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Overstrand

Monthly Report

February 2023

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INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 February to 28 February 2023.

The Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops in the Eastern Overstrand both spent 100% of their time out of town during February, although in both troops a few individuals did visit the urban area for short periods. Furthermore, no other types of incursion behaviour were recorded, with no bin raids or house raids of any kind. The Vogelgat Troop spent the majority of its time in the eastern portion of its home range, on the mountain slopes above the Hermanus Yacht Club, whilst the Voëlklip Troop foraged extensively in Fernkloof Nature Reserve and in the natural vegetation of Hamilton Russell Vineyards.

In the Western Overstrand, the Betty's Bay Troop spent less time in town than in January although there was an increase in the amount of time spent in town by individuals. The most notable feature of the raiding behaviour of this troop was that females and juveniles recorded more occupied house raids, and assertive raids in general than the two adult males. This same trend was even more pronounced in the Pringle Bay Troop, despite the fact that there are still four adult males in the Pringle Bay Troop. The sub-adult male, PBM2 (now adult), that was traditionally the worst raider in the Pringle Bay Troop for well over a year, has not returned to Pringle Bay, after dispersing to the Hangklip Troop in January.

It is most disturbing that in both these troops, juveniles and females are feeling confident enough to raid occupied houses without requiring the protection of large adult males. This is a very worrying trend in these troops and does not bode well for when these juveniles grow up. It also suggests that the females are, by example, teaching juveniles to raid.

As a troop, the Pringle Bay Troop spent 40% of its time in town, an increase from 36% in January. This is the most time in town that any troop has ever recorded and is another very disturbing trend for the troop. This trend is believed largely to be a result of having too many adult males in the troop, with no obvious alpha male. The males continually chase the females and split the troop, making it impossible to manage the troop as a unit.

Another highly significant event this month, was the removal of the functioning GPS radio collar off the alpha female, PBF1. The removal of this collar became a necessity because PBF1 suddenly had a huge increase in body weight and her collar became extremely tight around her neck. When PBF1's collar had been fitted on 2 February 2022 her body weight was 19 kg. When her collar was removed on 5 February 2023, her body weight had increased by 30% to 25kg. Although it was, and still is, suspected that PBF1 was pregnant when her collar was removed, this could not be the reason for her increase in body weight, because she was heavily pregnant when collared a year before on 5 February 2022. It is well known that baboons that are allowed easy access to human derived foodstuffs (such as around rubbish dumps in National Parks), may become obese, develop tooth decay and also Type 2 diabetes (Phillips-Conroy *et al.*, 1993; Kemnitz *et al.*, 2002).

Another highly significant feature of PBF1, is that her record of assertive raids during February was second only to REM1, and was therefore higher than the other three adult males in the troop. Reference to previous monthly reports shows that this female has had a high rate of occupied house raids for most of the past year. The removal of PBF1's collar has had a double impact, because since then it has been much more difficult for rangers to anticipate the movements of the troop, and the female herself, in order to prevent further raids from occurring.

The Hangklip Troop also lost a collar during February. The transmitter had been visibly damaged, so this is presumed to have happened during a bout of intra-group conflict. As a result, no troop in the Western Overstrand is currently being monitored via GPS radio collar. It has been challenging to monitor the Hangklip Troop's movements without the assistance of a radio collar. This lack of monitoring capability, combined with the potential influence of PBM2, poses a threat to what has thus far been a highly successful management outcome; namely the absence of the Hangklip Troop from any urban area for the past 16 months. In Silversands the troop was 100% out of town for a second consecutive month. However, the regular raider, SSM1 (short tailed male) entered the urban area on five occasions, during which he made one unoccupied and two occupied house raids.

OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS

VOËLKLIP TROOP

1.1.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town remained 100% during February. This is the second consecutive month the Voëklip Troop was absent from the urban area.
- Time out of town for individuals increased by 0.5% from 99.5% to 99.9% during February. Please note that individuals from the Voëklip Troop were present in town for only 10 minutes during February.

	% 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	00:00	00:00	00:00
Individuals	99.9	+ 0.5	2	0:10	0:10	00:10	00:10

Table 1.1 In Town Statistics for the Voëklip Troop for February 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in February was 13 hours and 19 minutes.

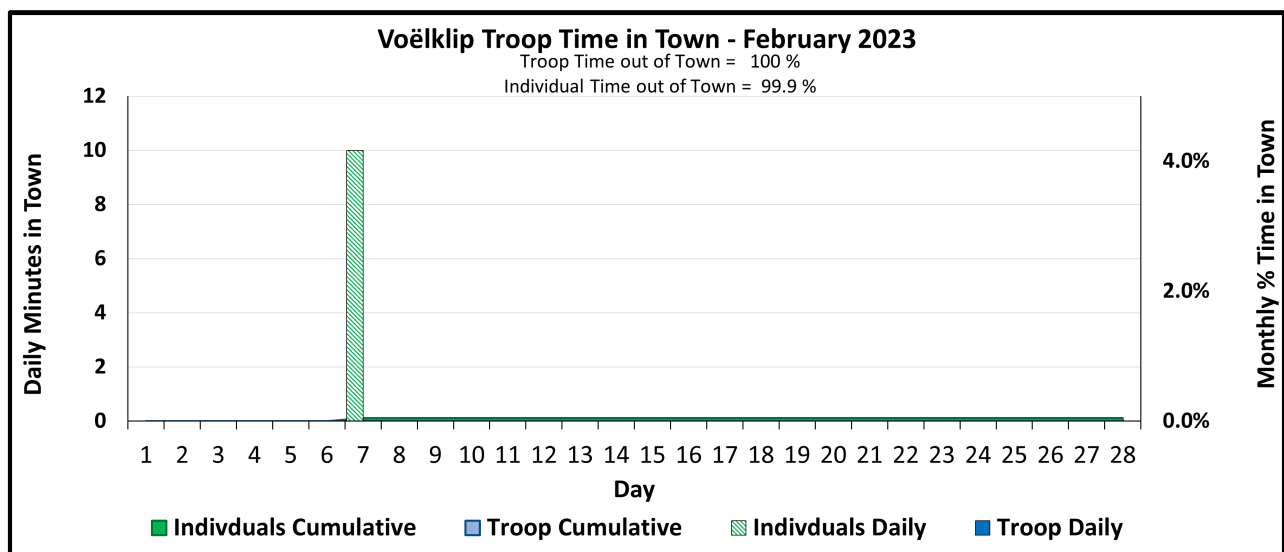


Figure 1.1 Troop and individual daily time (minutes) in town (bars), and monthly (area) percentage Time in Town by the Voëklip Troop during February 2023.

