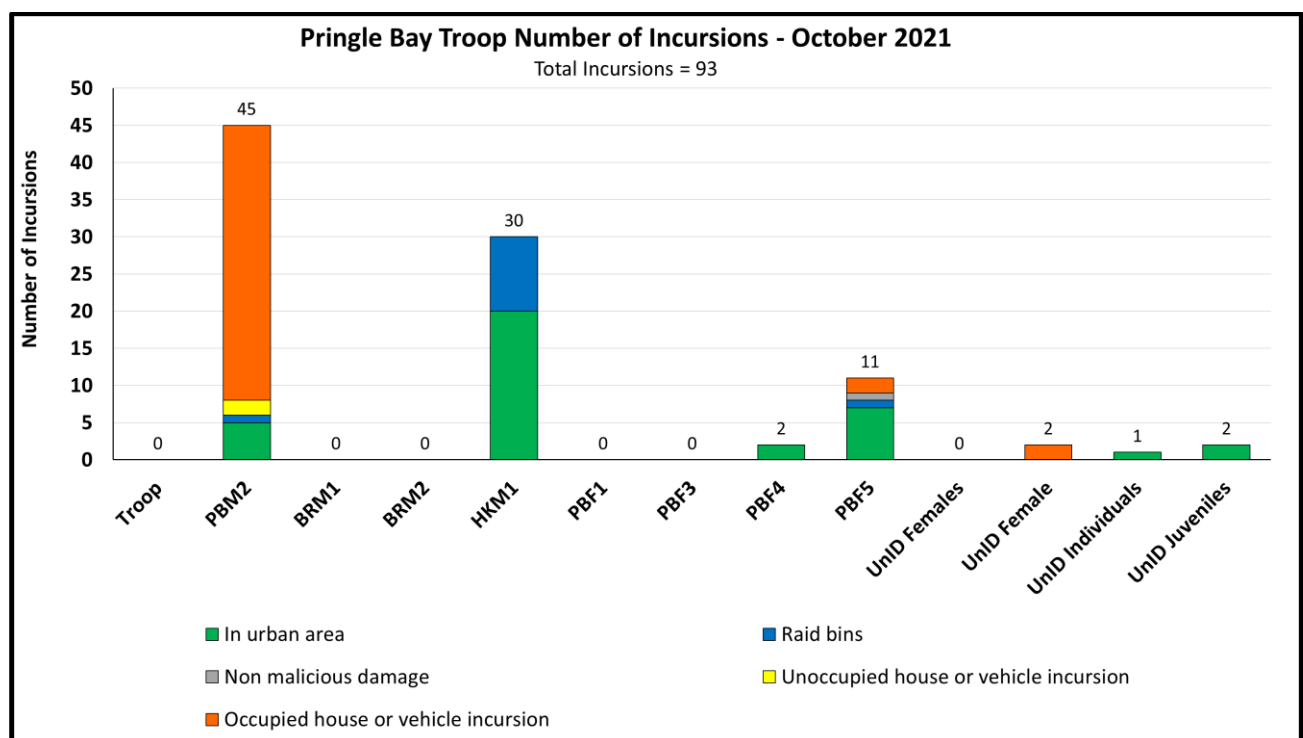
- Sub-groups or individual baboons were recorded in town on 25 days this month in comparison to 16 days last month. The number of baboons that comprised a sub-group varied from two to five individuals. PBM2 and HKM1 were the two most prominent baboons during this period.
- Ninety-three incursions were recorded for sub-groups or individual baboons this month in comparison to 67 during September.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																								
SECTOR						CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																		
OVERSTRAND																																								
BABOON TROOP:		PRINGLE BAY				1 In urban area															4 Attacking pets															7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food				
MONTH: October		YEAR: 2021				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	31	TOTAL							
Troop																																								
BRM1	M																																							
PBM2	M	6, 6, 5	6, 6	6, 6	1							6, 6	6	6, 6, 6	6, 6, 6	6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 5	6, 6						1	6	6, 6	1	2, 6, 6, 6, 6	6, 6	1	6, 6, 6	6	6	1	45						
BRM2	M																																							
HKM1	M		1		1			1	1	2, 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1			2	2	2, 2, 2, 2	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	30						
PBF1	F																																							
PBF3	F																																2							
PBF4	F																																1							
PBF5	F																																11							
UnitD Females																																								
UnitD Female		6			6																													2						
UnitD Individuals		1																																1						
UnitD Juveniles																																		2						
TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																								
Troop	%																																	HRS						
Individuals	0.0	41,3	445	480	380	270					326	310	240	*	420	540	420	600	720	540							180	431	385	339	499	322	480	480	420	540	198	166,08		
Roost:	AM	14	1, 27	1, 27	1, 12	14, 27	14	14	17	14	27	29	1, 14	5, 14	1, 29	26, 29	26, 29	29	29	14	29	29	13, 27	13, 27	1, 14	12, 27	1, 14	1, 27	1, 14	1, 14	1, 12	1, 12								
Roost:	PM	1, 27	1, 27	1, 12	14, 27	14	14	17	14	27	29	1, 14	5, 14	1, 29	26, 29	26, 29	29	29	14	29	29	13, 27	13, 27	1, 14	12, 27	1, 14	1, 27	1, 14	1, 14	1, 12	1, 12	1, 27								
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	Pietter'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	Quarry SS					24	Groot Sloot SS					25	Waterworks									
						26	Pringle Bay Urban Area					27	Unknown					28	Rooiels Estuary					29	Upper Rooiels River					30	Rooielsberg									
ID Features of Baboons																																								
General remarks						Please note that the numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																																		

**Figure 3.2:** The Pringle Bay Troop incident sheet for October 2021. Note: HKM1's data was included here with the Pringle Bay Troop because he no longer associated at all with his original Hangklip Troop.

- Forty-five incursions were attributed to PBM2. The young sub-adult male baboon raided one unsecured bin, entered two unoccupied houses and 37 occupied houses in Pringle Bay. Like last month PBM2 was observed attempting to open doors and windows of houses. This behaviour was observed by the baboon rangers and was also reported via Telegram or directly by residents and business owners.
- PBF1, the dominant female, was not recorded in town this month and was observed associating with BRM1 and BRM2, the two wild males that dispersed from the Buffelsriver Troop.
- PBF4 and PBF5 recorded two and nine incursions, respectively. PBF5 entered two occupied houses.
- On 2 October an adult male baboon was found on High-level Road in Pringle Bay. The baboon was identified as HKM1 an adult male baboon from the Hangklip Troop. HKM1 can be identified by his facial scars and missing left thumb.
- On 2 October six individual baboons from the Pringle Bay Troop were present in Pringle Bay. Individuals from the Pringle Bay sub-group showed interest in HKM1 and attempted to approach him on multiple occasions.
- On 4 October HKM1 moved with the Pringle Bay individuals for the duration of the day. They moved north towards the Buffelstal Nature Reserve and roosted separate from the Pringle Bay Troop.
- On 5 October the Pringle Bay individuals re-joined the troop with HKM1. BRM1 and BRM2 immediately started to chase HKM1. After the conflict HKM1 was observed watching the troop from a distance. On 6 October HKM1 returned to Pringle Bay alone and remained there until 10 October.

