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Overstrand

Monthly Report

April 2022

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INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 April to 30 April 2022.

The Voëlklip Troop made two incursions into the urban area during the middle of April, with individuals gaining access to town on two more occasions. Similarly, individuals from the Vogelgat Troop were recorded in the urban area on six occasions during April, with two occupied house incursions being recorded. The use of the Virtual Fence was increased along the Voëlklip urban edge in the latter part of the month in response to the presence of the Vogelgat Troop. It is worth noting that whilst several individuals accessed the urban area during April, the troop as a whole remained in its natural habitat outside of the town. There were no recorded observations of the Hamilton-Russell Troop during April, however the Onrus Troop was reported to have been seen in the vicinity of the Brewery at Glen Fruin, Sandbaai.

During April, the Pringle Bay Troop spent over half the month in the urban area. This month it proved very challenging to move the troop beyond the urban edge for a variety of reasons. Provisioning of food by residents continued to hamper efforts, with several locations putting out bird seed and other food items. Furthermore, the flexibility in group cohesion observed when baboons entered urban environments (Bracken *et al.*, 2022) confounded efforts to steer the troop out of the urban area. This was compounded by the high degree of habituation of the Pringle Bay Troop. April was also marked by a rise in intragroup conflict in the troop. This could be attributed to the high proportion of adult males in the group competing for access to the few females. When in town, the adult sex ratio was 1:1 (Four males (one sub-adult) to four adult females). The natural adult sex ratio for chacma baboons in the western cape varies from 1:2 to 1:5 (Henzi *et al.*, 1999).

The movement of the troop away from the urban area was also impeded by the behaviour of two of the males within the group; PBM2 and HKM1. Over the past year PBM2 showed a high dependence on human derived food stuffs (HDFs) and consistently encouraged other troop members to join him on his forays into Pringle Bay, and once in town, he tried to prevent them from leaving. HKM1 had been living in and around Pringle Bay for seven months. As such, from a baboon social behaviour point of view, Pringle Bay had become his territory and he was accepted by the rest of the troop when in town. However, in the past whenever he followed the females back into the Buffelstahl Dam catchment area, he was vigorously chased away by the resident males BRM1 and BRM2. As a result, it was in the interests of both PBM2 and HKM1 for the troop to remain in town, and they generally tried to prevent the troop from leaving.

Both the Hangklip and Silversands Troops remained out of the urban area of April. It is worth mentioning that the Hangklip Troop was intercepted close to the Silversands urban edge but no individuals managed to enter. Adult males from the Silversands Troop did periodically manage to enter the urban area, but the troop remained out of town for the whole month.

Betty's Bay saw a slight increase in the number of incursions during April, however there was an overall decrease in the number of days the troop spent in town. Additionally, the Betty's Bay Troop utilised the intertidal zone several times during the month, with BBM4 observed consuming black mussels (*Choromytilus meridionalis*). As with previous months, the greatest proportion of incursions were accrued by BBM2 and BBM4. Worryingly, there were two occasions (once each) during April where these individuals were observed taking food directly out of the hands of members of the public.

OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS

1.1 VOËLKLIP TROOP

1.1.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town decreased from 100% to 99% during April.
- Time out of town for individuals decreased from 99.7% in March to 97.3% during April.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	99.0	-1.0	2	4:19	2:09	02:49	01:30
Individuals	97.3	-2.7	6	12:01	2:00	04:10	00:38

Table 1.1: In Town Statistics for the Voëlkliip Troop for April 2022. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in April was 11 hours and 13 minutes.

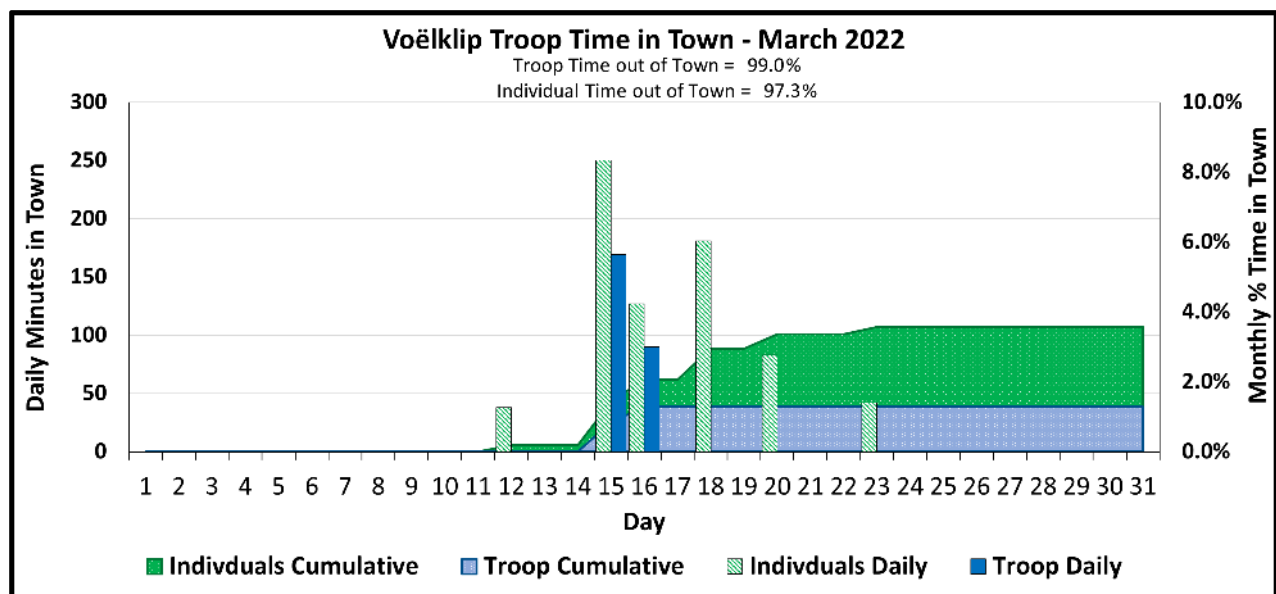


Figure 1.1 Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Voëlkliip Troop during April 2022.

1.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

1.1.2.1 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- A group of individuals made an incursion into Hermanus Heights on Raed-Na-Gael Street in an attempt to reach the golfcourse.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																														
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																									
BABOON TROOP: Voëlklip		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																									
MONTH: April		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																									
YEAR: 2022																																
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																																2
VGM1 BLUE TAG	M															1	1															
UNKM1	M									1			1																			2
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F																															
VKF5 RED TAG	F																															
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																															
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F																															
UnID Male	M																															
UnID Males	M																															
UnID Females	F									1			1			6					1,2,2,6			1,6								9
UnID Female	F																															
UnID Individuals																2																1
UnID Juveniles													1							1												2
%		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS		
Troop	1.0															169	90															4.32
Individuals	2.7								*				38			250	127			181												12.02
Roost:	AM	4	4	2	4	?	4	?	?	21	7	4	3	3	5	21	6	23	6	21	6	26	10	?	3	4	2	3	5	3	18	
Roost:	PM	4	2	4	?		4	?	?	23	7	?	3	3	5	21	6	23	6	21	6	26	10	?	3	4	2	3	5	3	18	
Roost Sites	1	Golf Course					2	Heights Dam					3	Green Kloof					4	Platte Klip					5	Adder Ladder						
	6	Lower Dam					7	Middle Dam					8	Upper Dam					9	Dragon's Back					10	Droë Kloof						
	11	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					29	Groot Uitkyk					?	Unknown						
ID Features of Baboons																																
General remarks																																

Figure 1.2: The Voëlklip Troop incident sheet for April 2022. * Indicates that an individual was observed in town but time spent in town is unknown.

1.1.2.2 **VOËLKLIP & FERNKLOOF**

- Two troop incursions were observed in Fernkloof during April. The troop spent the night in the Three Dam area east of Fernkloof Nature Reserve. On both occasions the troop moved through the riverine vegetation along the Mossel River in order to access the urban area.

1.1.2.3 **GENERAL**

- The Voëlklip Troop made two incursions into the urban area during April, on 15 and 16 April. During these incursions, two occupied house incursions were recorded as well as two bin raids.
- The troop utilised the eastern portion of their range more extensively during April, spending significant periods of time near the Three Dams.
- VGM1 was noted missing for several days at the beginning of April, but was observed with the troop from 13 April onwards. It should be noted that the two troop raids into the urban area coincided with his return to the troop.