1.1.2 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

1.1.2.1 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- The Voelklip Troop did not enter Hermanus Heights or the golf course at all during February.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																									
SECTOR						CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																			
OVERSTRAND						1	In urban area					4	Attacking pets					7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing fr																						
BABOON TROOP: Voëlklip				VOËLKLIP		2	Raid bins					5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8	Breaking &Entering/Damaging property																						
MONTH: February				YEAR: 2023		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	TOTAL											
Troop																																									
VGM1 BLUE TAG	M																																								
UNKM1	M																																								
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F																																								
VKF5 RED TAG	F																																								
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																																								
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F																																								
VKF7 PINK TAG	F																																								
UnID Male	M																																								
UnID Males	M																																								
UnID Females	F							1																					1												
UnID Female	F																												1												
UnID Individuals																												1	1												
UnID Juveniles																																									
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																											HRS												
Troop	0.0																												0.00												
Individuals	0.0							10																				*	0.17												
Roost:	AM	3	6	18	18	18	4	22	18	18	3	18	18	3	3	3	3	3	3	18	18	3	3	18	4	4	10	18	3	18											
Roost:	PM	6	18	18	18	4	22	18	18	18	18	3	3	18	3	18	3	3	18	18	3	3	3	4	4	8	18	3	18	3											
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 February 2023.

1.1.2.2 VOËLKLIP & FERNKLOOF

- Individuals were recorded in Fernkloof on two days during February. Three unidentified females entered town very briefly on 7 February before being promptly pushed out. Additionally, a hotline call reported two baboons in Lakewood Village on 27 February however these baboons were not located when HWS staff searched the area.
- Voëlklip Troop was not present in Voëlklip at all during February.

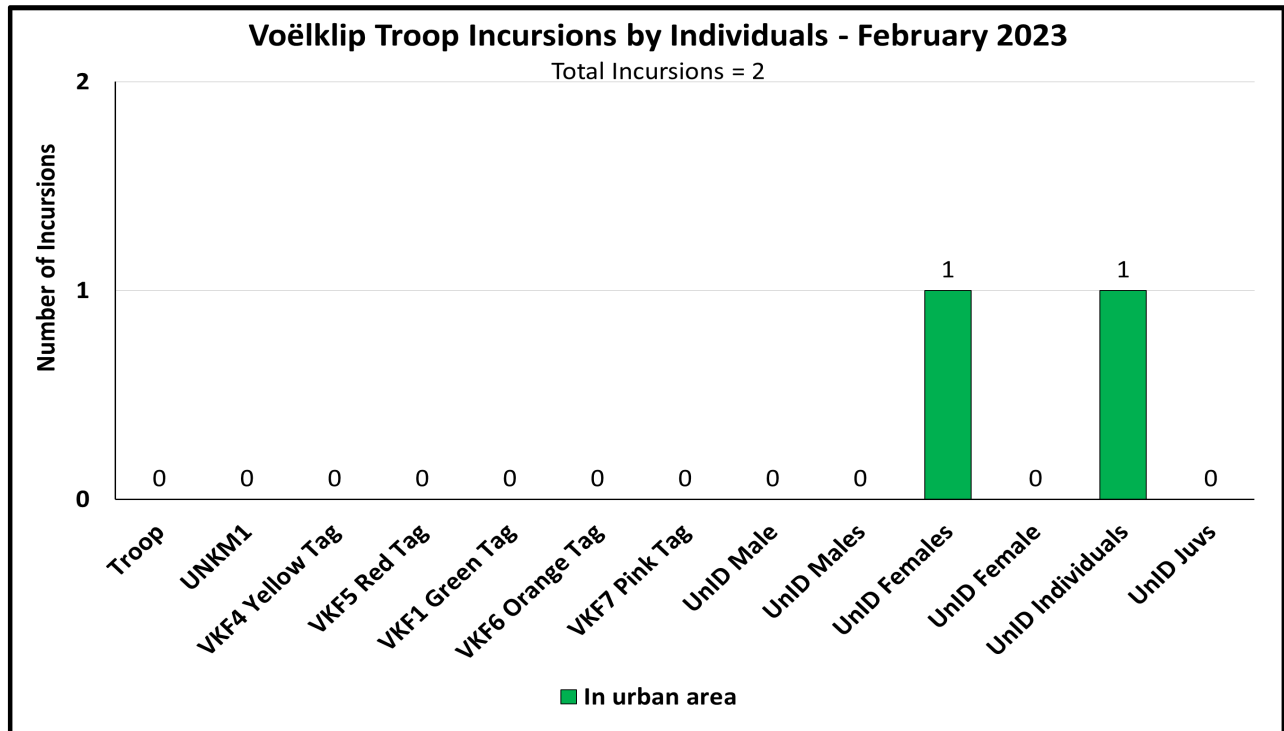


Figure 1.3 Number of incursions for the Voëlklip Troop and individuals during February 2023.

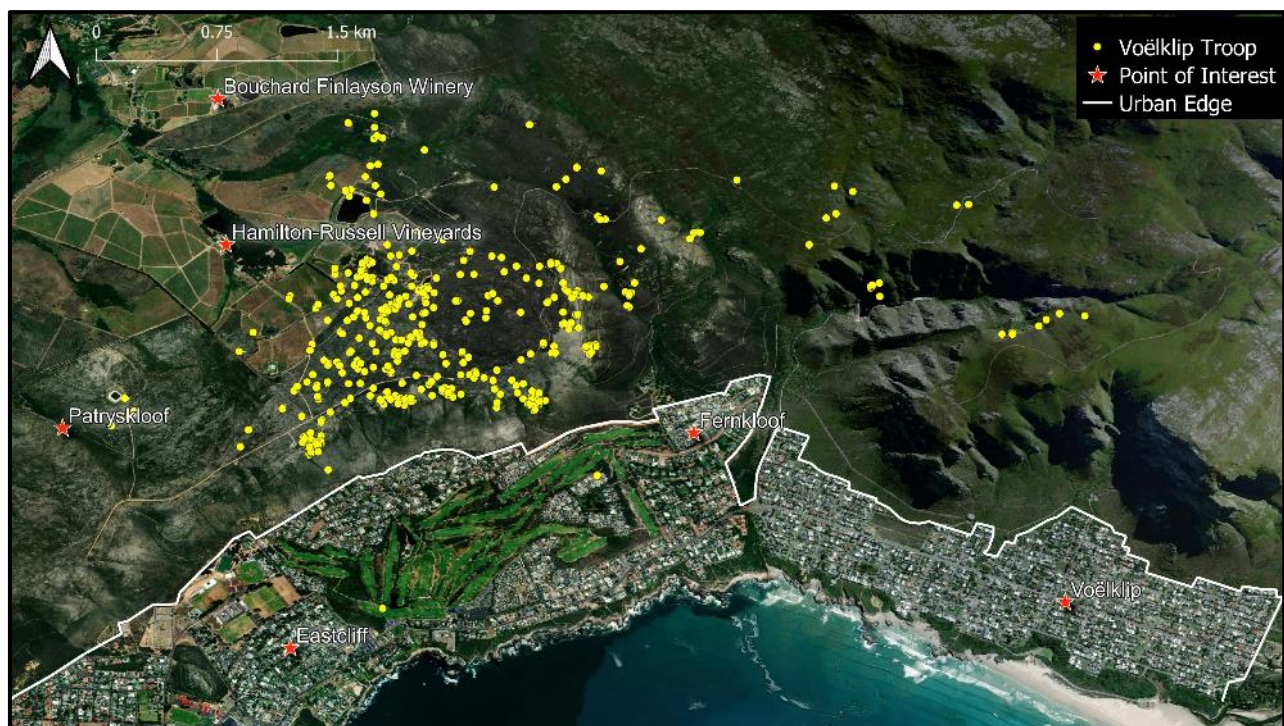


Figure 1.4 Map showing the GPS locations of VKF7 in the Voëlklip Troop during February 2023.