- On 11 October PBM2 entered Pringle Bay and joined HKM1. The baboons associated together from 11 to 16 October. During this time PBM2 entered several occupied houses/shops to obtain HDF's. HKM1 was not recorded entering houses/shops but was observed displacing PBM2 from HDF's, benefitting from PBM2's assertive incursions. This is a good example of how raiding behaviour could be transferred from a raiding baboon to a non-raiding baboon.
- From 17 to 20 October HKM1 stayed in Pringle Bay alone.
- On 21 October PBM2 and PBF5 returned to the Pringle Bay urban area. Prior to PBF5's return she was observed spending long periods of time consorting with BRM1 and showed little interest in moving to the Pringle Bay urban area. It is plausible that PBM2 solicited PBF5 to move back with him to the urban area.
- PBM2, HKM1 and PBF5 associated together from 21 to 31 October 2021. PBF4 and a young female joined the sub-group on 30 October. It is important that the sub-group is continually encouraged to move back to the Buffelstal Nature Reserve to prevent a possible splinter troop from forming with HKM1 as the alpha male.
- At the time of writing this report HKM1 had still not integrated with any troop. Nevertheless, he had clearly fully dispersed from the Hangklip Troop, so his data for October were included with the Pringle Bay Troop.



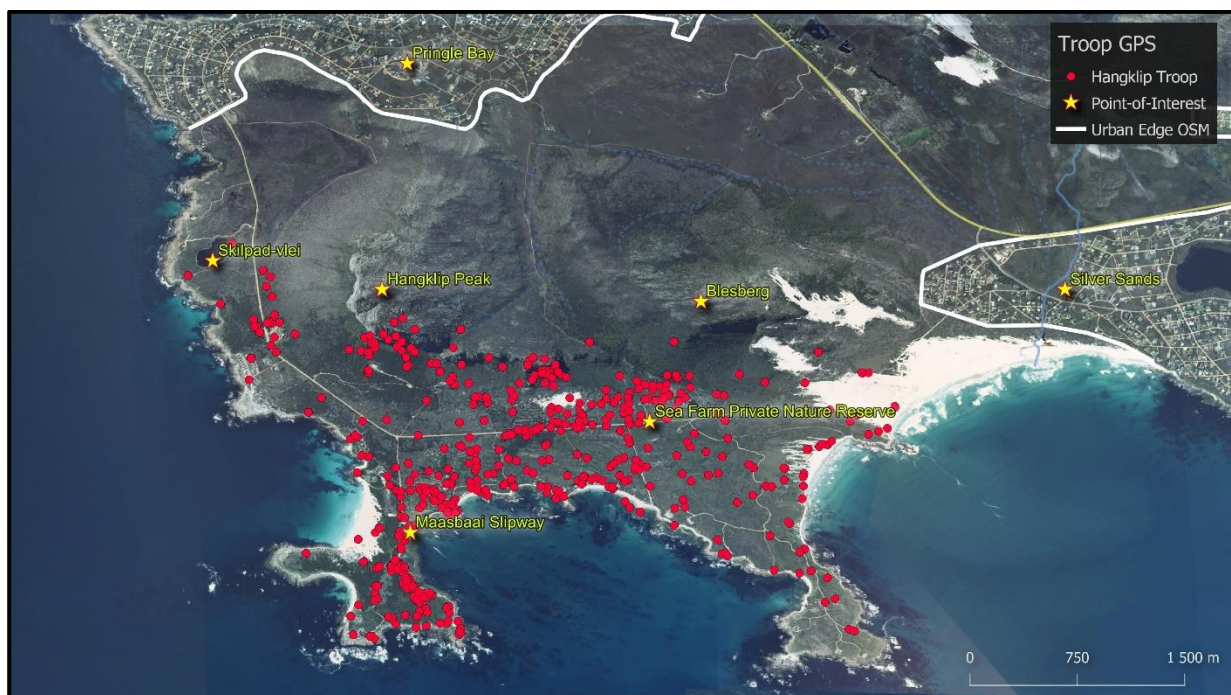
**Figure 3.3:** Number of incursions by the Pringle Bay Troop and individuals during October 2021.

- The main baboon attractants in Pringle Bay were birdfeed, compost heaps, unsecured bins, open windows and doors allowing access into houses. These food sources continue to attract individual baboons to Pringle Bay in search of HDFs. Several properties that attracted baboons directly or indirectly have been reported to the Overstrand Municipality.
- On 11 October PBM2 and PBF3's juvenile ran towards the Pringle Bay urban area. PBM2 entered the urban area without the juvenile baboon. The juvenile baboon was not seen again and is assumed to be dead following the death of its mother, PBF3, during September. The juvenile was born in July 2020 and was 14 months old.

## 3.2 HANGKLIP TROOP

### 3.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- No time in town was recorded for the Hangklip Troop or individuals in October.



**Figure 3.4:** GPS locations of HKM3 in the Hangklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar during October 2021.

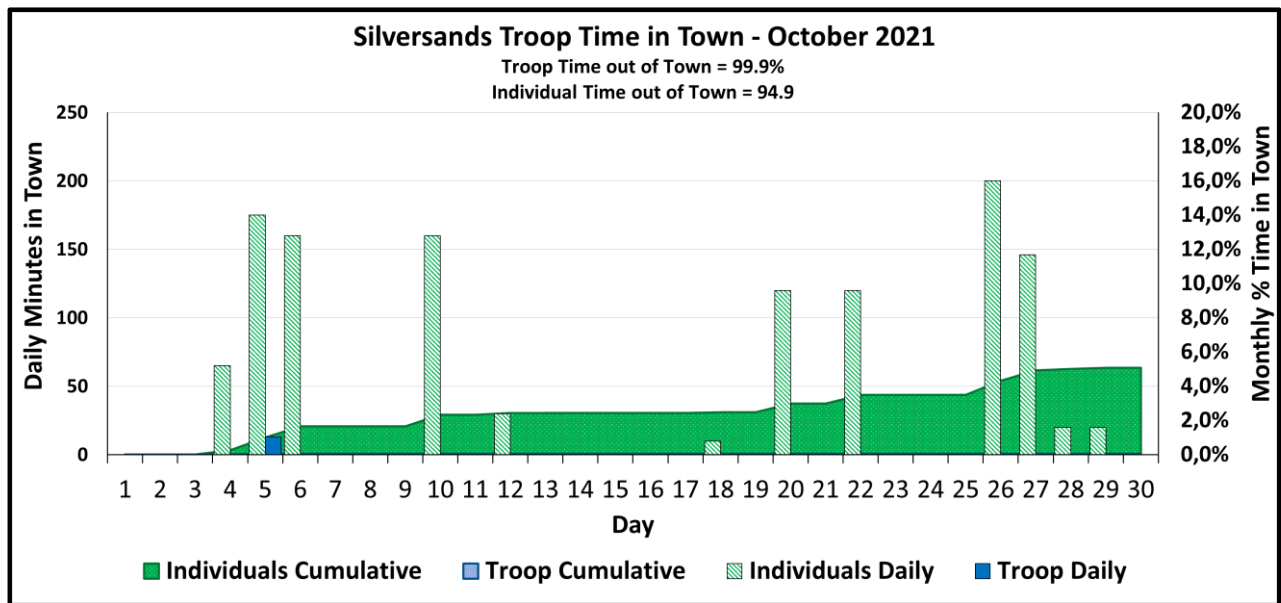
### 3.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- On 2 October HKM1 from the Hangklip Troop was reported in the Pringle Bay urban area. HKM1 associated closely with individual baboons from the Pringle Bay Troop. Noteworthy incidents and incursions pertaining to HKM1 are discussed in the Pringle Bay Troop section of this report.
- The Hangklip Troop occupied the natural area at Cape Hangklip from Skilpadsvlei in the north to Silversands Beach in the east.