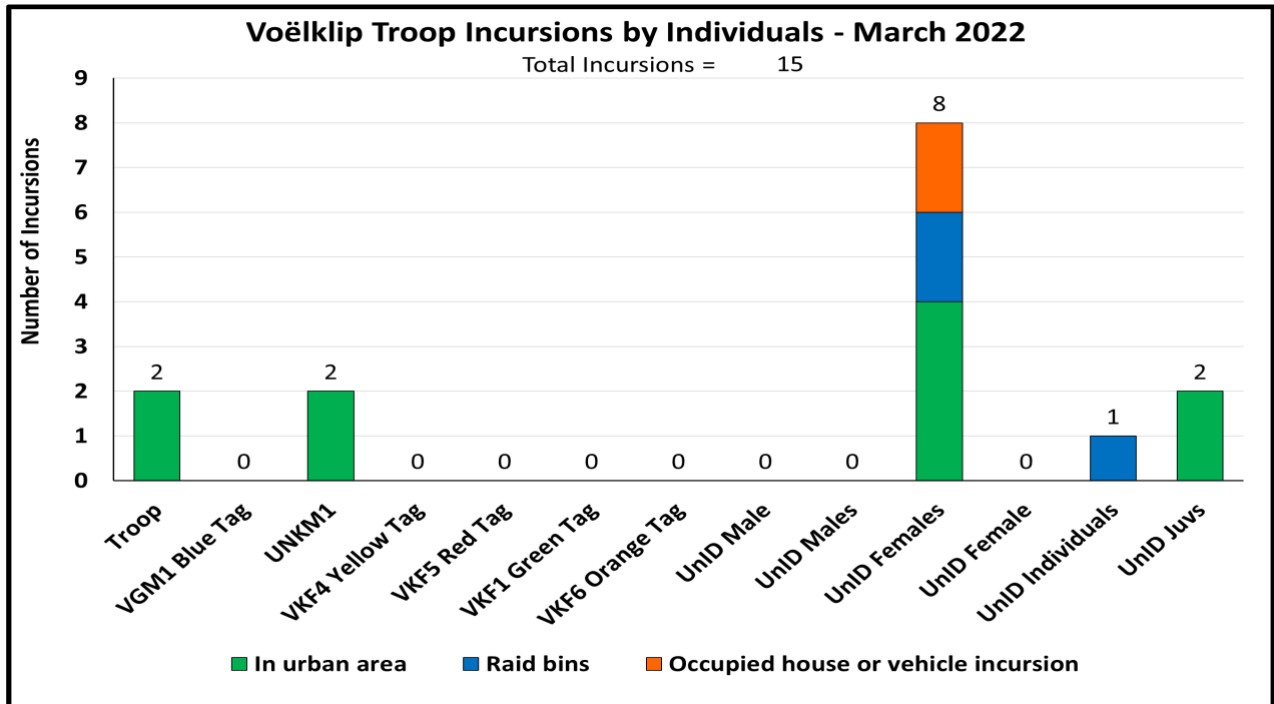


Figure 1.3 Number of incursions for the Voëklip Troop and individuals during April 2022.

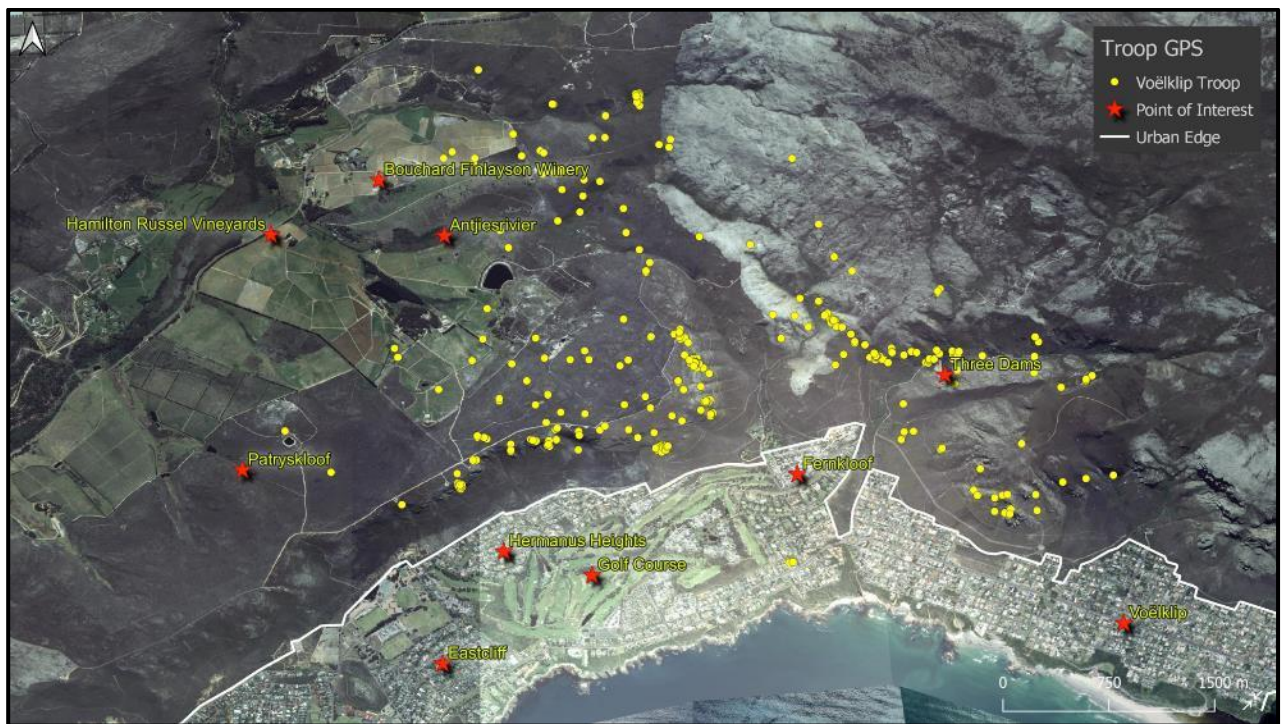


Figure 1.4 Map showing the GPS locations of VKF7 in the Voëklip Troop during April 2022.

1.2 VOGELGAT TROOP

1.2.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- April is the 20th consecutive month the troop has remained 100% out of town.
- Time out of town for individuals decreased from 100% to 99.4% during April.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00
Individuals	99.4	-0.6	4	2:01	0:30	0:48	0:17

Table 1.2 In Town Statistics for the Vogelgat Troop for April 2022. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in April was 11 hours and 13 minutes.

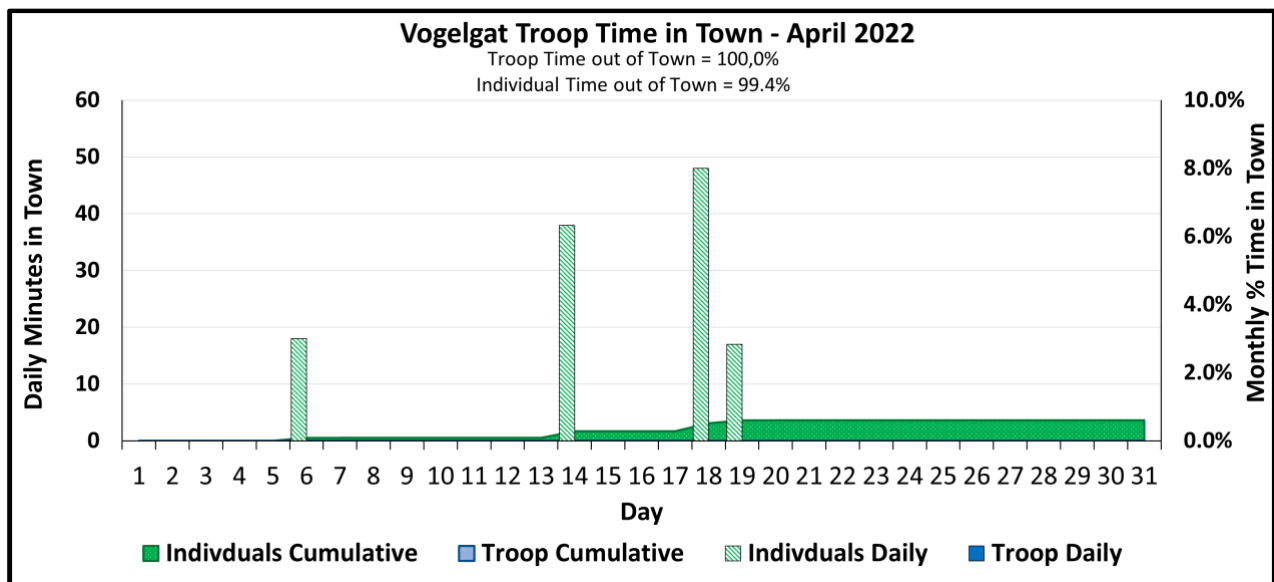


Figure 1.5 Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Vogelgat Troop during April 2022.

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																																							
MONTH: April		YEAR: 2022																																							
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																																					
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																																									
VGF1	F																																								
VGM2	M																																								
UnID Male	M														1		1				1											3									
UnID Males	M														1		1				1											1									
UnID Females	F														1																	1									
UnID Female	F																			1												1									
UnID Individuals							1														1								6		2										
UnID Juvs																																									
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																							
Troop		0.0																														0.00									
Individuals		0.6					18								38					48	17											2.02									
Roost:	AM	?	?	?	?	?	1	2	18	?	?	?	?	19	18	?	10	14	?	?	8	8	14	16	?	?	?	?	19	?	20	?	?	?	?						
Roost:	PM	?	?	?	?	1	2	18	?	?	?	?	18	?	?	10	14	?	?	8	8	14	16	?	?	?	?	19	?	20	?	?	?	?							
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		?		Unknown																																					
General remarks		P+A1:AH33lease note that the numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																																							

Figure 1.6 The Vogelgat Troop incident sheet for April 2022.