VOGELGAT TROOP

1.1.3 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of Town for the Troop remained at 100% during February. February is the fifth consecutive month that the Vogelgat Troop has been absent from the urban area.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 99.6% in January to 99.7% in February.

	% 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	99.7	+ 0.1	1	0:59	0:59	0:59	0:59

Table 2.1 In Town Statistics for the Vogelgat Troop for February 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in February was 13 hours and 19 minutes.

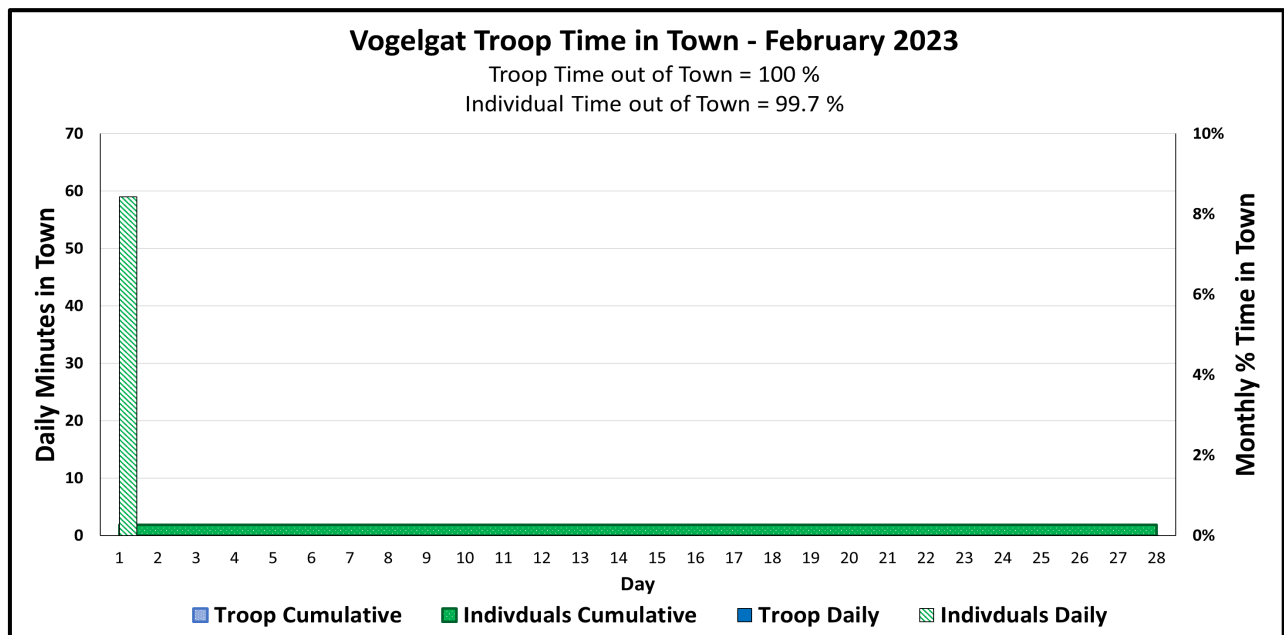


Figure 2.1 Troop and individual daily time (minutes) in town (bars), and monthly (area) percentage Time in Town by the Vogelgat Troop during February 2023.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																													
																												OVERSTRAND			
BABOON TROOP:		VOGELGAT		1		In urban area		4		Attacking pets		7		Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																	
MONTH: February		YEAR: 2023		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	TOTAL
Troop																															
VGM3		M																													
UnID Male		M																													
UnID Males		M																													
UnID Females		F	1																												1
UnID Female		F	1																												1
UnID Individuals			1																												1
UnID Juvs																															
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS		
Troop		0.0																													0.00
Individuals		0.3	59																												0.98
Roost:		AM	9	?	?	?	?	?	?	15	15	?	15	?	18	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	19	15	?	?	?		
Roost:		PM	14	?	?	?	?	?	20	15	15	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	19	15	?	19	?	?		
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 Maanskynbaal SS					
		21 Picnic Site						? Unknown																							
ID Features of Baboons																															
General remarks		Please note that the numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																													

Figure 2.2 The Vogelgat Troop incident sheet for February 2023.

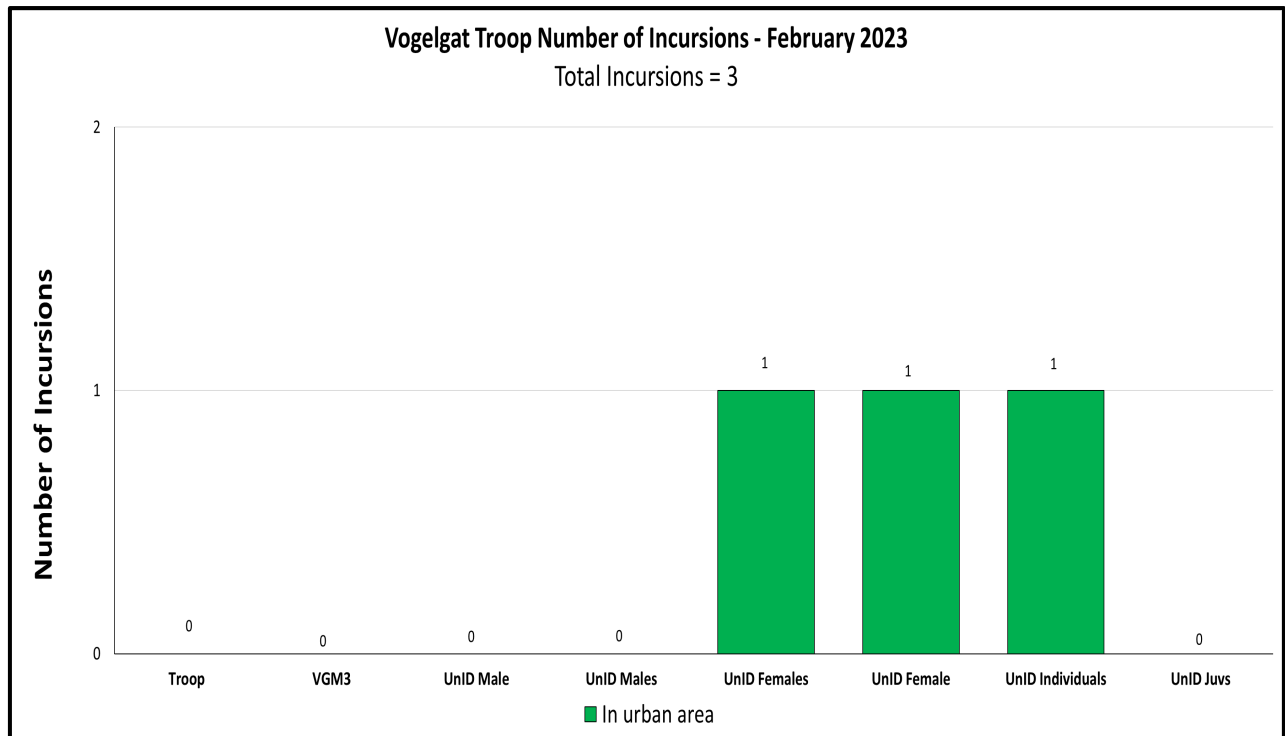


Figure 2.3 Number of incursions for the Vogelgat Troop and individuals during February 2023.