### 3.3 SILVERSANDS TROOP

#### 3.3.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The troop spent 99.9% of its time out of town this month.
- Individual baboons spent 94.5% of their time out of town.



**Figure 3.5:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Silversands Troop during October 2021.

#### 3.3.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

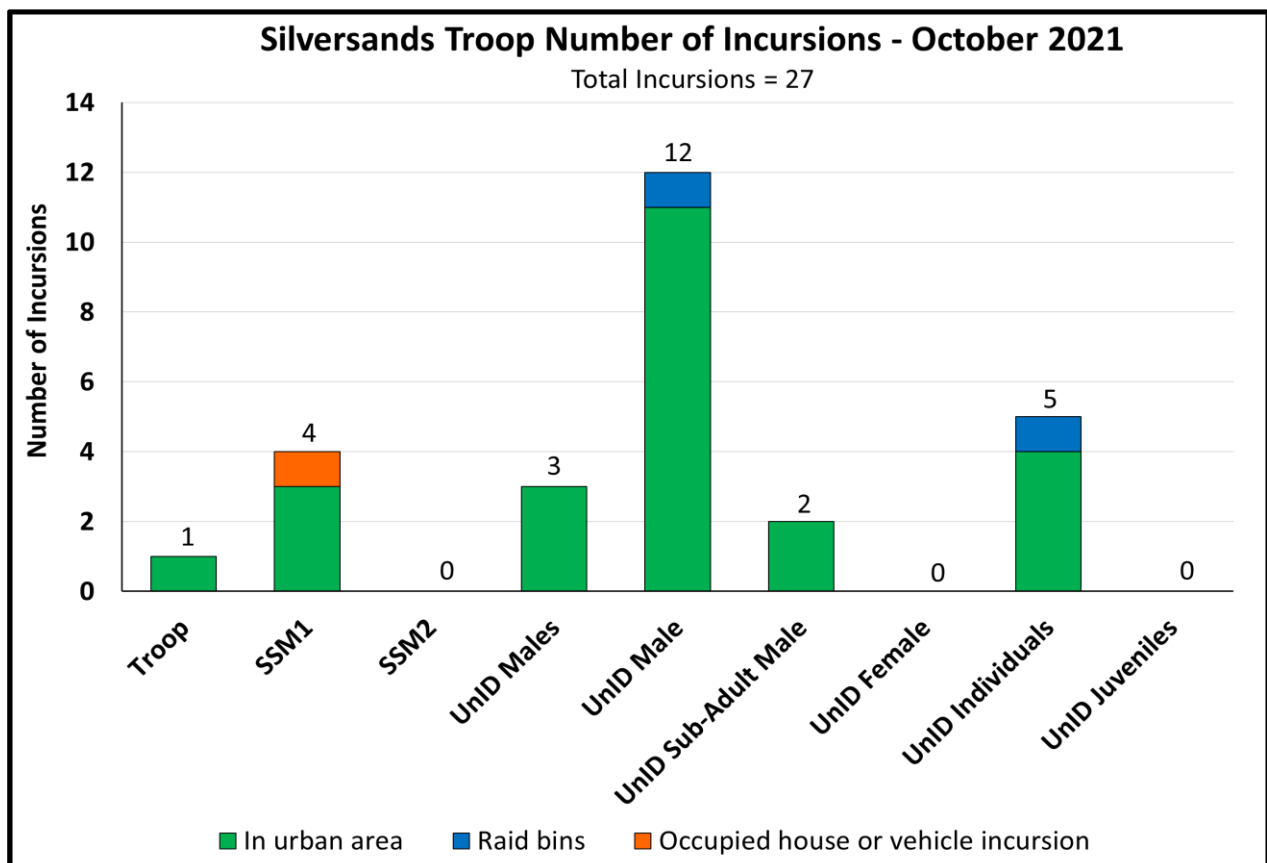
- The troop as a whole entered town once this month.
- Sub-groups of baboons or individual baboons entered town on 16 days this month in comparison to 12 days last month. Adult male baboons were responsible for most of the incursions.
- Baboons were observed visiting the same houses on Senecio Close and Sparaxis Road 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.
- The Silversands Troop was observed foraging on sea pumpkin on the foredunes at Silversands Beach and dune cone bush inflorescences in Brodie Link Nature Reserve.



- On 27 October intertroop conflict was observed between the Silversands Troop and the Hangklip Troop at Silversands Beach. An adult male from the Silversands Troop was identified with fresh blood on its chest and shoulders. The injury was likely inflicted during the intertroop conflict. As a result, the Silversands Troop was observed leaving the beach and moving north into the Brodie Link Nature Reserve away from the Hangklip Troop.

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	31	TOTAL																												
BABOON TROOP:		In urban area											Attacking pets											Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																																					
		Raid bins											Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion											Breaking &Entering/Damaging property																																					
MONTH: October		YEAR: 2021											Non malicious damage											Occupied house or vehicle incursion											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																												
SSM1 (short tail)	M					1	1				6																1						4																												
SSM2	M																																																												
UnID Males	M				1																1									1			3																												
UnID Male	M					1	2				1		1						1			1	1	1	1			1	1	1			12																												
UnID Sub-Male	M						1												1														2																												
UnID Male	M																																																												
UnID Females	F																																																												
UnID Female	F																																																												
UnID Individuals						2	1				1																1	1					5																												
UnID Juveniles																																																													
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																HRS																											
Troop	0.1					13																											0.22																												
Individuals	5.1				65	175	160				160		30							10		120		120	*	*	*	200	146	20	20	*		20,43																											
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											
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		26												27												28																																			
		29												30												31																																			
ID Features of Baboons																																																													
General remarks		Please note that numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																																																											

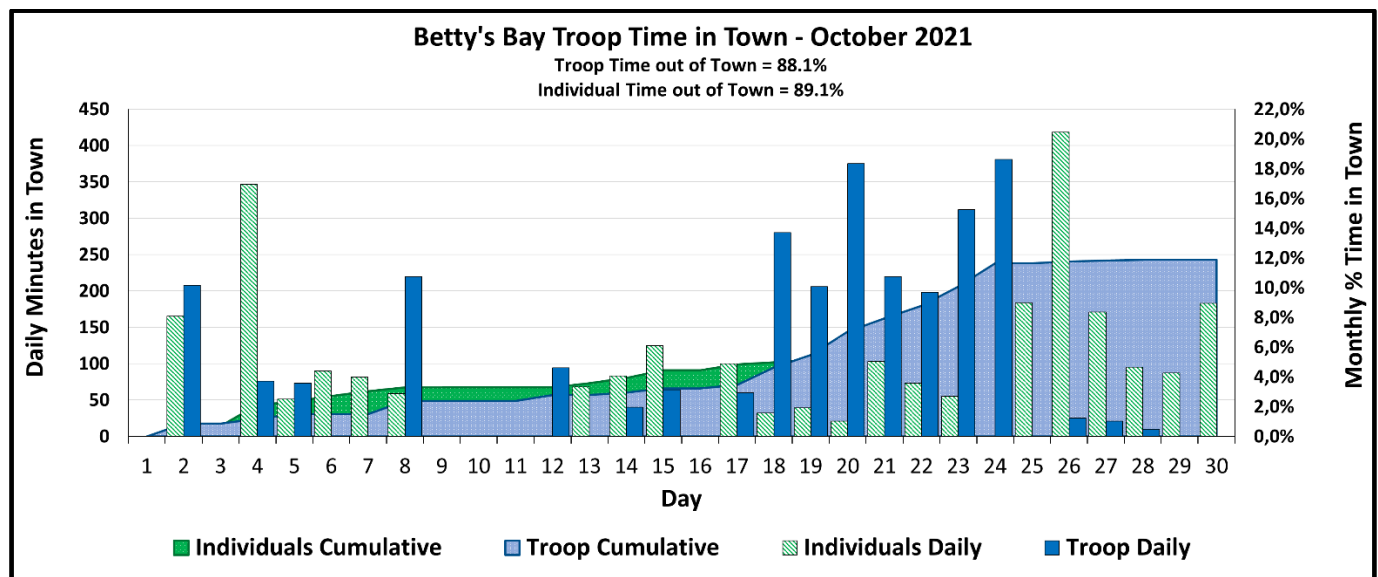
**Figure 3.6:** The Silversands Troop incident sheet for October 2021. The asterisk allocated to individuals in the time spent in town section of the raid sheet indicates that individuals were seen entering town but were not seen leaving town and consequently, time in town could not be accurately determined.