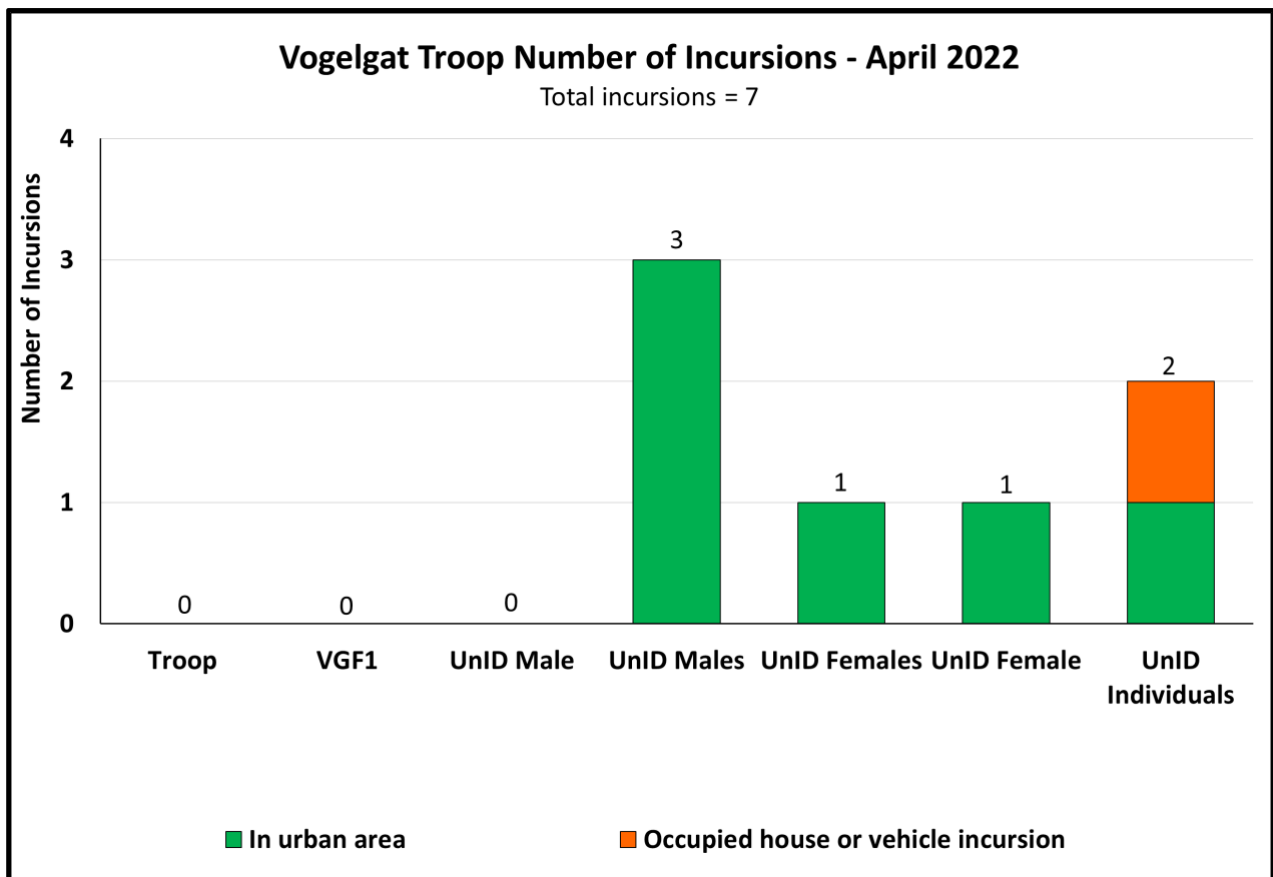


Figure 1.7 Number of incursions for the Vogelgat Troop and individuals during April 2022.

1.2.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- On 6 April, a hotline call received at 13h42 reported several baboons in 4th Street, Voëlklip. When HWS staff arrived, they found nine individuals moving towards the Old Caravan Park on the R43.
- A hotline call was received on 9 April reporting a baboon that was struck by a vehicle between Stillwaters and Hermanus Yacht Club, outside the Pennant 9 Property along the R43 (4.6 km east of Hermanus). When HWS Field Staff arrived, the animal was already deceased and was identified as VGF1 by the presence of her collar. VGF1 had been dragged off the road and likely died on impact.
- A hotline call was received at 14h21 on 14 April concerning baboons in town in 2nd Street and 15th Avenue Voëlklip. When HWS Field Staff arrived, they observed a female leaving town towards the caravan park, and a male moving up towards the mountain on 16th Street. Although the baboons had no identifying features, it is presumed they belonged to the Vogelgat Troop.
- A hotline call was received on 16 April concerning a lone male near 201 1st Street. By the time HWS Field staff arrived the male had vacated the urban area and was climbing the mountain above the town.
- One occupied house raid by adult baboon on 29 April. This may be attributed to a dispersing male, as the troop was observed later that day moving east near the Maanskynbaai turn off along the R43.

1.2.3 VIRTUAL FENCE

- The Virtual Fence was activated on six days during April. This was due to increased presence of the troop near the urban edge, especially during the latter part of the month.

1.3 ONRUS TROOP

- On 4 April a hotline call was received informing us that the Onrus Troop was observed on the urban edge near the Brewery at Glen Fruin, Sandbaai.

1.4 HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- No observations of the Hamilton-Russel Troop were recorded during April.

1.5 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

No births were recorded during in the Overstrand East during April. One death was recorded. VGF1 was struck by a motor vehicle on the R43 between Hermanus Yacht Club and Stillwaters. The incident was reported via the Baboon Hotline. When HWS Field staff arrived on scene they determined that the female had been dragged from the road after the collision and was likely killed on impact. The satellite collar previously attached to the female was found ~ 10m away. The body was taken to a nearby veterinary facility for a post mortem.

OVERSTRAND WEST TROOPS

1.6 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

1.6.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The time spent out of town by the Pringle Bay Troop decreased drastically from 98.8% in March to 48.3% during April.
- Time out of town by Pringle Bay Troop individuals increased from 75,1% to 78.7 %. Please note that this apparent increase in time out of town, is a function of the troop spending such a prolonged period in the urban area during April. This is the longest time the troop has ever spent in town since baboon management officially began in November 2019. Prior to this month, the lowest amount of time that the troop spent out of town was 84.20% in July 2020.
- It is evident from Figure 3.1 that during April the troop went from being 100% out of town (1 – 4 April), to having increasing numbers of individuals and some troop time in town from 4 to 16 April. From 17 April onwards the troop was in town everyday and spending at least seven hours a day in town. During all this time the ‘wild’ Buffelsrivier males were also in town and rapidly became habituated to the presence of humans and being in the human environment.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	48.3	-50.5	20	174:04	8:42	12:00	3:21
Individuals	75.9	4.5	15	81:06	5:47	12:00	0:07

Table 1.3 In Town Statistics for the Pringle Bay Troop for April 2022. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in April was 11 hours and 13 minutes.

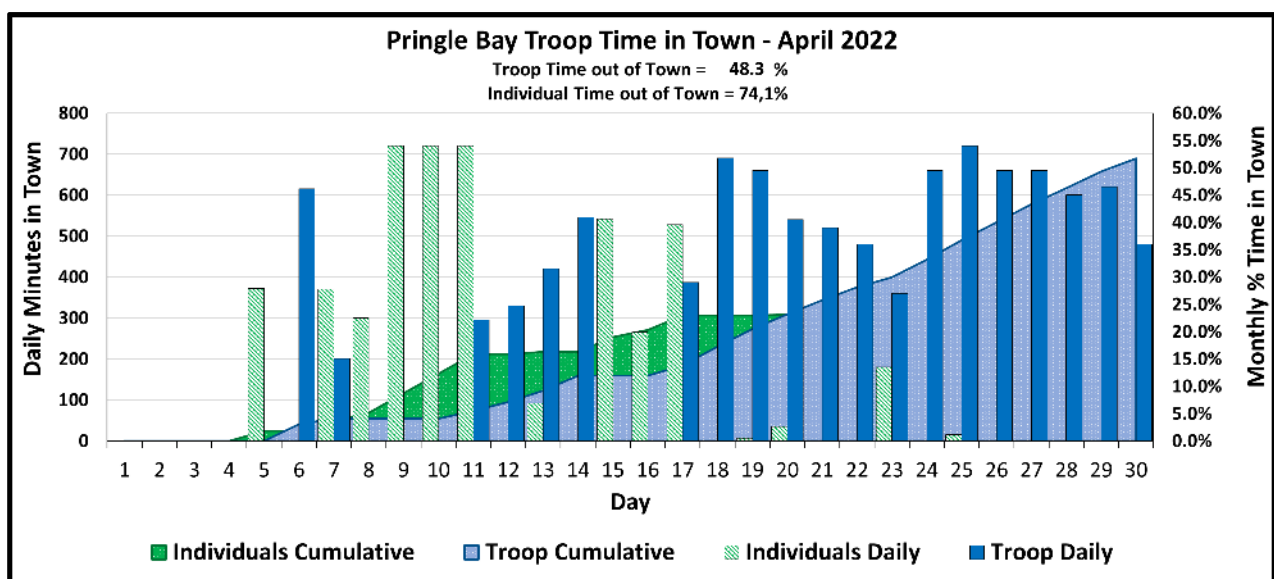


Figure 3.1: Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Pringle Bay Troop during April 2022.