1.1.4 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Individuals from the Vogelgat Troop entered the urban area on one day during February.



Figure 2.4 Map showing the location of VGM3 from the Vogelgat Troop (Cyan) and VKF7 from the Voëlklip Troop during February 2023.

ONRUS TROOP

- There were no observations of the Onrus Troop during February.

HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- Vocalisations and visuals of an unknown troop in the vicinity of Ashbourne Dam on 26 and 28 February were attributed to the Hamilton-Russel Troop.

BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- No births or deaths were recorded in the Eastern Overstrand during February.

VIRTUAL FENCE

- In the Eastern Overstrand, the Virtual Fence was activated on two days during February.

OVERSTRAND WEST TROOPS**PRINGLE BAY TROOP****1.1.5 IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- The time spent out of town by the Pringle Bay Troop decreased from 64.7% in January to 60.1% in February.
- Time out of town by Pringle Bay Troop individuals decreased from 79.8% in January to 74% in February.

	% 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	60.1	-4.6	25	149:05	5:57	11:20	1:08
Individuals	74.0	-5.8	22	96:54	4:24	10:37	0:10

Table 3.1 In Town Statistics for the Pringle Bay Troop for February 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in February was 13 hours and 19 minutes.

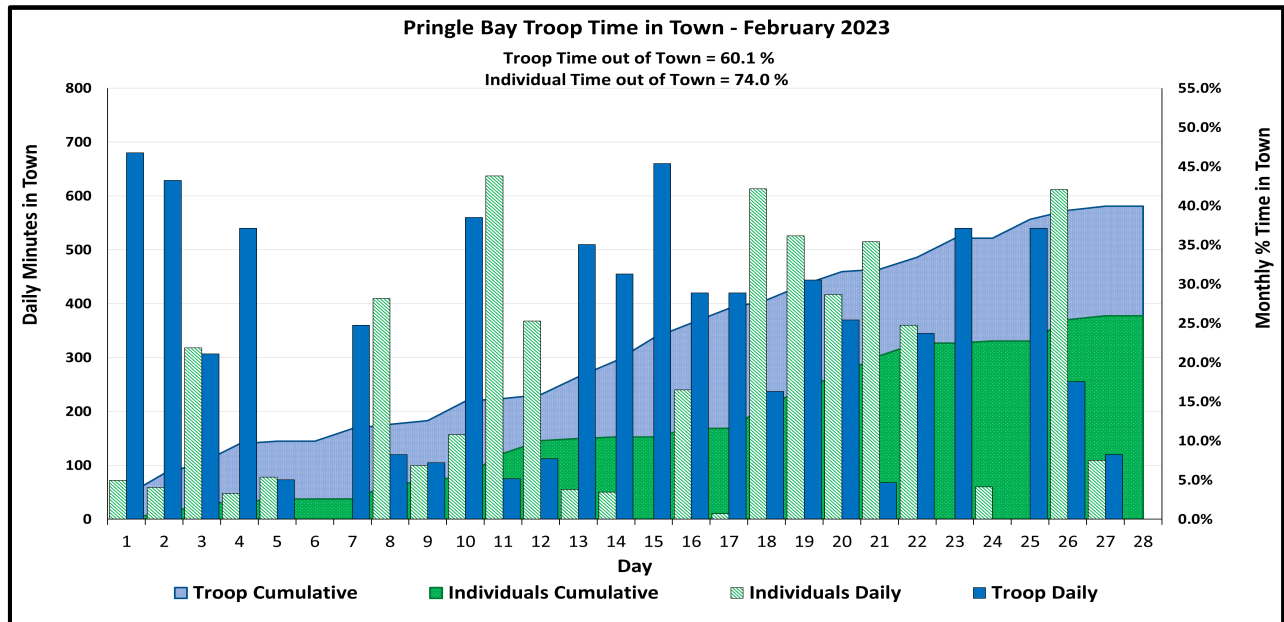


Figure 3.1 Troop and individual daily time (minutes) in town (bars), and monthly (area) percentage Time in Town by the Pringle Bay Troop during February 2023.

1.1.6 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- On 5 February, PBF1's collar was removed. This was instigated because her collar had suddenly become very tight and had started to cause skin abrasions. At 13h58 PBF1 was darted by a veterinarian, and the collar was removed at 14h00. After careful observation PBF1 was released from the holding cage at 15h19 and she promptly rejoined the troop. PBF1 was monitored closely throughout the month and showed no sign of any adverse health effects as a result of the sedation. At the time of capture PBF1 was presumed to be pregnant as the paracallosal skin on her perianal area was pink. It should be noted that the presence of a sexual swelling is not always indicative of pregnancy (Altmann, 1973). There were no other obvious signs of pregnancy. Her body mass was 25kg and her neck circumference was 35cm. When PBF1 was collared on 2 February 2022 her body mass was 19 kg and her neck circumference was 27cm; she was in the third trimester of pregnancy at the time. She had therefore gained 6kg (32%) in body weight, and her neck circumference had increased by 8cm (30%). Referring back to her raiding record for the previous two years, it is notable that during the year prior to her capture on 2 February 2022 she recorded zero unoccupied and eleven occupied house raids. During the following year prior to her capture on 5 February 2023 she recorded five unoccupied and 61 occupied house raids.
- On 12 February BTM1 stole food off an occupied table at Lemon & Lime Restaurant. This was one of five incidences of stealing or threatening behaviour shown by BTM1 during February.
- On 24 February REM1 raided an open vehicle near the Hangklip Hotel.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																																									
SECTOR								CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																																	
OVERSTRAND						1 In urban area											4 Attacking pets					7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																																			
BABOON TROOP:					PRINGLE BAY			2 Raid bins											5 Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion					8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																	
MONTH: February								YEAR: 2022		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		TOTAL																									
Troop			1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							23																									
PBM2		M																										1																													
PBM3		M																																																							
URM2		M										1	1	5		7						1	1					1				7																									
BTM1(Blue tag)		M		1					1,7				1	7				7	1				1						1			12																									
HKM1		M			1										1,5							1							1			5																									
HKM3		M																																																							
REM1		M	1,6	6	5,1		5				1	1	1		5,1	1				1,6	1						1,6	6,6	6			20																									
PBF1		F		6,1	1		5,1								5,1	6							1,6					6	6			12																									
PBF4		F																																																							
PBF5		F																																																							
PBF6		F																											1																												
UnID Male																																																									
UnID Females											1		1,1														1					4																									
UnID Female			1,6		1,1		1					1			1,5	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	6									17																									
UnID Individuals				1	6,1		5									1																5																									
UnID Juvenile			1,6			6						1	5,5,1	5	1					6						6,6	6		6			14																									
UnID Juveniles			1		1	1	1		2	6					5,1	6,6				6	1,6		1,6,6	1		6		6	6			19																									
TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																																																									
Troop		%	39.9	680	629	307	540	73		360	120	105	560	75	112	510	455	660	420	420	237	444	370	68	345		540	255	120			HRS																									
Individuals			26.0	72	59	318	48	78				410	100	157	637	368	55	50		240	10	613	526	417	515	360		60		612	109		96.90																								
Roost:		AM	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	1/4	1/8	1	1	2	1	1/4	9																										
Roost:		PM	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	5	1	2	2	5	1/4	1/8	1	1	2	1	1/4	9	24																										
Roost Sites			1 Professor											2 Hangklip											3 Axel Kop											4 Pringle Peak											5 Lemmonkop										
			6 Panel Beaters											7 Valley											8 Stink Kop											9 Waldos Farm S51											10 Waldos Farm S52										
			11 Pieter's											12 Boulders											13 Buffels Dam 1											14 Buffels Dam 3											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 S5											24 Groot Sloop S5											25 Waterworks										
			26 Pringle Bay Urban Area											27 Rooiels Estuary											28 Upper Rooiels River											29 Rooielsberg											30 Rooiels Spire										
			31 Seafarm											32 Unknown																																											
ID Features of Baboons																																																									
General remarks								Please note that the 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 3.2 The Pringle Bay Troop incident sheet for February 2023. * Individual was not observed either entering or leaving town. Time in town was therefore estimated.