**Figure 3.7:** Number of incursions by the Silversands Troop and individuals during October 2021.



### 3.4 BETTY'S BAY TROOP



**Figure 3.8:** Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Betty's Bay Troop during October 2021.

#### 3.4.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Betty's Bay Troop spent 88.1% time out of town during October.
- Individual baboons spent 89.1% time out of town.

#### 3.4.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Baboons were recorded completely out of town for six days this month in comparison to ten days last month. Five of the out-of-town days were recorded while the troop was in Kleinmond and only one out of town day was recorded while the troop was in Betty's Bay. The virtual fence has not been implemented in Betty's Bay because of increasing pressure from baboon activists. The reduction of the HWS toolbox has had a negative impact on the management of the troop.
- Disa Kloof and Leopard Kloof in the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens (HPG) serve as the primary corridors for the baboons to move into the hinterland. HWS baboon rangers are prohibited from accessing the mountain slopes in order to manage the baboons and encourage them to move inland. This restriction placed on baboon ranger management within HPG negatively affected HWS' ability to move the troop out of the garden. As a result, the troop tended to come to town through the gardens and directly into Jock's Bay. When the troop was foraging on the slopes above the garden the baboons seemed to display reduced foraging activity because of the attraction of HDF's in town. They spent more time observing the rangers and looking for an opportunity to run through to town.

- A total of forty-one incursions were collectively recorded for BBM2, BBM3 and BBM4.
- BBM2, BBM3 and BBM4 entered two, five and four occupied houses, respectively.
- On 5 October six pyrotechnics were heard being discharged in the residential area around 13th Avenue in Kleinmond.
- The main management challenge experienced in Kleinmond was the presence and abundance of fruiting guava, loquat, and lemon trees growing in residential gardens. These attractants encouraged the troop to enter the urban area to forage.
- 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.
- Several Betty's Bay residents were recorded provisioning wild birds with birdseed or bread. Baboons were recorded entering town to forage on the provisioned food. It is important to note that the direct or indirect feeding of wildlife is prohibited. The abundance of birdseed in Betty's Bay attracts the troop to town. BBM2 regularly separated from the troop to forage on birdseed left out for birds on Fourstreams Road. The resident has been reported to the Overstrand Municipality.
- On 11 October feral dogs were seen around the troop above Protea Dorp. The dogs barked persistently from below the baboons but no physical interactions were recorded. The Overstrand Municipality was made aware of the presence of the dogs in the Kleinmond Coastal & Mountain Reserve.
- On 11 October the troop crossed the Palmiet bridge towards Bettys Bay.
- From 18 to 24 October the troop spent an increased amount of time in the urban area because HWS did not have access to a large property on the R44 which contained a high density of fruiting trees which attracted the baboons to forage on the property. This is the last property on the urban edge, adjacent to mountain. The troop spent 33 hours on the property over the seven-day period. This amounted to 67% of the time in town recorded for the Betty's Bay Troop during October. HWS were unable to encourage the baboons to move up the mountain from this property. As a result, an increased presence of baboon activity was experienced on properties along Bass Road, below the R44.
- On 21 October BBM2 and BBM3 were seen with fresh injuries presumed to have occurred whilst fighting each other. It is possible that an increase in the number of females going into oestrus led to these males challenging each other.
- On 26 October a new infant was identified in the Betty's Bay Troop.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																									
SECTOR						CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																			
OVERSTRAND						1	In urban area							4	Altercation with 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																															
October				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	2	1				1		2		1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1			1	19																							
BBM2		M	6	5											1	1	1			1							1	2	6		1	2,2	1	12																							
BBM3		M	2,6				1	6							1	1	1		1		6		6	2,6	5	5	1							15																							
BBM4 (sub-adult)		M					1								1	1	2		1	1	6		1			1	1	6	6	1	6		14																								
BBF1		F					1								1									6	1								4																								
BBF2		F											2																				1																								
UnId Male		M																																																							
UnId Females		F	1		1		1																										3																								
UnId Female		F					1										2		1								2	2				1	6																								
UnId Individuals																					1		1	6			1		1				5																								
UnId Juveniles									1						1		2							6									4																								
			%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														HRS																							
Troop			11,9	208	76	73							94		40	64		60	280	206	375	220	198	312	381		25	21	10		101	47,72																									
Individuals			10,9	165	347	51	90	82	59						68	83	125		100	32	39	21	103	73	55		184	418	171	95	87	183	31	43,85																							
Roost:		AM	26	26	26	26	26	26	25	25	26	21	21	18	7	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	17	1	1	1	2	15	2	7	1	2																								
Roost:		PM	26	26	22	26	26	25	25	27	21	21	18	7	2	1	2	18	2	1	2	1	17	1	1	1	2	15	1	7	1	2	2																								
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	Palmeit									
			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																																																									

Figure 3.9: The Betty's Bay Troop incident sheet for October 2021.