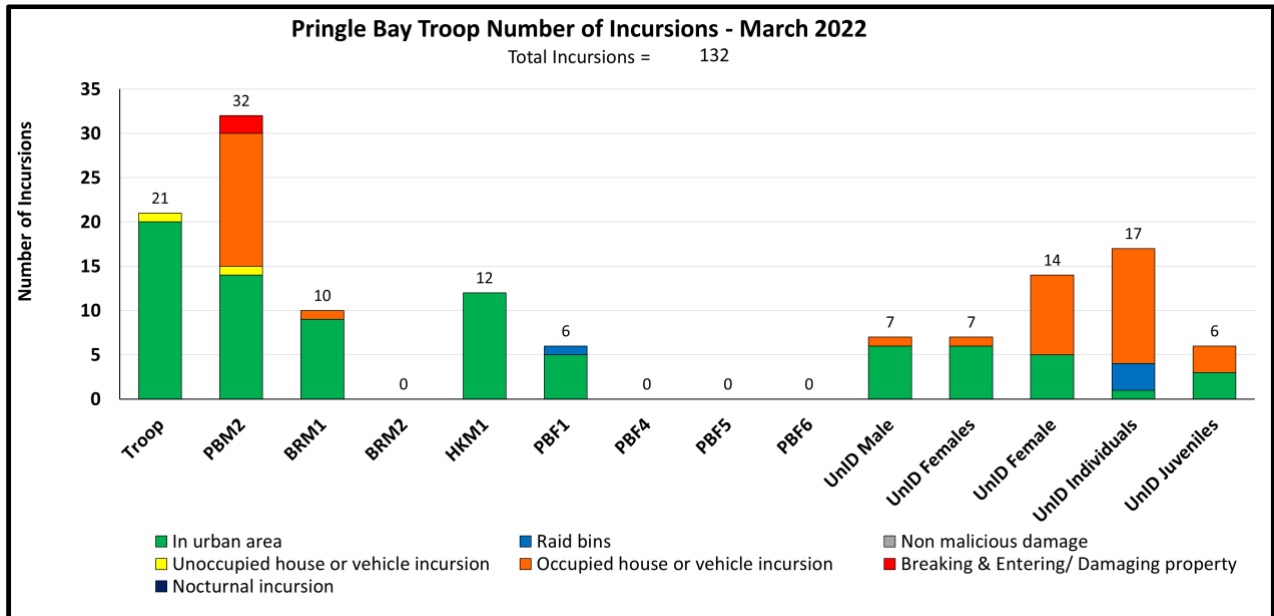


Figure 3.3: Number of incursions for the Pringle Bay Troop and individuals during April 2022.

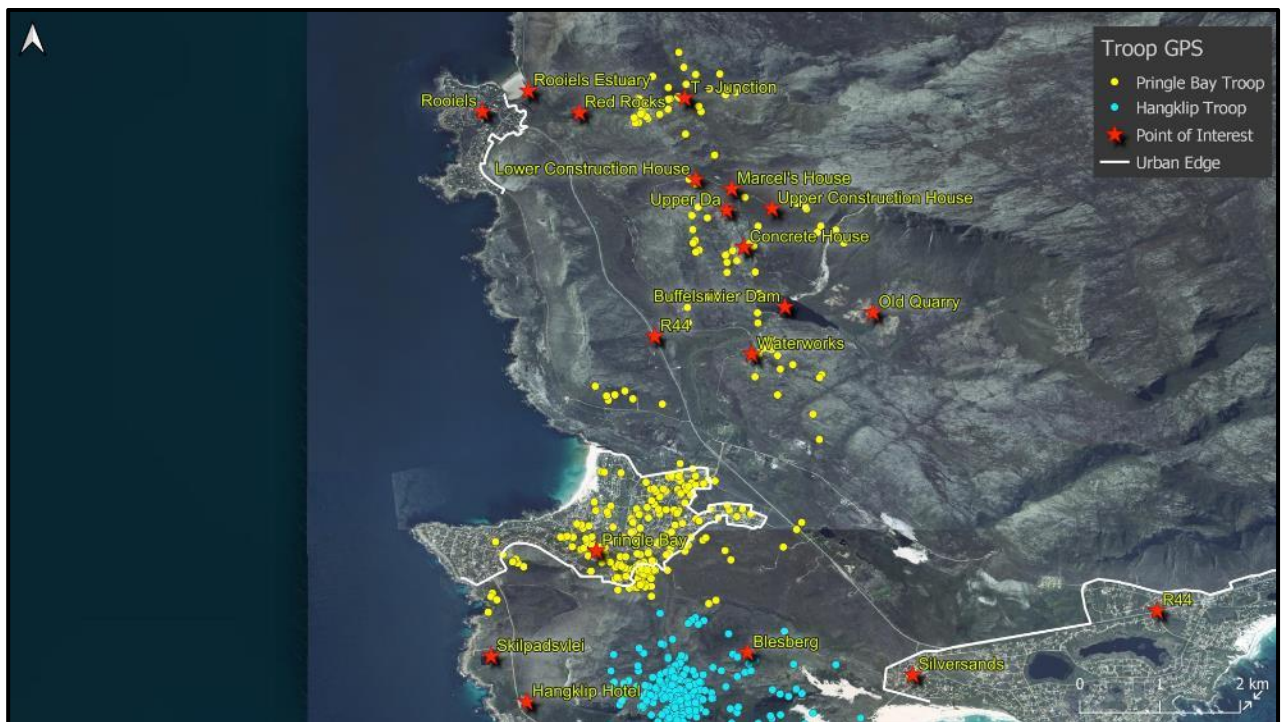


Figure 3.4: Map showing the GPS locations of PBF1 in the Pringle Bay Troop (yellow) and HKM3 in the Hangklip troop (cyan) during April 2022.

1.7 HANGKLIP TROOP

1.7.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- April is the seventh consecutive month that no time in town was recorded for the Hangklip Troop or individuals.

1.7.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- The Hangklip Troop utilised its natural home range between Pringle Bay Village and Sea Farm Private Nature Reserve. The troop appeared to utilise the eastern portion of their range more extensively through this month.
- On 9 April the Hangklip Troop attempted to access the urban area in Silversands. The troop was successfully blocked and subsequently moved west into the Strandveld west of Silversands beach.

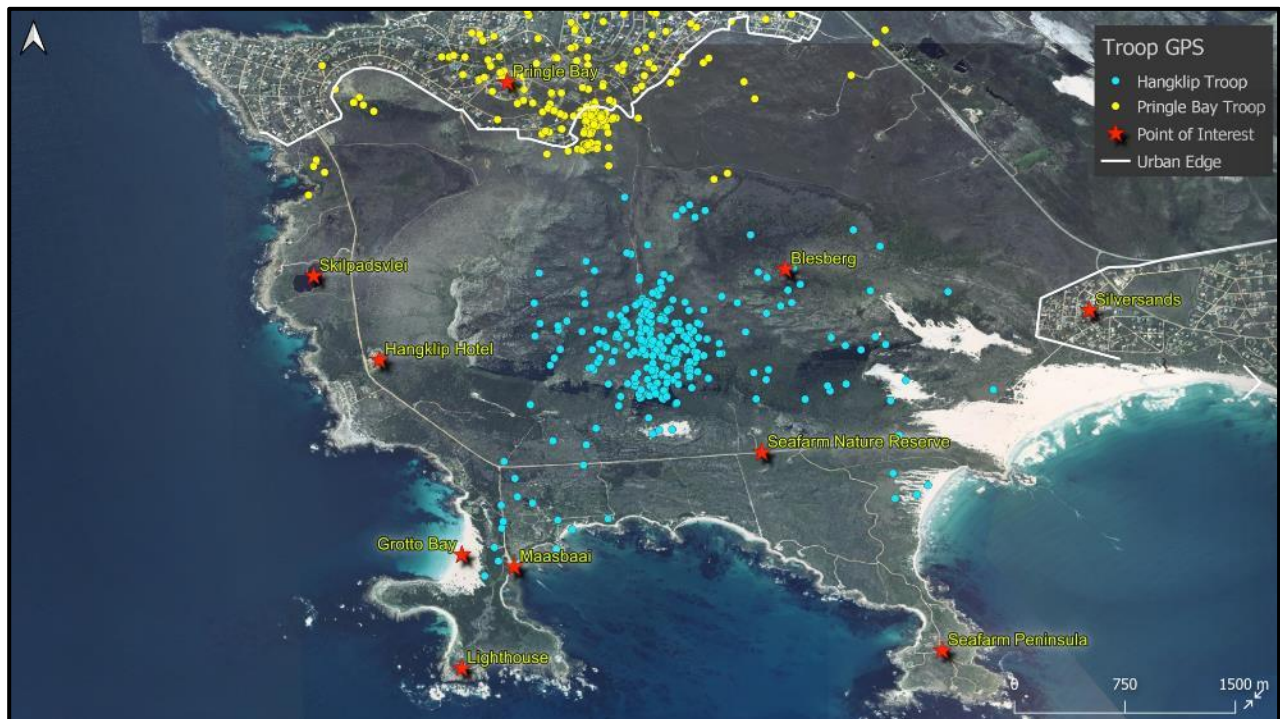


Figure 4.1 GPS locations of HKM3 in the Hangklip Troop (cyan) and PBF1 in the Pringle Bay Troop (yellow) as determined by their GPS collars during April 2022.

1.8 SILVERSANDS TROOP

1.8.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The troop spent 100% of its time out of town this month.
- Time out of town by individuals increased marginally from 97.5 to 97.9 during April.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	0:00	00:00	00:00
Individuals	97.9	0.4	8	7:43	0:15	01:50	00:05

Table 5.1 In Town Statistics for the Silversands Troop for April 2022. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in April was 11 hours and 13 minutes.