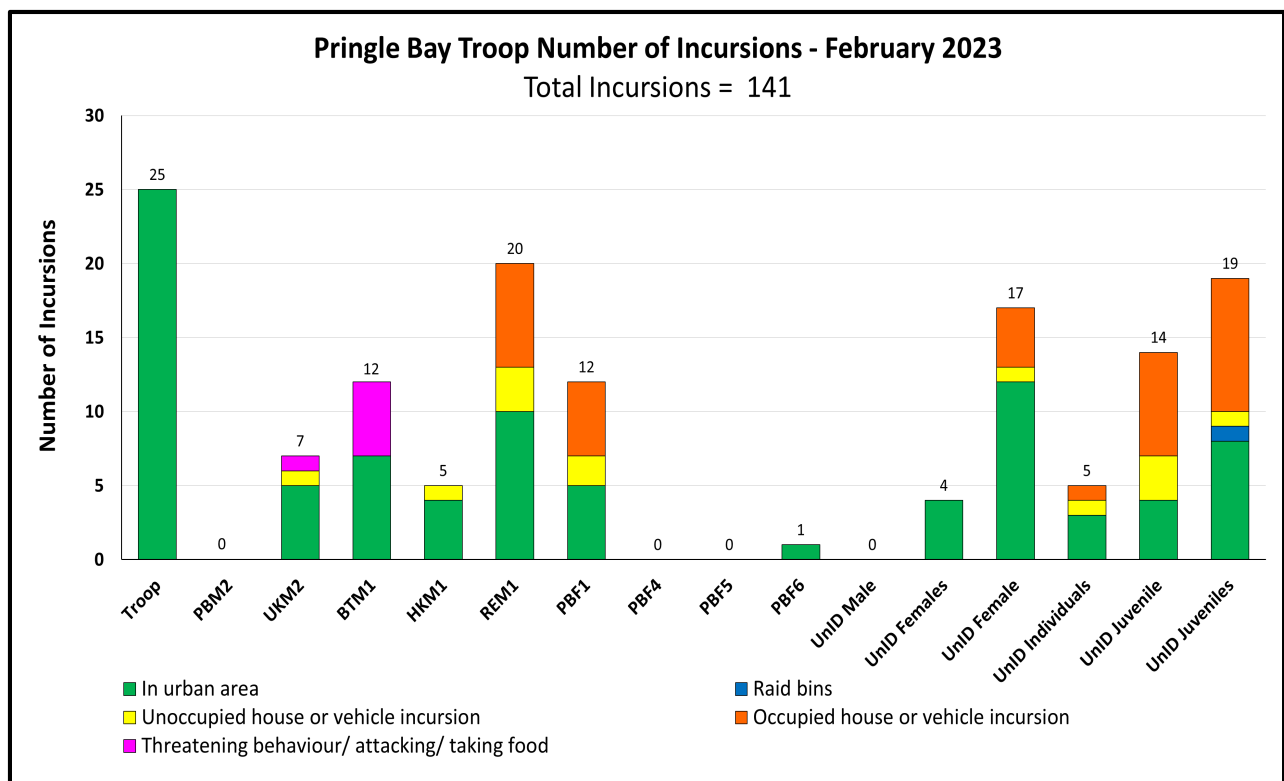


Figure 3.3 Number of incursions for the Pringle Bay Troop and individuals during February 2023.

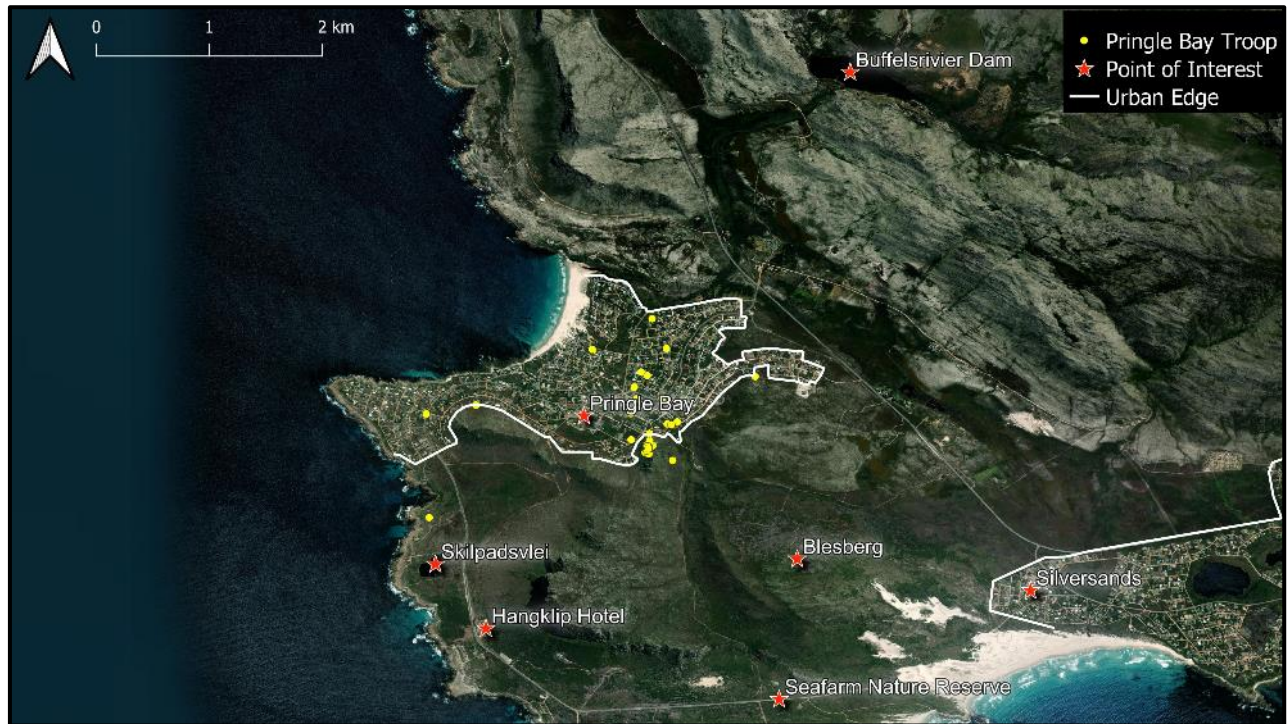


Figure 3.4 Map showing the GPS locations of PBF1 in the Pringle Bay Troop during February 2023. Please note that the points displayed are from 1 to 5 February as PBF1's collar was removed on 5 February 2023.