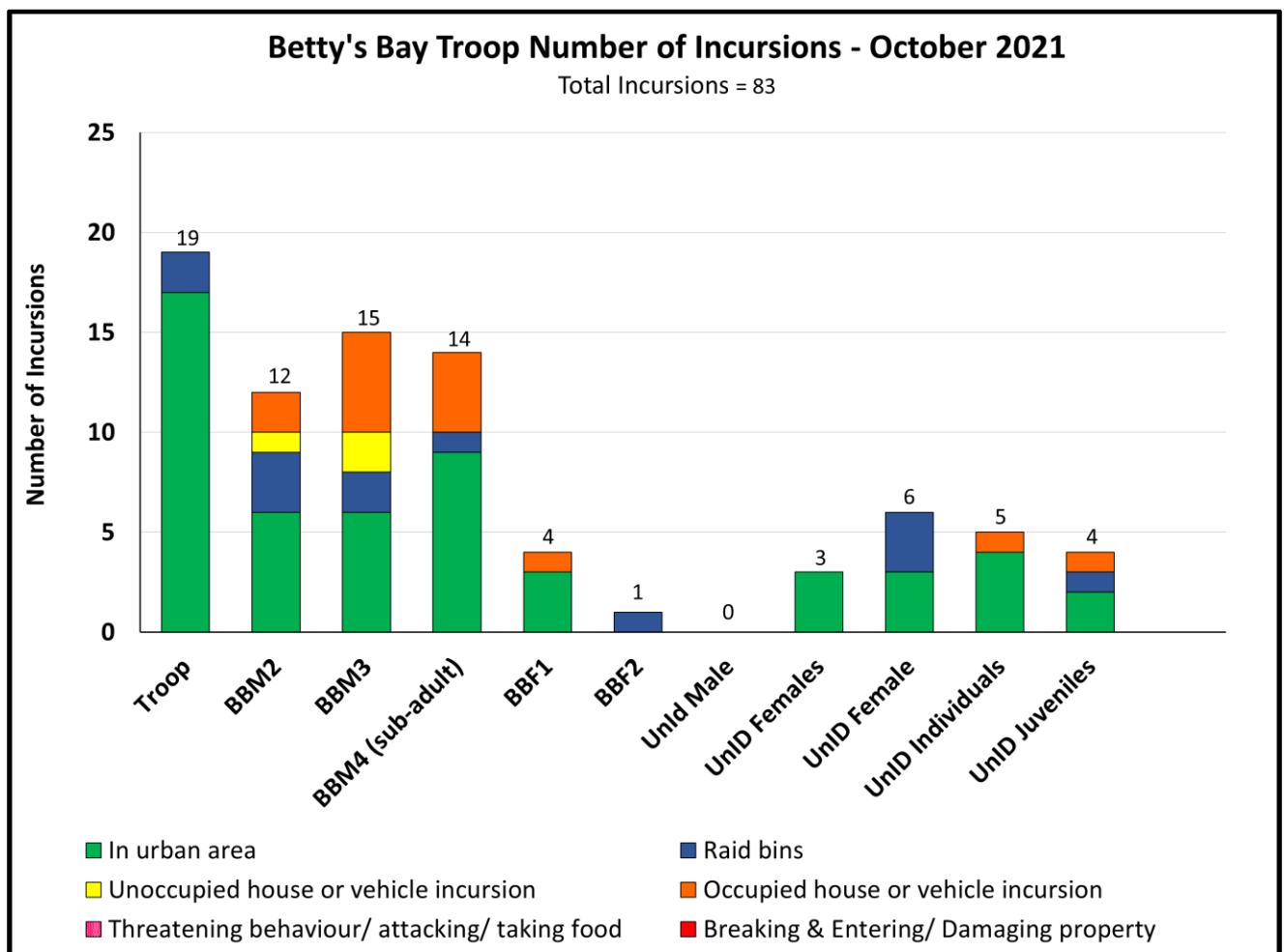


Figure 3.10: Number of incursions by the Betty's Bay Troop and individuals during October 2021.

### 3.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- On 2 October HKM1 dispersed from the Hangklip Troop to the Pringle Bay urban area. HKM1 has not integrated with any troop.
- PBF3's juvenile baboon was last seen with the troop on 11 October and is presumed dead.
- One birth was recorded in the Betty's Bay Troop on 26 October.
- On 19 October HWS received a report of a dead baboon found in the Rooiels Village. On 20 October a post-mortem was conducted. The post-mortem revealed the presence of two pellets and five pieces of shrapnel in the body. The tissue around the pellets had healed indicating that the pellets had penetrated the animal some time ago. The only recent injury was from the shrapnel in the caudal lobe of the right lung. The cause of death was attributed to internal bleeding and the collapse of the right lung, likely caused by a pellet gun or heavier calibre gun.

## 4 GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS

### 4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Two births were recorded in the Overstrand Troops this month, one in the Betty's Bay Troop and one in the Voëlkliip Troop. A juvenile baboon was reported missing from the Pringle Bay Troop and is presumed dead. HKM1 dispersed from the Hangklip Troop to the Pringle Bay urban area. HKM1 associated with individual baboons from the Pringle Bay Troop but has not integrated with any troop. 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	October 2021			Total observed Births	Total observed Deaths	Total observed Migrations
	2019	2020	2021	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration	(1 July 2021 to 31 October 2021)	(1 July 2021 to 31 October 2021)	(1 July 2021 to 31 October 2021)
Voëlkliip	29	29	27	1	0	0	1	0	-1
Vogelgat	N/A	22	29	0	0	0	1	2	0.
Pringle Bay	16	16	17	0	1	0	0	3	0.
Betty's Bay	N/A	19	20	1	0	0	4	1	0.
Hangklip	N/A	N/A	30	0	0	1	0	0	-1
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>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-2</b>

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

The most remarkable feature of this table is the relatively high number of births (four) recorded in the Betty's Bay Troop since the beginning of July. This is double the number of observed births for all the other troops combined. This would be most unusual if this was a stressed troop. Rather, this suggests the troop had recently emerged from a period of stress / ill health and was responding positively to the new and healthier conditions with much less HDF's and much more fynbos in the diet.

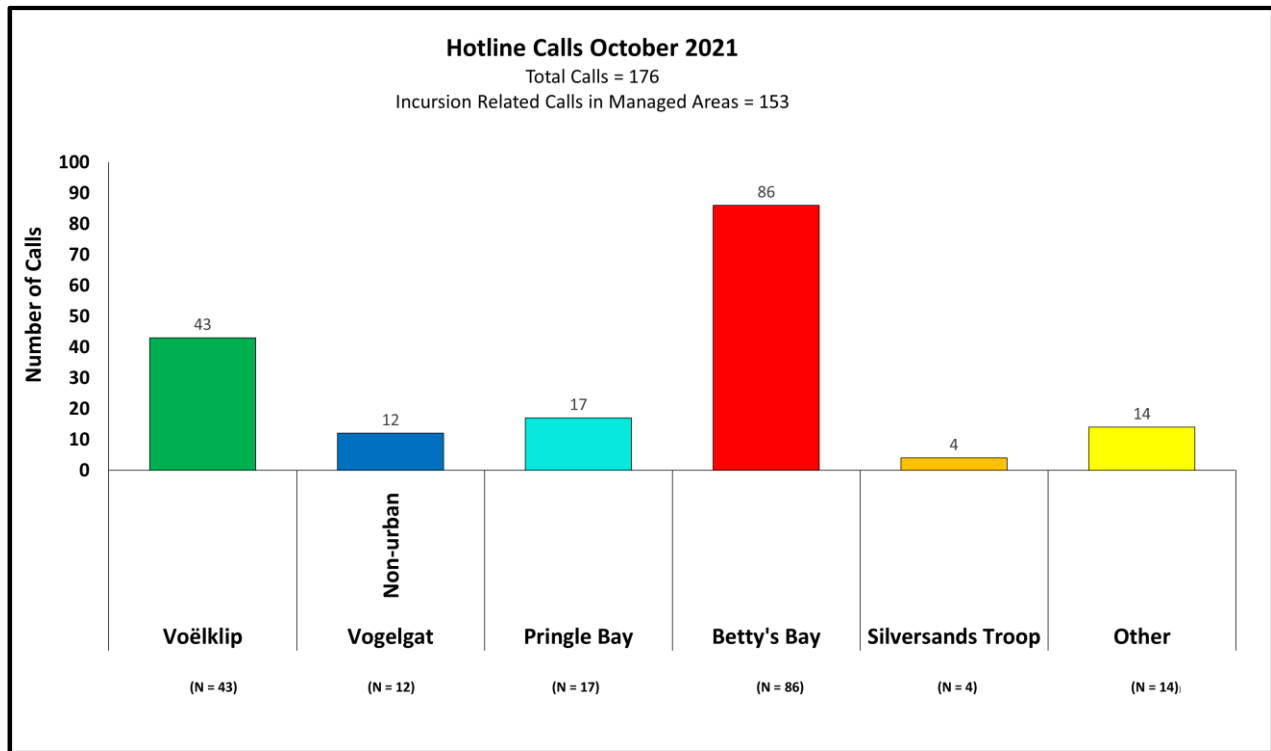
Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (July - June)	2021/22 (July - October 2021)	October 2021	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	3	0	1	0	4
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	1	0	4
<i>Direct *</i>	1	2	1	0	4
<i>Indirect **</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Natural	2	7	3	0	12
Unknown	0	0	1	1	1
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9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