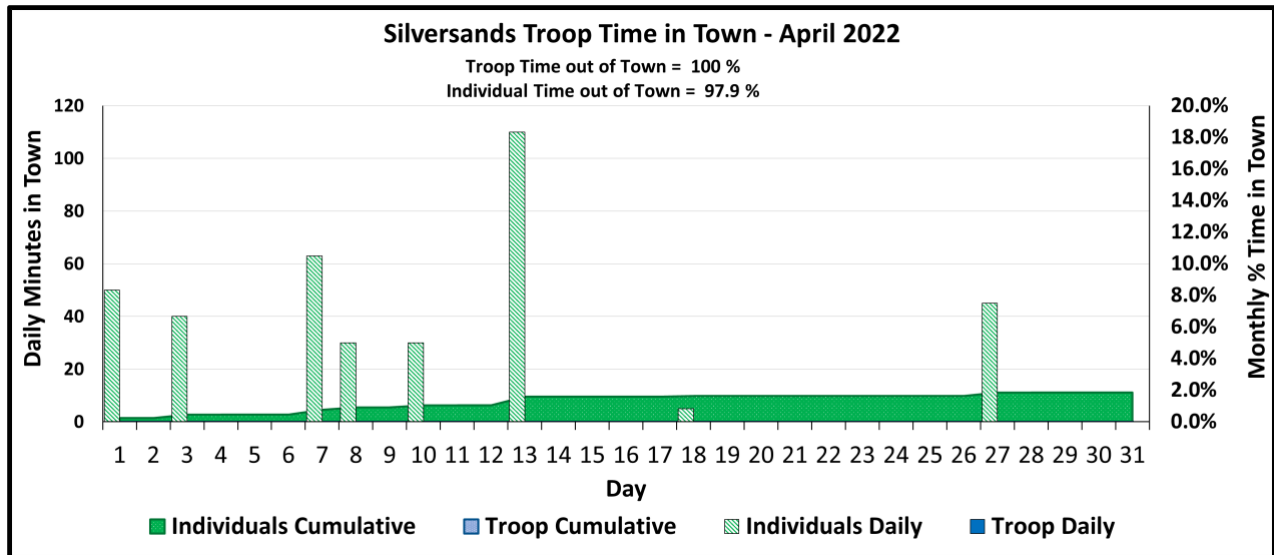


Figure 5.1 Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Silversands Troop during April 2022.

1.8.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Individuals from the Silversands Troop were observed in the urban area on eight days this month, with both SSM1 and SSM2 continuing to enter the urban area.

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: Silversands		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: April YEAR: 2022		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 ID		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)		1		1				1	1		1		1																				7
SSM2		1		1	1					1										1		1											7
UnID Males																																	
UnID Male																																	
UnID Sub-Male																																	
UnID Females																																	
UnID Female																																	
UnID Individuals																																	
UnID Juveniles																																	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS	
Troop		0.0																															0.00
Individuals		2.1	50		40	45				63	30		30																				7.72
Roost:		AM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Roost:		PM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
		?	Unknown																														
		?																														2	
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		?																														29	
		?																														30	
		?																														31	
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks		P=A1:AH35lease note that numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions. * indicates individuals were seen in town but were not seen entering and/or leaving. These data were therefore estimated.																															

Figure 5.2 The Silversands Troop incident sheet for April 2022.

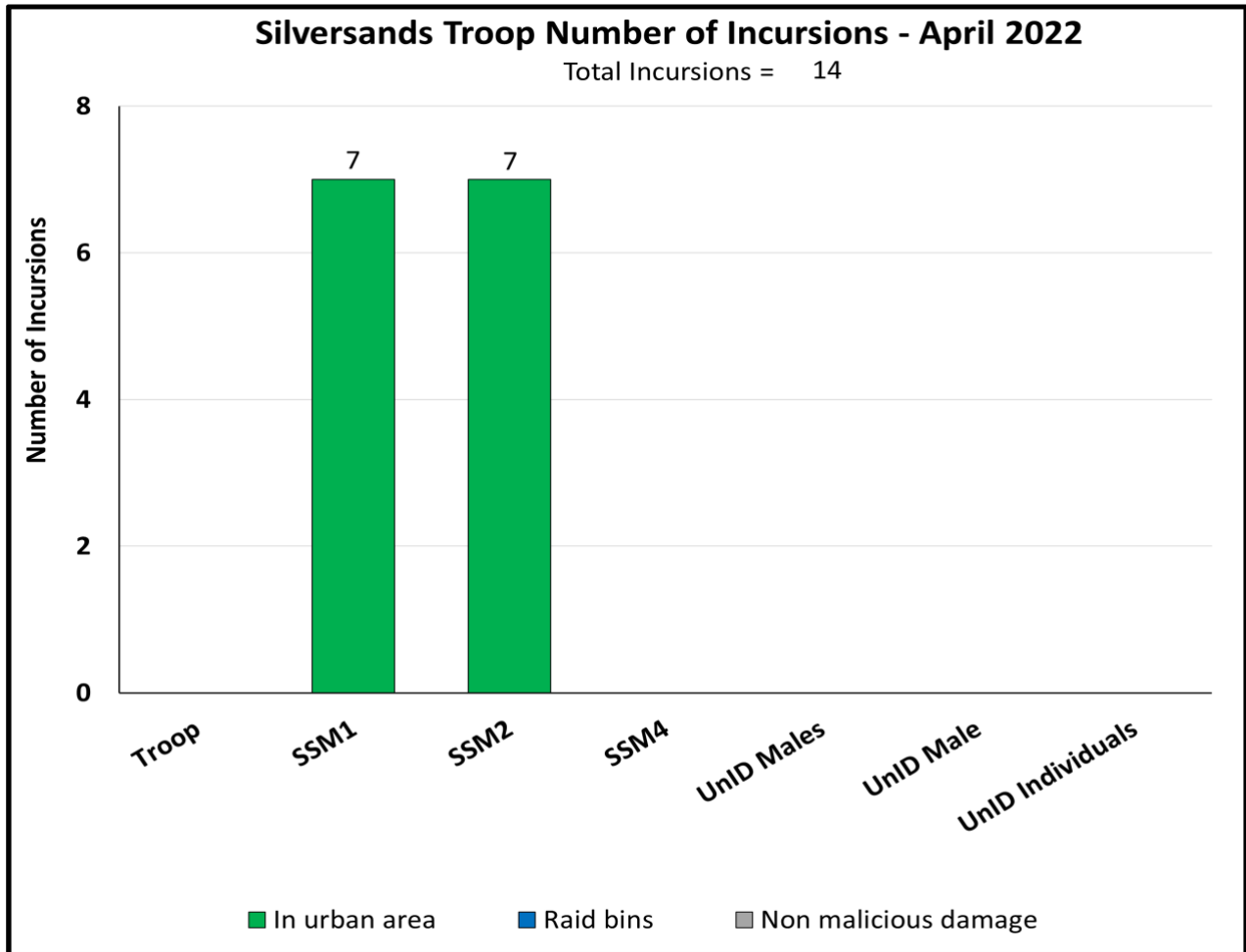


Figure 5.3 Number of incursions by the Siversands Troop and individuals during April 2022.

1.9 BETTY'S BAY TROOP

1.9.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town increased from 88.2% to 91.1% this month.
- Individual baboons time out of town further decreased during April, from 83.5% to 79.6%.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	91.1	2.9	21	33:46	1:36	3:51	0:14
Individuals	79.6	-3.9	27	77:45	2:52	5:14	0:42

Table 6.1: In Town Statistics for the Betty's Bay Troop for April 2022. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in April was 11 hours and 13 minutes.

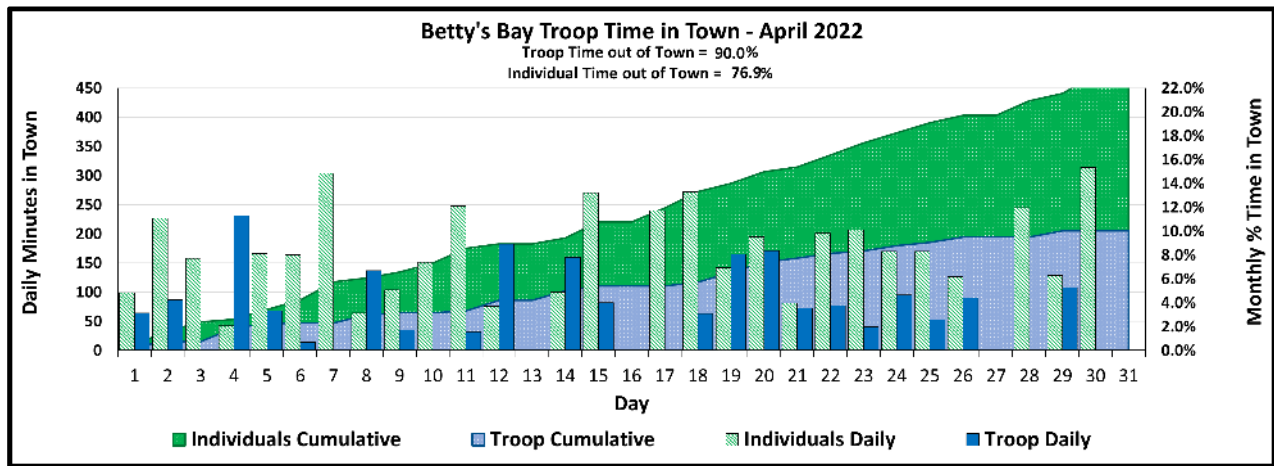


Figure 3.: Troop and individual daily (bars) and monthly (area) Time in Town by the Betty's Bay Troop during April 2022.

1.9.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- The total number of recorded incursions increased marginally, from 136 in March to 145 in April.
- The troop entered town on 19 days in comparison to 25 days in March.
- A total of 69 incursions were recorded for BBM2 and BBM4, with these individuals participating in 28 and 41 incursions respectively.
- The number of occupied house incursions increased from 16 to 20. The majority of these incursions, equating to 10 in total, were made by BBM4, followed by BBM2 with 4 incursions and female baboons with 5 incursions. The remaining incursion was attributed to an unidentified individual.
- There were eight bin raids recorded during April. Field staff noted seeing BBM4 pulling items out of a baboon proof bin on one occasion.
- As noted in previous reports, fruiting trees and bird feed continue to be an attractant for baboons into the urban area. Baboons returned repeatedly to forage at known trees and residences that have previously provisioned bird seed or crushed mealies.
- The troop was seen foraging along the coast several times in April. BBM4 was seen eating black mussels.
- BBM2 and BBM4 were seen taking food directly out of the hands of members of the public on one occasion each.