HANGKLIP TROOP

1.1.7 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- December was the sixteenth consecutive month that no time in town was recorded for the Hangklip Troop.
- Individual time out of town remained at 100% because no individuals from the Hangklip Troop were recorded in the urban area during February.

	% 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	00:00	00:00	00:00
Individuals	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	00:00	00:00	00:00

Table 4.1 In Town Statistics for the Hangklip Troop for February 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in February was 13 hours and 19 minutes.

1.1.8 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- No incursions were recorded by the Hangklip Troop during February.
- On 27 February several road workers reported that a baboon from the Hangklip Troop opened their container and removed their food. This was likely done by PBM2 as the majority of the Hangklip Troop are very wary of humans and PBM2 is adept at opening doors.

SILVERSANDS TROOP

1.1.9 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town remained at 100% during February.
- Time out of town by individuals decreased from 98.1% in January to 95.8% in February.

	% 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	00:00	00:00	00:00
Individuals	95.8	-2.3	13	15:47	1:18	03:45	00:20

Table 5.1 In Town Statistics for the Silversands Troop for February 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in February was 13 hours and 19 minutes.

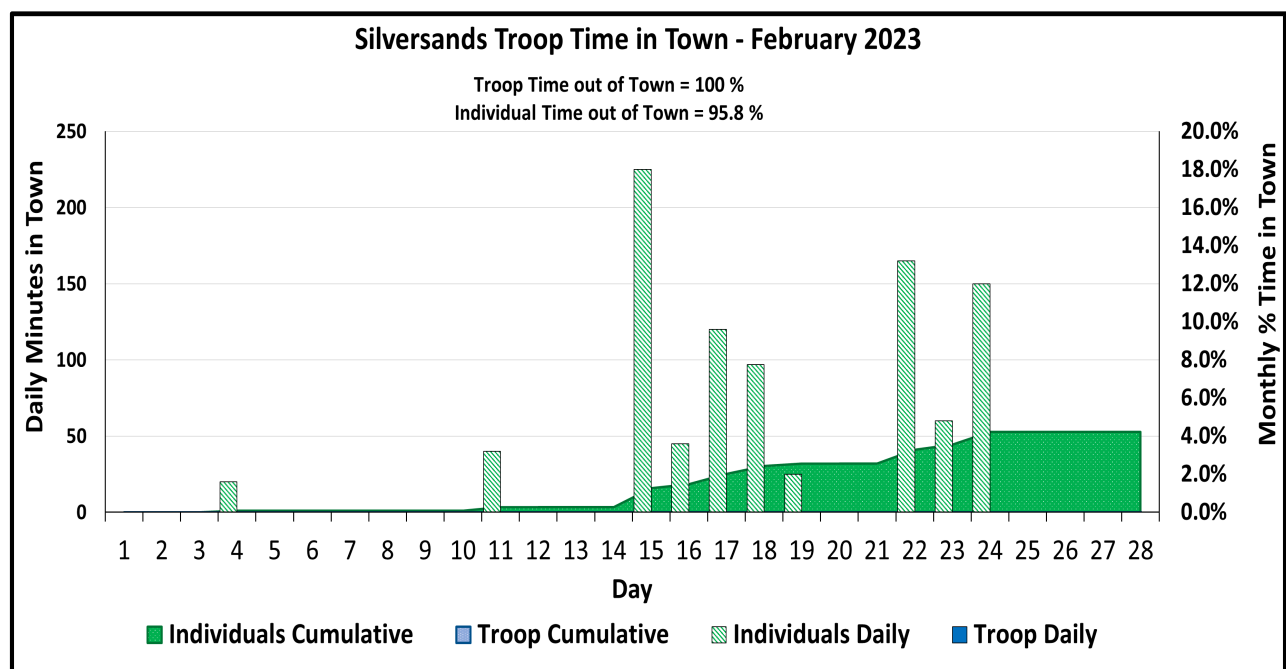


Figure 5.1 Troop and individual daily time (minutes) in town (bars), and monthly (area) percentage Time in Town by the Silversands Troop during February 2023.

1.1.10 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Individuals from the Silversands Troop entered the urban area on 13 days during February.
- SSM1, aka 'Short Tailed Male', was responsible for two occupied and one unoccupied house raid during February.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																					
SECTOR					CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																
OVERSTRAND					1	In urban area										4	Attacking pets										7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food									
BABOON TROOP:					2	Raid bins										5	Unoccupied house or vehicle incursion										8	Breaking &Entering/Damaging property									
MONTH: February					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	TOTAL							
Troop																																					
SSM1 (short tail)					1													1, 6, 5	1	1				6						7							
SSM2																																					
UnID Males																1							1							2							
UnID Male																																					
UnID Sub-Males		1,2										1					1								1					5							
UnID Females																																					
UnID Female																																					
UnID Individuals				1												1														2							
UnID Juveniles																																					
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																									HRS									
Troop	0																													0.00							
Individuals	4.23	*		*	20							40			*	225	45	120	97	25				165	60	150				15.78							
Roost:	AM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?								
Roost:	PM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	3	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?								
Roost Sites						?	Unknown						2	Facebrick house above koppie						3	Seafarm sleep site						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																															
ID Features of Baboons																																					
General remarks						Please 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 February 2023.