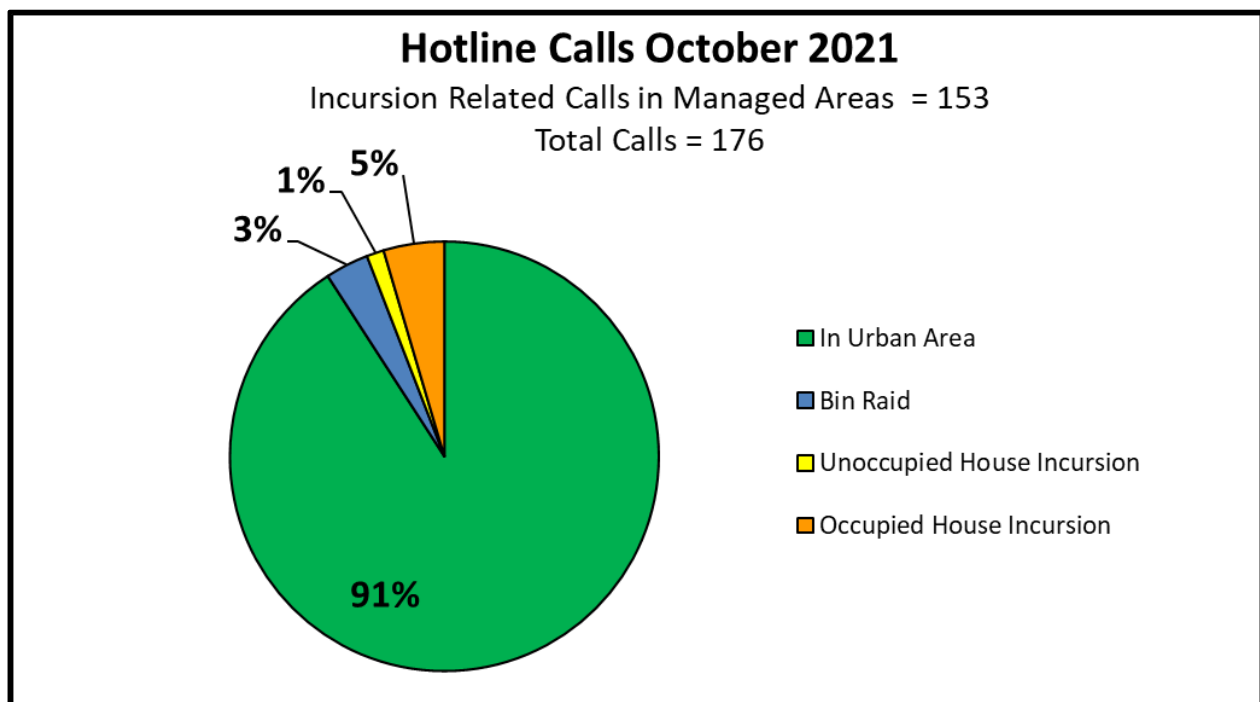
## 4.2 HOTLINE DATA

Despite the relatively high number of hotline calls this month, it is pleasing to note that 91% of all calls were simply reporting the presence of baboons in town. Of the calls related to specific raids, occupied house incursions were reported more than any other type of incursions. This is not surprising, because these raids were obviously observed by people. However, in this regard it remains notable that still very few people from Pringle Bay reported incidents on the hotline. In Pringle Bay a total of 93 incursions were recorded, of which 41 were occupied house raids, but a total of only 17 calls came to the HWS hotline.

In Betty's Bay a total of 83 incursions were recorded, and of these only 14 were occupied house raids. Here a total of 86 hotline calls were received. In other words, there were more hotline calls received than there were raids recorded by HWS. By contrast in Pringle Bay, only 18% of all HWS observed / verified incursions were reported to the hotline. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that the HWS hotline is being used more frequently by the residents of Pringle Bay.



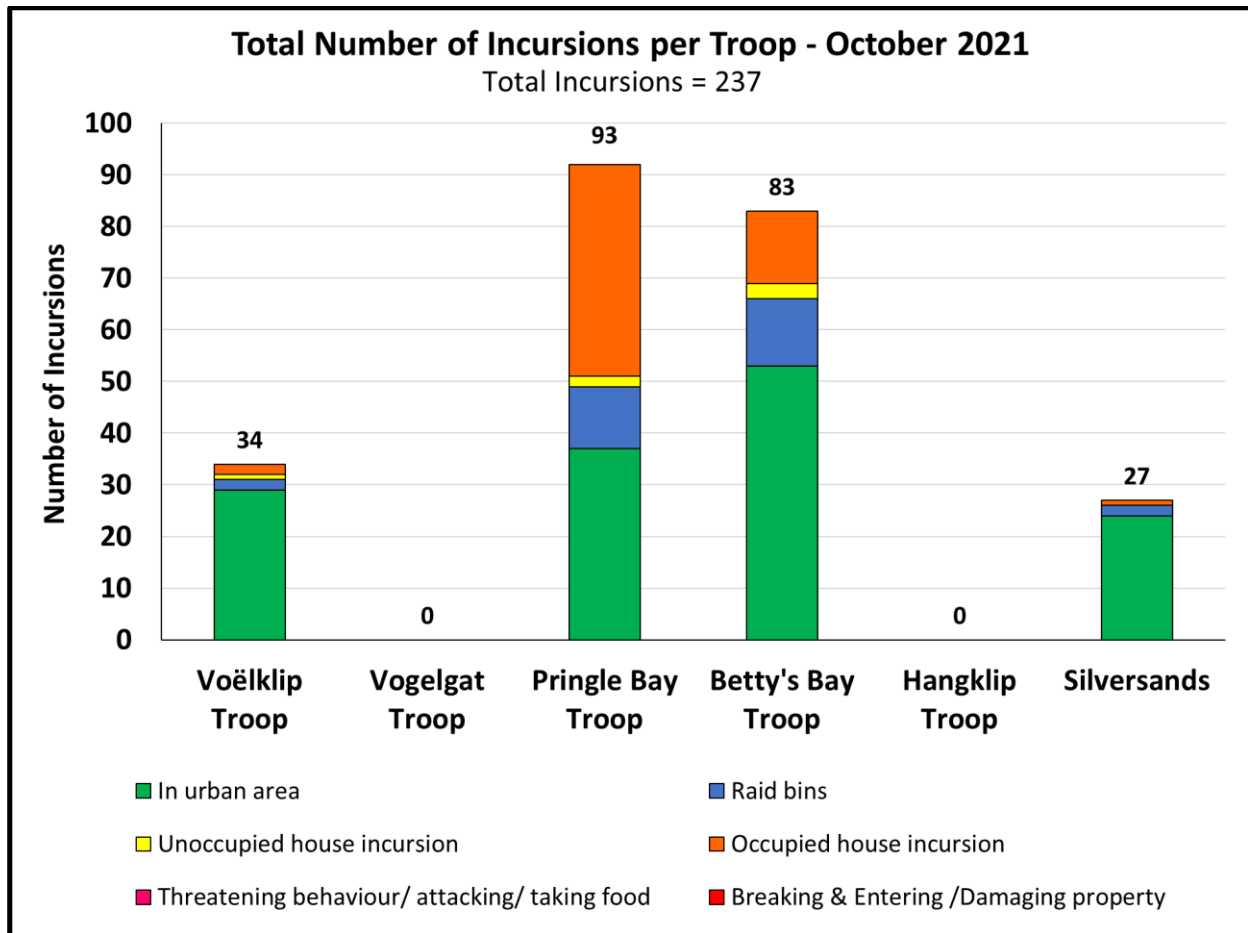
**Figure 4.1:** Hotline calls in baboon affected areas for October 2021. Incursion related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which baboon troops are known to occur and are actively managed. 'Other Areas' represent those areas beyond the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



**Figure 4.2:** Composition of incursion-related hotline calls during October 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 October 2021. Observed incursions are not hotline related and are incursions observed by HWS field staff.