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:		BETTY'S BAY		1 In urban area		4 Alteration with pets		7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																								
MONTH: April		YEAR: 2022		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																								
Troop		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	19	
BBM2	M	1	1,7	1	1	1	1	1,6	1	1	1,6	1	1,6	1,6	1	1	7,7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,2,2	1	1	1	1	1	28		
BBM4 (sub-adult)	M	1,5	1	1	1,2,2	1	1	1,2	1,7	1,7	1,6,6	1,5	1					1,6	1	1,6	1	1,6,6	1	1	1,6	1,6	1	1	1,6,6	41		
BBF1	F																															
BBF2	F																															
Unid Male	M																															
Unid Females	F				1	1					1						1	1						1					1,6	1	9	
Unid Female	F		1,6	2,7	1	1	1	1	1,1,6	1			1	1									1	1	1	1,6,6				20		
Unid Individuals					6						2			5								1	1					1		6		
Unid Juveniles			1				1,7		1		1			1	1	1,5	1	1	1	1	1,2		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	22		
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																														
		HRS																														
Troop	%	8.9	64	87	231	68	14	137	35	32	182	160	82		63	165	171	72	77	40	95	53	90				108		33.77			
Individuals	%	20.4	99	227	158	42	166	164	304	64	104	151	248	76		100	270		240	272	142	195	81	201	207	170	170	126	245	129	314	77.75
Roost:	AM	17	1	1	1	2	17	2	2	2	12	1	2	1	?	2	2	?	2	2	?	2	6	2	1	5	6	6		2		
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	2	17	2	2	2	12	1	2	1	?	2	2	?	2	2	?	2	6	2	1	5	6	6		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	Jock's Bay		12		Zigzag		13		Church		14		Kleinmond Lookout		15		Kopje														
	16	Caltex		17		Waterfall		18		Unknown		19		Harold Porter Gardens		20		Palmett														
	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		Please note that numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																														

Figure 3.9: The Betty's Bay Troop incident sheet for April 2022.

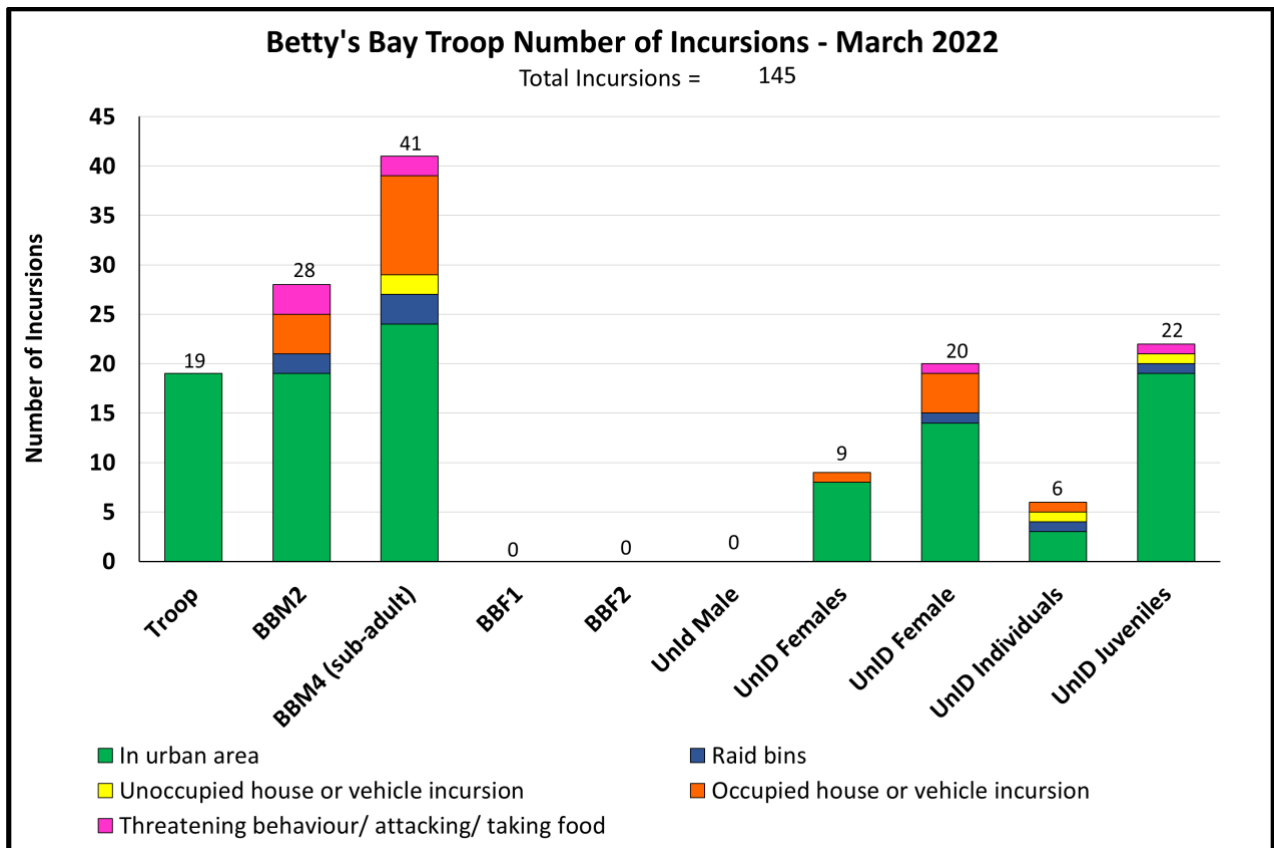


Figure 3.10: Number of incursions by the Betty's Bay Troop and individuals during April 2022.

1.10 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- One birth and two deaths were recorded in the Western Overstrand during April 2022.
- An infant was born to PBF4 in the Pringle Bay Troop but had been killed by infanticide two days later. There was a great deal of intra-male conflict in this troop which had four males (three adult and one sub-adult) and four adult females all living in and around Pringle Bay for most of April.
- The second death was a juvenile that was shot by a resident with a pellet gun.

GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS

1.11 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

One birth and three deaths were recorded in the managed troops during April 2022. One death was the result of a motor vehicle collision on the R43 in which an adult female, VGF1, was struck by a car on the R43 approximately 4.6 km east of Hermanus. An infant born in Pringle Bay died two days later as the result of infanticide. The last death was that of a juvenile in the Pringle Bay Troop. The juvenile was observed being shot with a pellet gun on 17 April and was missing for eight days when a Hotline call late one evening reported a very ill looking juvenile. Despite extensively searching around the reported area, the juvenile was not found and was later presumed dead.

In the past six months nine births and ten deaths have been recorded in the managed troops of baboons. Worryingly, out of these ten deaths, seven of them have been directly induced by humans, whilst the other three have been due to natural pressures (one plant toxicosis and two infanticides). Both the infanticides occurred in the Pringle Bay Troop. This was not surprising given the level of inter-male conflict present in the troop. The conflict intensity was likely exacerbated by the troop's persistence in and around the urban area for the past two months. In wild populations, immigrant males are responsible for up to 37% of infant deaths (Zipple *et al.*, 2017). It was evident from his physical condition, that HKM1 was not capable of competing with BRM1 when outside of the urban area. However, with the troop living in Pringle Bay, the close proximity of the troop with HKM1 increased the likelihood of lethal interactions between HKM1 and juveniles from the Pringle Bay Troop.

Troop	October	June	June	April 2022			Total observed Births (1 July 2021 to 31 April 2022)	Total observed Deaths (1 July 2021 to 31 April 2022)	Total observed Migrations (1 July 2021 to 31 April 2022)
	2019	2020	2021	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	29	27	0	0	0	6	0	-1
Vogelgat	N/A	22*	29	0	1	0	1	2	0
Onrus	N/A	N/A	25**	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hamilton Russel	N/A	N/A	21**	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pringle Bay	16	16	17	1	2	0	2	7	+1
Betty's Bay	N/A	19	20	0	0	0	6	3	0
Hangklip	N/A	N/A	30	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Silversands	N/A	N/A	43	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Total	45	64	166	1	3	0	15	16	-2

Table 4.1: Population data for the managed troops in the Overstrand in April 2022. Emigration /Immigration figures show animal movements between troops. *Vogelgat Troop was first counted in December 2020. **Hamilton Russel and Onrus troop sizes are estimated, because they were not seen enough to get an accurate count. Note: Troop numbers are counted once a year and not updated by counting births and deaths, because these may occur without being observed by field rangers.

Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (July - June)	2021/22 (July 2021 - April 2022)	April 2022	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	3	0	1	0	4
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	6	2	9
<i>Direct *</i>	1	2	5	2	8
<i>Indirect **</i>	0	0	1	0	1
Natural	2	7	5	1	14
Unknown	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL DEATHS	6	9	13	3	28

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.

1.12 HOTLINE DATA

Incursion related hotline calls increased significantly from 56 to 96 during April 2022. The majority of hotline calls originated in Betty’s Bay (n = 33), with the greatest proportion (n = 27) originating from the Jocks Bay area of Betty’s Bay. Unlike previous months, a considerable number of calls were made regarding the Voëlklip Troop (n = 25) with the majority (n = 15) of these calls made over a 4-day period in the middle of the month. Additionally, one call was received regarding the presence of a group of baboons at Glen Fruin, Sandbaai, which is likely regarding the Onrus Troop.