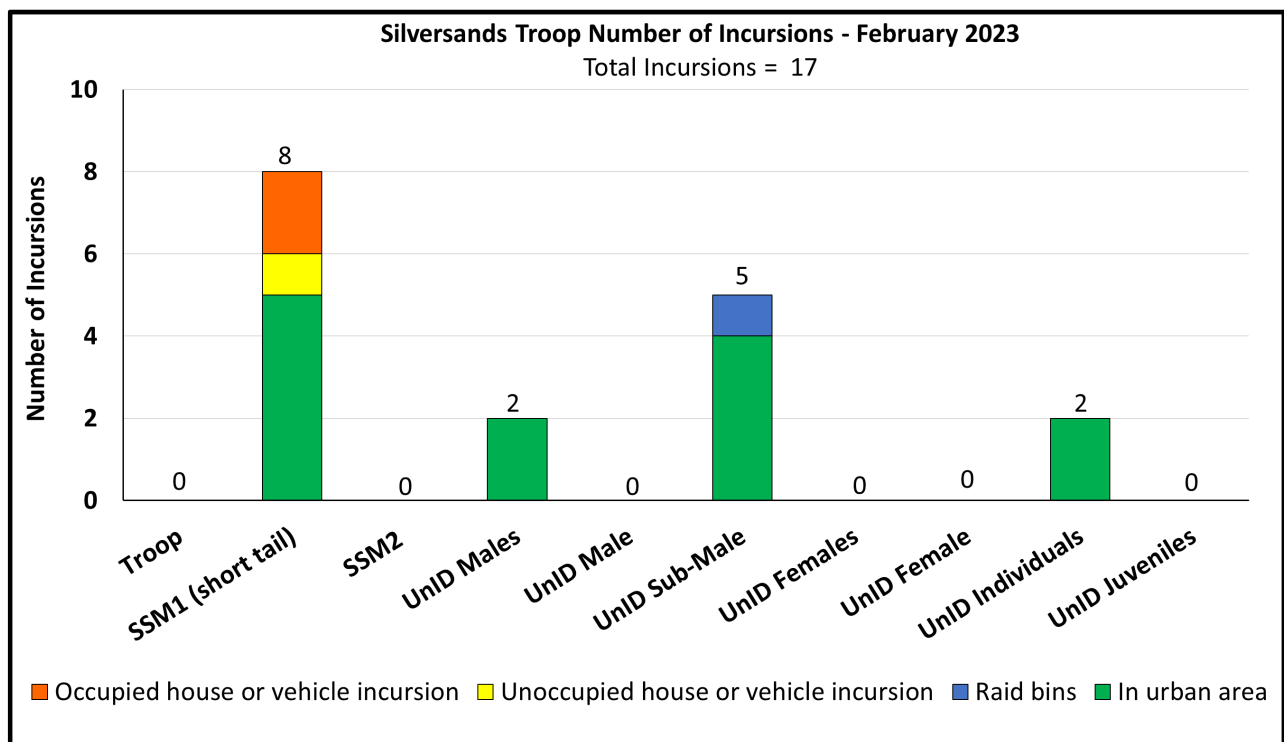


Figure 5.3 Number of incursions by the Silversands Troop and individuals during February 2023.

BETTY'S BAY TROOP

1.1.11 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town increased from 90% in January to 94.7% in February.
- Individual baboons time out of town decreased during February, from to 82.7% in January to 77.1% during February.

	% 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	94.7	+ 4.7	11	19:57	1:48	4:35	0:15
Individuals	77.1	-5.6	26	85:20	3:16	6:07	0:48

Table 6.1: In Town Statistics for the Betty's Bay Troop for February 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in February was 13 hours and 19 minutes.

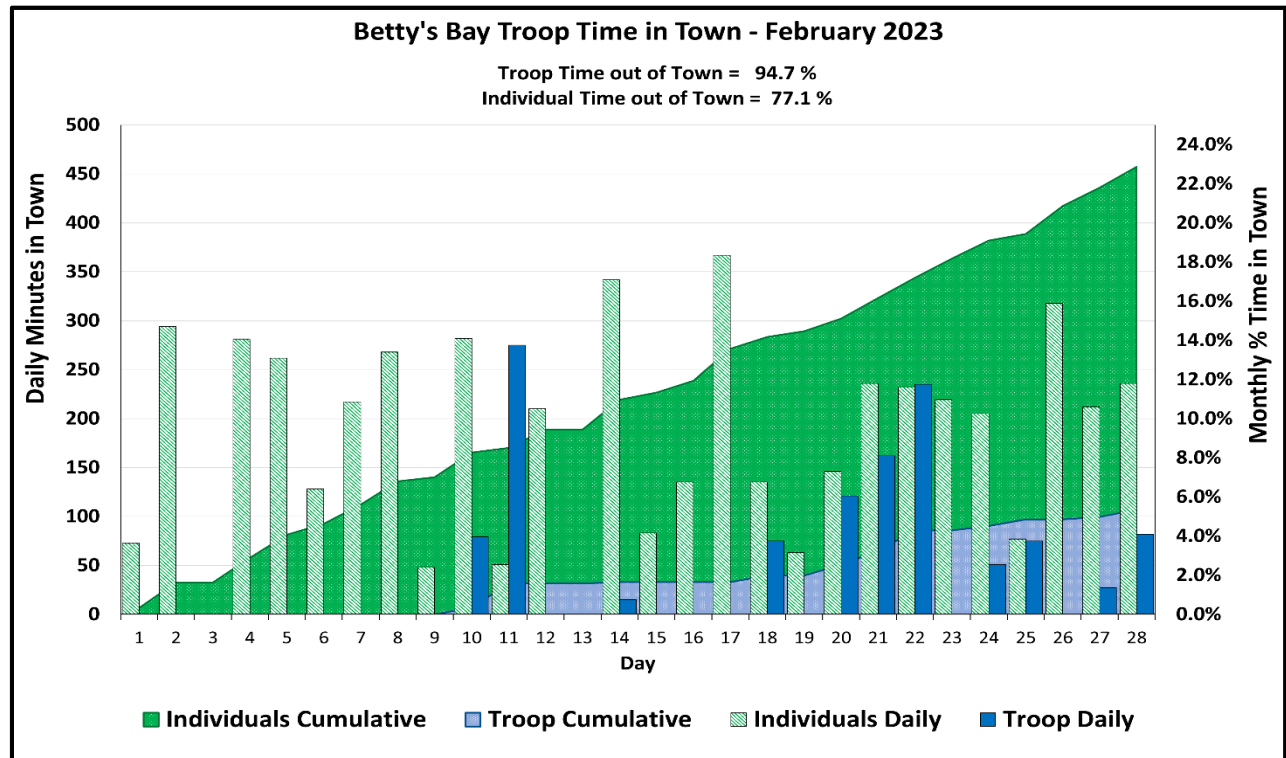


Figure 6.1 Troop and individual daily time (minutes) in town (bars), and monthly (area) percentage Time in Town by the Betty's Bay Troop during February 2023.

1.1.12 NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- On 23 February, several juvenile baboons entered an open vehicle and took food from the boot.
- On 26 February residents of Betty's Bay were observed feeding BBM4. The event in question was reported by an Eco-ranger.
- The number of house incursions increased drastically during February, with 14 unoccupied and 16 occupied house incursions recorded during the month.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																
SECTOR						CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																										
OVERSTRAND						1		4		7																						
BABOON TROOP:				BETTY'S BAY		2		5		8																						
MONTH: February				YEAR: 2023		3		6		9																						
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	TOTAL	
Troop												1	1			1				1		1	1	1		1	1		1	1	11	
BBM2		M		1		1				1,5	1,5		1	1	1		1				1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	17	
BBM4		M		1		1	1	1	1,5	5		6	1			1		6,6	6	6	7			1	1,6	1	1	1	1	1	23	
BBF1		F																						1				1	1		3	
BBF2		F																						1					1			
Unid Male		M																								1					1	
Unid Females		F				1				1		1	1	1		1	1						1				1				9	
Unid Female		F		1		1,6	1	1	1,5	1,5	1,5	1		1				6,6	1			1		1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	26
Unid Individuals				1		1	1					1		1		1	6,2	6		1	1		1	1	1			1	1	1	17	
Unid Juveniles			1,6	1		1		1	1	1,5	1,5	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1,5	6	1	6	1	1	29	
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS					
Troop												79	275			15			75			121	162	235		51	75		27	82	19,95	
Individuals			73	294		281	262	128	217	268	48	282	51	210		342	83	135	367	135	63	146	236	232	219	205	77	318	212	236	85,33	
Roost:		AM	17	17	16	29	17	17	17	29	16	16	17	17	29	28	17	28	28	29	29	2	1	10	1	1,17	15,6	6	1	2	5	11
Roost:		PM	17	16	29	17	17	17	29	28	16	17	17	29	28	17	28	28	28	29	2	1	10	1,17	15,6	6	1	2	5	11	1	
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 Palmiet	
			21 Kasteel Kop											22 Pimples											23 Isaacs River Kloof			24 Jean's Hill			25 Heuningklip	
			26 Sandown Peak											27 Three Sisters											28 Mooiuitstg			29 Small Waterfall				
ID Features of Baboons																																
General remarks			Please note that numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																													

Figure 6.2 The Betty's Bay Troop incident sheet for February 2023.