In exactly the same pattern as in September, 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. The main difference between September and October, is that the intensity of assertive raids increased in the Pringle Bay Troop, while it decreased in the Betty's Bay Troop. In the Betty's Bay Troop the decline in highly assertive raids (threatening and breaking and entering) can be associated with the euthanasia of BBM1. The increase in raiding intensity in the Pringle Bay Troop may be ascribed to the growing confidence of the young subadult male, PBM2, which is clearly no longer a juvenile. This male spent long periods alone, or being followed by HKM1, in Pringle Bay seeking out HDF's mostly from occupied houses and various food suppliers in the CBD.

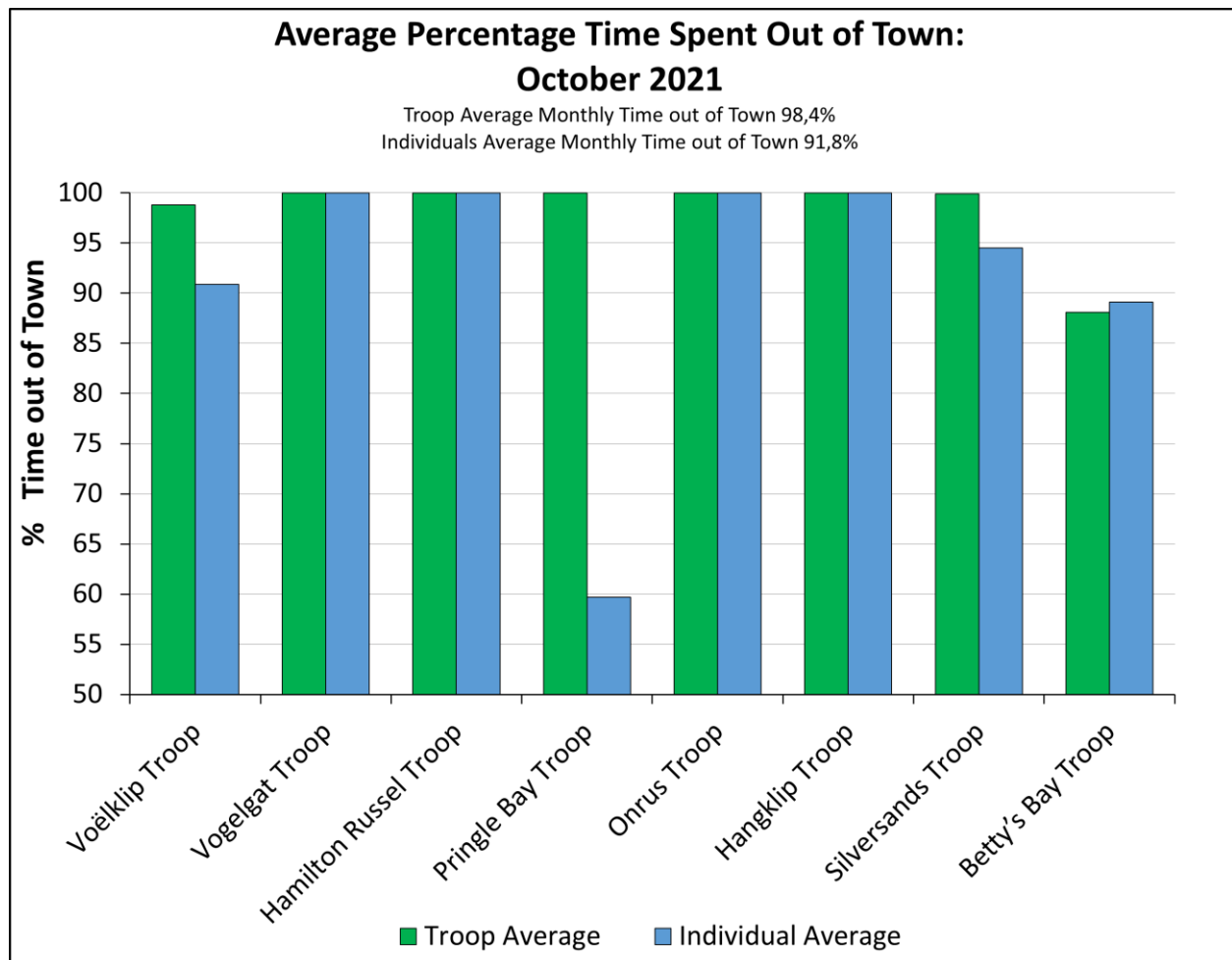


**Figure 4.4:** Young subadult male PBM2 from Pringle Bay Troop. Note he is only starting to show the body and head shape of an adult male.

#### 4.4 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

The average time out of town of managed troops decreased from 99.2% in September to 98.4% in October (Fig. 4.5). The average time out of town for individuals from all troops decreased from 93.4% last month to 91.8% in October. The Voëlklip, Betty's Bay and Silversands Troops (99.9%) were the only three troops which were not 100% out of town (note this statistic represents data for the majority of the troop, not individuals). Time out of town for these three troops also recorded the lowest values for individuals being out of town.

The Pringle Bay Troop was particularly noticeable because HKM1 and PBM2 spent many hours on many consecutive days in town, either with some adult females or alone in town. By the end of the month HKM1 had clearly dispersed from his natal Hangklip Troop, and never associated with it anymore. He was also severely rejected by the two adult males from the Pringle Bay Troop which stayed out of town for the whole month. He was therefore only associating with the few Pringle Bay individuals which had left the troop in search of the HDF's readily available in Pringle Bay. He was therefore effectively creating a new splinter troop in Pringle Bay itself.



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

## 4.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings.
- 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 the attractant for baboons. This will be most important with fig trees over the coming holiday season.
- **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. If baboons discover a bird feeder and a person continues to provide food for birds, that person will be considered to be feeding baboons, which is an offence.
- Residents are encouraged to record and report the feeding of wildlife to the municipality or to the baboon hotline (072 028 0008).

## 5 CONCLUSION

A number of interesting patterns have emerged from the monthly report data this month. Possibly the most interesting, is the one that some might consider counter intuitive. Over the last five months, there have been five live births in Betty's Bay Troop, with all the babies surviving to date. This fact is particularly notable when one considers the recent history of this troop. Data supplied by residents show that over the two years prior to this, the Betty's Bay Troop suffered a noticeable decline with at least eight baboons being killed during various human induced events (poaching 2+?, car accidents 2, shot 1, 3 "lost" in Kleinmond (P. Oxford, Overstrand BLC West Minutes, 30 September 2020)). This suggests a 33% human induced mortality rate over a very short period of time which could have had a dramatic impact on the ecological viability of the troop.

HWS began managing the Betty's Bay Troop towards the end of April 2021. It is notable therefore that the sudden burst of successful pregnancies (six month gestation period) has coincided almost exactly with the commencement of HWS' management of this troop.