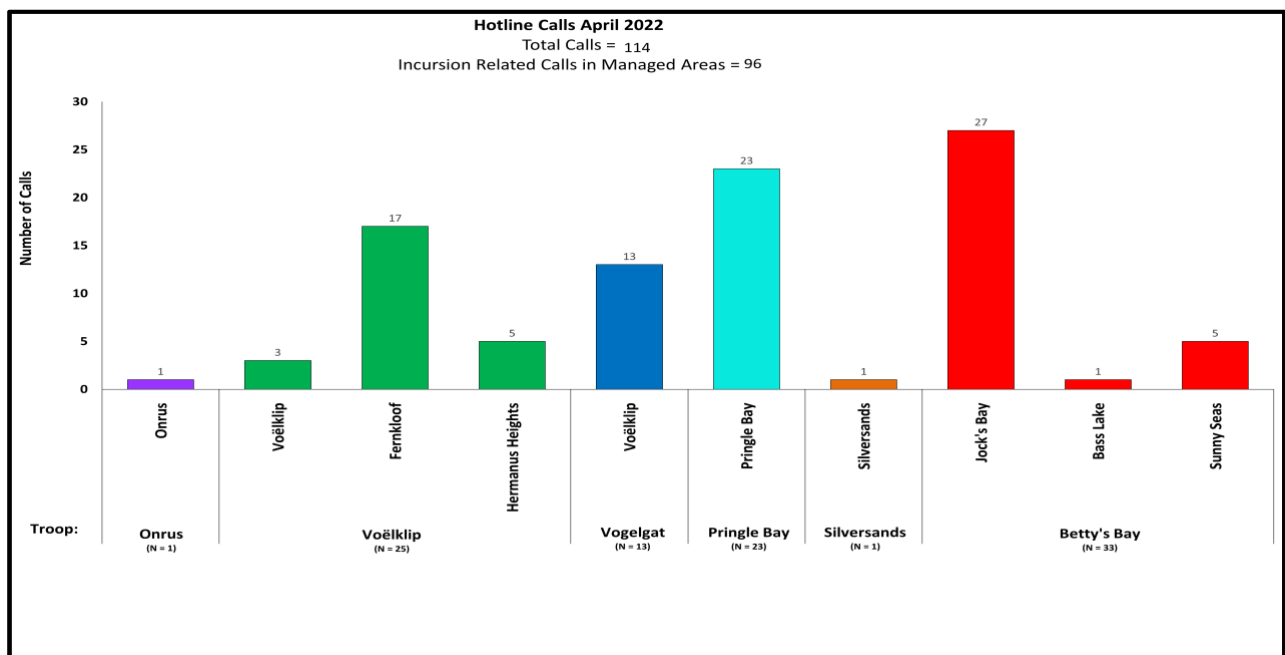


Figure 4.1: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas for April 2022. Incursion related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which baboon troops are known to occur and are actively managed.

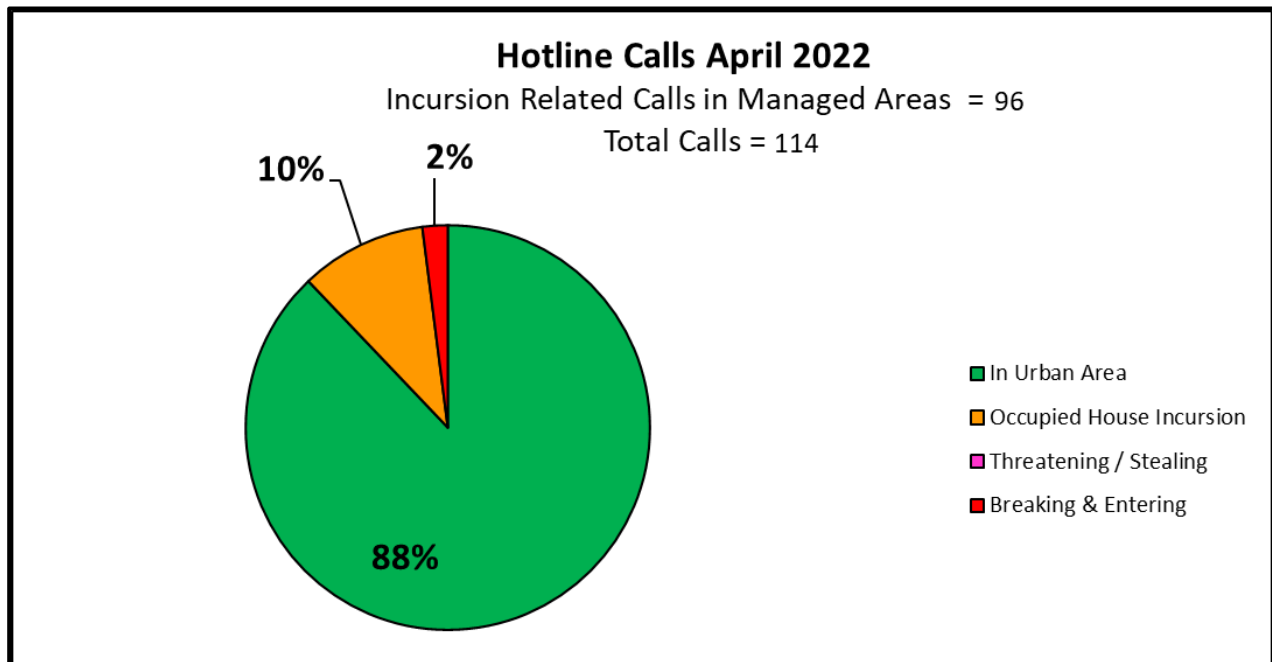


Figure 4.2: Composition of incursion-related hotline calls during April 2022. **Note:** This chart represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of known incursions by baboons.

1.13 RECORDED INCURSIONS

The total number of incursions recorded increased significantly from 235 in March to 314 in April. This increase is attributed to the prolonged presence of the Pringle Bay Troop in the urban area during the month. The majority of incursions were again recorded from two of the western troops, namely Pringle Bay (42.4%) and Bettys Bay (46.2%). It is also worth noting that Pringle Bay individuals performed significantly more occupied house incursions during April than their counterparts in the Betty's Bay Troop. If one compares this period with the same period in the previous year one can see a severe contrast in raiding behaviour, with no recorded incursions by the Pringle Bay Troop during April 2021. PBM2 was responsible for the most occupied house incursions (n= 15). However, the females and juveniles in the troop were also observed on many occasions exhibiting this behaviour (n = 9 and n = 3 respectively). It was extremely worrying to note that juveniles not in the presence of adults were making occupied house incursions.

The majority of incursions attributed to the Voëlklip Troop occurred during a short period in the middle of the month where the troop made two trips into the urban area around Fernkloof. For the first time in seven months, individuals from the Vogelgat Troop were recorded making incursions into the eastern side of Voëlklip. These incursions occurred because there was no GPS radio collar on this troop, and therefore HWS was not in a position to anticipate the movements of the troop when they went inland and over the mountains before raiding the urban area. As soon as the troop was detected, the Virtual Fence was used in order to preempt further forays into the urban area. Because of the resurgence in incursions into Voëlklip, the cliffs overlooking Voëlklip were closely observed in order to anticipate any further movements of the troop towards town. In order to effectively mitigate any further urban incursions, it is highly recommend that a member of the troop Vogelgat Troop is radio collared before this behaviour becomes a regular occurrence.