It is well known that the prime objective of the Overstrand's Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP) is to keep baboons out of town. Although HWS has not been entirely successful in this endeavour with the highly habituated Betty's Bay Troop, it has managed to keep the troop out of town for an average of 90% of the time for the last six months (May – October). As no formal data were collected prior to the start of monitoring this troop, exact statistics cannot be calculated, but without doubt the implementation of management has successfully limited this troop's time in town, and hence the baboons' access to HDF's. The average Betty's Bay baboon will certainly have consumed less high energy HDF's and had a more natural fynbos diet over the past six months, than it did over the previous two years. Healthwise for baboons, this would be a significant improvement.

One very noticeable feature of BBM1 (alias Scarface) was that he weighed 42,9kg when he was first captured in March 2021. This is 50.5% heavier than the average weight (28.5 kg) for an adult male baboon in the Overstrand. It is also 24,2% heavier than a sample of male baboons from the Cape Peninsula which had been euthanized under the CapeNature Guidelines. Tissue samples from these baboons were used in a study to determine the metabolic effects of access to HDF's on baboons in the Cape Peninsula compared to wild baboons in the Eastern Cape (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S109564332030146X>).

The Peninsula baboons were significantly heavier (average 32.5kg), than the Eastern Cape baboons, which weighed an average of 28.8 kg (Overstrand males 28,5 kg). The Peninsula baboons also had significantly reduced levels (43%) of insulin receptor substrate (IRS-1) compared to the Eastern Cape baboons. These results suggested that the Peninsula baboons could develop insulin resistance, which could result in Type II diabetes. Type II diabetes and obesity have been observed in baboons exposed to unnatural nutritional and social environments (Stokes, 1986). Furthermore, wild baboons feeding primarily on human refuse in Masai Mara and Amboseli National Parks in Kenya had higher adiposity and hyperinsulinaemia than baboons eating a natural diet (Banks et al., 2003; Kemnitz et al., 2002).

It is pertinent that BBM1 was 10.4kg (24.2%) heavier than the average weight of the sample of male baboons (maximum weight 36.0kg) from the Cape Peninsula, which were significantly heavier than the sample from the eastern Cape (same as Overstrand). The only conclusion one can draw from these data, is that BBM1 (and most probably the other two similarly large adult males in the Betty's Bay Troop) was abnormally larger than males in other troops of the Overstrand, and most likely also suffering from significantly reduced IRS-1 levels, and was therefore potentially susceptible to contracting Type II diabetes.

A recent study on the Cape Peninsula found that human food available to raiding baboons has approximately 10 times the calorie density compared to the majority of fynbos vegetation available to baboons (Fehlmann et al., 2017). The Peninsula baboons subsequently modified their home ranges to be in close proximity to the urban areas they raided for HDF's. A similar range reduction has most likely also happened with the Betty's Bay Troop, which has a known historic range from Bass Lake in Betty's Bay to beyond the eastern boundary of Kleinmond. Over the last two years the Betty's Bay Troop has only been recorded to make one or two excursions to Kleinmond per year and had a very limited range around Betty's Bay. Although reliable recorded data for the whole of Betty's Bay are difficult to find, it is apparent from the Sunny Seas area that raiding became almost a daily occurrence throughout the year whenever the baboons slept in the vicinity of Sunny Seas. This trend began relatively slowly from the beginning of 2019 and escalated rapidly until the implementation of professional monitoring services (D. Horne pers. comm.).

When BBM1 was captured again in September he had lost 4.5 kg in body mass, but still looked very large and in prime condition. It is therefore reasonable to assume that most of the baboons in the Betty's Bay Troop had also lost weight, but at the same time had benefitted from eating a healthier more balanced diet with less HDF's. A gradual weightloss would indicate that natural foraging outside of the urban edge was supplying sufficient food to keep the baboons in excellent condition while slowly allowing excess weight to be shed.

This might explain the sudden spate of successful births in the Betty's Bay Troop. In this regard it is also worth noting that baboons are not seasonal breeders and generally breed throughout the year. This makes the clumping of births over the past five months in the Betty's Bay Troop even more remarkable. Normally the only occasion when there is a synchrony of births in baboons, is after a dominant male has died or been deposed. This is often followed by a spate of infanticides by the new alpha male, and this is followed by the females which lost their babies giving birth to new babies in synchrony. Such an event did not take place in the Betty's Bay Troop.

Another very obvious feature this month, was the dramatic change in the behaviour of the Betty's Bay Troop, and how starkly different it was from the Pringle Bay Troop in terms of raiding behaviour. Since the euthanasia of BBM1, no baboons have physically broken into any houses in either Kleinmond or Betty's Bay. Although the frequency of assertive raids to non-assertive raids in the Betty's Bay Troop remained high (20.4%) relative to the other troops (1%) excluding Pringle Bay, it was surprisingly much lower than that (46%) for the Pringle Bay Troop.

It has been mentioned in the August and September 2021 monthly reports that the Pringle Bay Troop is a highly habituated troop which has been raiding its urban area for much longer than the Betty's Bay Troop. This feature has largely been overlooked because the most habituated baboons tended to be females or juveniles, so this was not considered too serious. However, now that the Pringle Bay females have largely returned to the Buffelstal Catchment Area to be with their males, it is often only the young subadult male (PBM2) which remains in and around Pringle Bay. This male is larger than most females, but his canines have not started to develop and he has only recently grown into what one may consider a subadult male.

Nevertheless this baboon seems to have recently undergone a psychological change and now regularly walks into occupied houses with total impunity and clearly has no fear of doing so. This male's frequency of assertive raids versus total raids is an incredible 86,7%. Put another way, every time this baboon enters the urban area of Pringle Bay, there is an 86,7% chance that it will enter a house occupied by people in order to find some food. And, it is still a small subadult baboon! This month it was also observed trying to open some sliding doors and windows.

Another coincidental, but most unfortunate feature of PBM2's raiding behaviour, is the fact that HKM1 has dispersed from the Hangklip Troop into Pringle Bay in search of a new troop. He is unlikely to be successful in joining the Pringle Bay Troop because it already has two relatively young adult males and they have both chased him long distances away from the troop. Unfortunately however, HKM1 has already encountered and mated with several of the Pringle Bay females when they were in town, so he remains 'optimistic'. He has also obviously encountered PBM2 on many occasions and has started following him in order to take food from him that he has removed from houses in Pringle Bay.



A remarkable feature of Figure 3.3 is that while PBM2 raided occupied houses on 37 occasions, he only bothered to raid one bin. By contrast, HKM1 must have observed PBM2 raiding multiple houses, but he was still too wary to join him. In the meantime, he had learnt to raid bins, which he did on 10 occasions as opposed to the single bin raided by PBM2. It is clearly only a matter of time before HKM1 starts to join PBM2 and raid occupied houses as well. HWS has already urgently applied to the Overstrand Municipality and CapeNature to relocate HKM1 to a natural area where he may join a wild troop before he starts practising the raiding habits of PBM2.

In conclusion, there are several people in Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay that continue purposely to feed baboons. In some cases these people are known to feed the baboons directly, while in other cases they do so under the guise of feeding birds by putting out large amounts of bird seed on a regular basis. HWS urges these people to please stop doing so. It should be obvious from this report, that artificial feeding definitely does not benefit the individual baboon or its troop. By contrast, it encourages the baboons to seek more and more human derived foods. Not only is this likely to lead to the baboons coming into increasing conflict with humans as their craving for high energy food increases, but it is also most likely to be severely detrimental to their health.

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