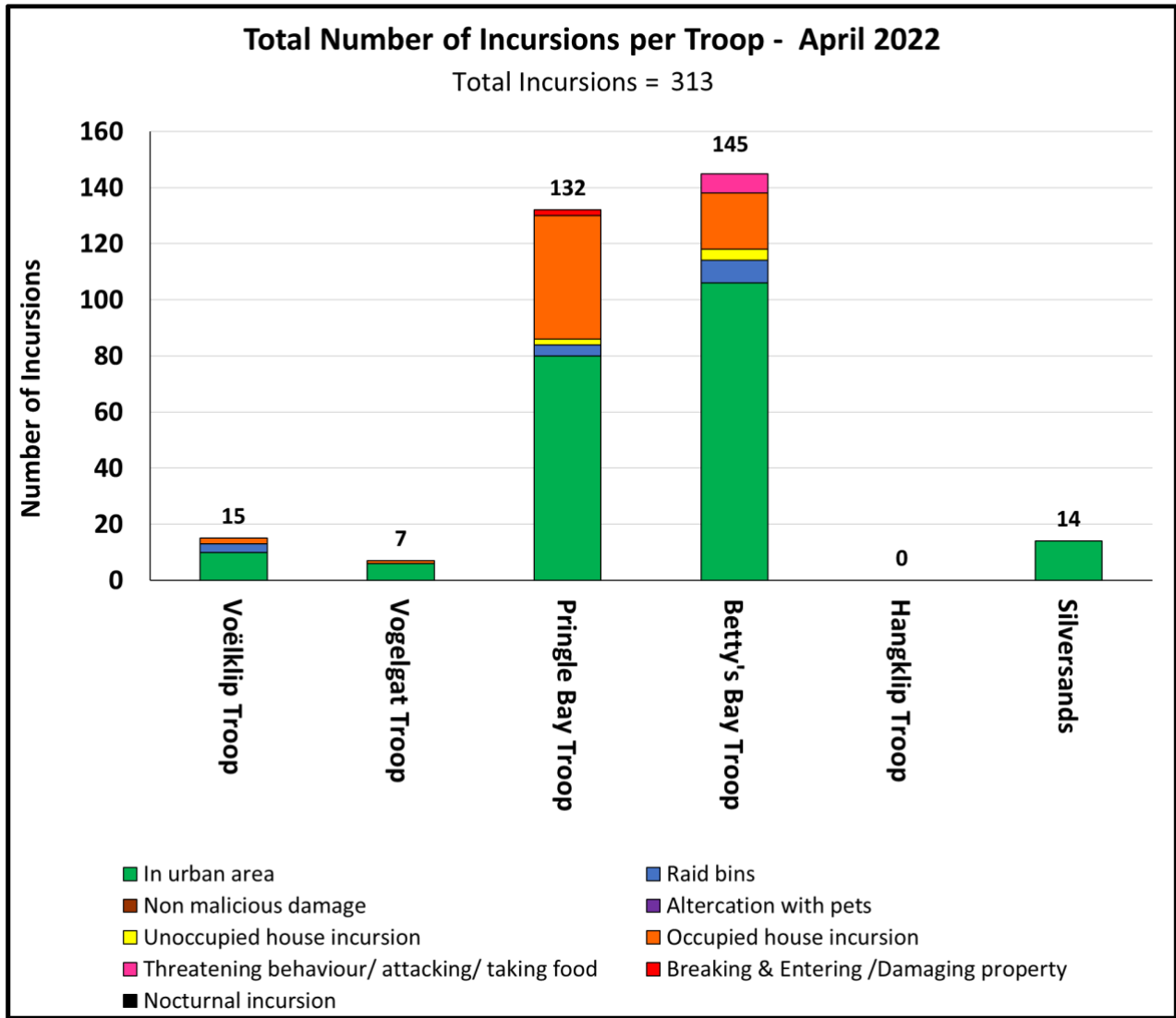


Figure 4.3: Total observed incursions per troop during April 2022. **Note:** Observed incursions are not hotline related, but are incursions observed by HWS field staff.

1.14 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During April, the average time out of town by troops decreased significantly from 98.4% to 92.3%, a reduction of 6.1%. This decrease in average time spent out of town was primarily due to the increased presence of the Pringle Bay Troop in the urban area during April, with the troop spending over half the month in Pringle Bay town (20 days in town). Additionally, members of the Pringle Bay troop were present in the urban area on another seven days during April.

In contrast, the Betty's Bay Troop spent less time in the urban area this month, spending 33 hours 46 minutes in town compared to 44 hrs 22 minutes during March. This was a very pleasing trend especially as this was against the normal seasonal trend where baboons tend to try to spend more time in town with the advance and progression of winter.

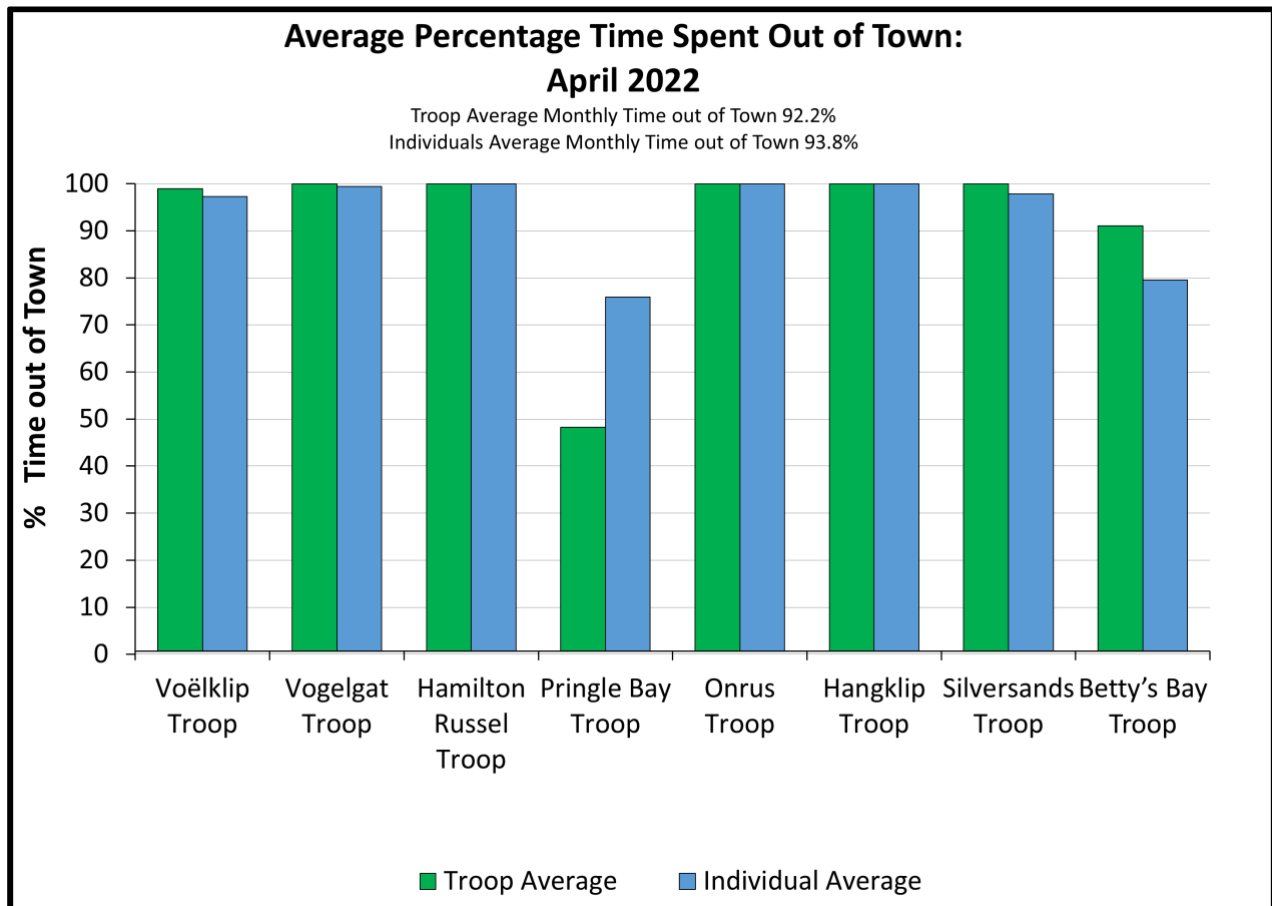


Figure 4.4: Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during April 2022.

1.15 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings.
- All bins used in baboon effected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- Additional **baboon awareness** campaigns focused on tourists during holiday seasons would be beneficial.
- Baboon-proof bins are required throughout the western region of the Overstrand. Betty's Bay should be regarded as a high priority area because there are very few baboons proof bins in place. It is stipulated in the Overstrand Waste Management Bylaw that residents must use baboon proof bins in baboon effected areas.
- **Refuse bags** should not be left lying open on the sidewalk and easily available to baboons.
- Ripening **fruit on fruit trees** in baboon-affected areas should be harvested to remove the attractant for baboons.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon proofed.
- Residents are encouraged not to feed wildlife, including birds.
- Residents are encouraged to record and report the feeding of wildlife to the municipality, CapeNature, or to the baboon hotline (072 028 0008).

CONCLUSION

Baboon management was immensely challenging in the Overstrand West during April. As in previous months, the majority of incursions were recorded for the Betty's Bay Troop (n = 145). Despite this, the troop spent 24% less time in the urban area than it did during March. This was a pleasing trend particularly during autumn when baboons tend to spend more time in town. Also on a positive note, the Betty's Bay Troop utilised the intertidal zone on several occasions during April. BBM4 was observed foraging for and consuming black mussels (*Choromytilus meridionalis*). Whilst marine invertebrates are relatively rich in nutrients, observations of other coastal baboon troops indicate that marine invertebrates form a very small proportion of their diets. Rather, terrestrial plant foods provide the vast majority of chacma baboon diets (Lewis & O'Riain, 2017).

The Pringle Bay Troop spent over half the month in the urban area. In fact, the troop effectively became resident in town from 17 April onwards. As previously mentioned, provisioning of food either in the form of bird seed or the direct feeding of baboons continued to be a powerful attractant to all members of the troop. Possibly the most difficult challenge for managing this troop, was the flexibility in group cohesion once the troop entered the urban area. The dissolution of the troop into separate groups, each following different adult males, was challenging to manage especially as the males were often in conflict over access to females, thus further breaking up the troop. This fission of baboon troops when in urban areas is well documented (Bracken *et al.*, 2022) and is particularly challenging when there are so many adult males in the troop.

Arguably the most notable event during April was the death of a juvenile baboon as the result of a pellet gun shot. The juvenile was noted as missing for eight days after the incident, despite regular searches to find it. A hotline report on 25 April informed HWS of the presence of a very ill looking juvenile baboon, walking with great difficulty past a resident's house. Unfortunately, extensive searching for this juvenile still yielded no results. It can only be presumed that this juvenile died an extremely painful and lonely death. Pellet gun shots may seem quiet and insignificant compared to motor car accidents, or altercations with dogs, but they probably represent one of the worst deaths a baboon can suffer from in the urban environment. Baboons hit by cars or bitten by dogs are almost invariably given veterinary treatment within a few hours. However, baboons hit by small pellets tend to hide away and suffer in silence. In this case, the juvenile almost certainly died from septicaemia after suffering for at least eight days. Deaths from being killed by cars, bitten by dogs, or being shot by humans are the fate that most baboons living in urban environments suffer. This is the probably strongest argument one can put forward as to why baboons should not be tolerated in urban environments. It is simply for their own health and well-being.

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