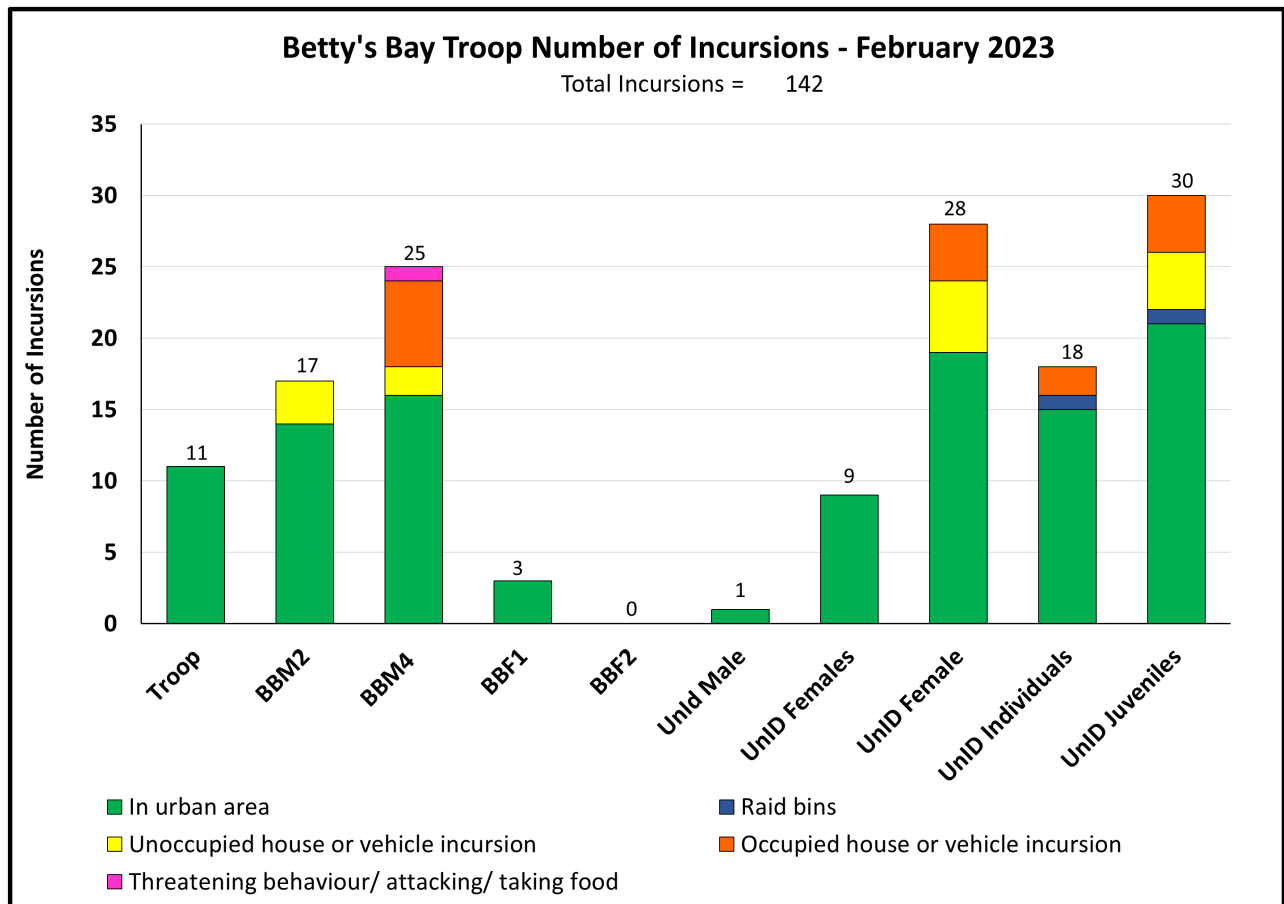


Figure 6.3 Number of incursions by the Betty's Bay Troop and individuals during February 2023.

BIRTHS, DEATHS & MIGRATIONS

- No births or deaths were recorded in the Western Overstrand during February.

GENERAL COMMENTS – ALL TROOPS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

During February there were no births or deaths recorded in any managed troops (**Table 7.1 & Table 7.2**). Last month PBM2 emigrated from Pringle Bay Troop to the Hangklip Troop and has not been seen associating with the Pringle Bay Troop during February.

Troop	October	June	June	June	February 2023			Total observed Births (1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023)	Total observed Deaths (1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023)	Total observed Migrations (1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023)
	2019	2020	2021	2022	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	29	27	37	0	0	0	0	1	0
Vogelgat	N/A	22*	29	27	0	0	0	0	2	-1
Onrus	N/A	N/A	25*	24*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton Russel	N/A	N/A	21*	25	0	0	0	0	0	+2
Pringle Bay	16	16	17	14	0	0	0	2	2	+1
Betty's Bay	N/A	19	20	23	0	0	0	5	5	0
Hangklip	N/A	N/A	30	38	0	0	0	0	1	+1
Silversands	N/A	N/A	43	41*	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	45	86	212	229	0	0	0	7	12	+3

Table 7.1: Population data for the managed troops in the Overstrand in February 2023. Emigration / Immigration figures show animal movements between troops. * Troop sizes were estimated, because they were not seen enough to get accurate counts. Note: Troop numbers are counted once a year in June. Troop numbers are not updated during the year by just 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 - June 2022)	2022/23 (July 2022 - February 2023)	February 2023
Management	3	0	1	0	0
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	9	7	0
Direct *	1	2	8	6	0
Indirect **	0	0	1	1	0
Natural	2	7	7	3	0
Unknown	0	0	2	2	0
TOTAL DEATHS	6	9	19	12	0

Table 7.2: 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.

HOTLINE DATA

Incursion related hotline calls in managed areas dropped drastically, decreasing by more than half, from 118 in January to 42 in February. The majority of calls came from Betty's Bay (n = 11), followed by Pringle Bay (n = 9) & Silversands (n = 8) (**Figure 8.1**). There was a significant reduction in the number of calls regarding the Voëlklip Troop, with only six calls received (two of which were non-urban) reflecting their absence from the urban area for most of the month. Whilst the majority (74%) of hotline calls were made to alert HWS to the presence of baboons in the urban area (**Figure 8.2**), a significant proportion of the calls received were regarding occupied house incursions (17%) and snatching or stealing incidents (5%).

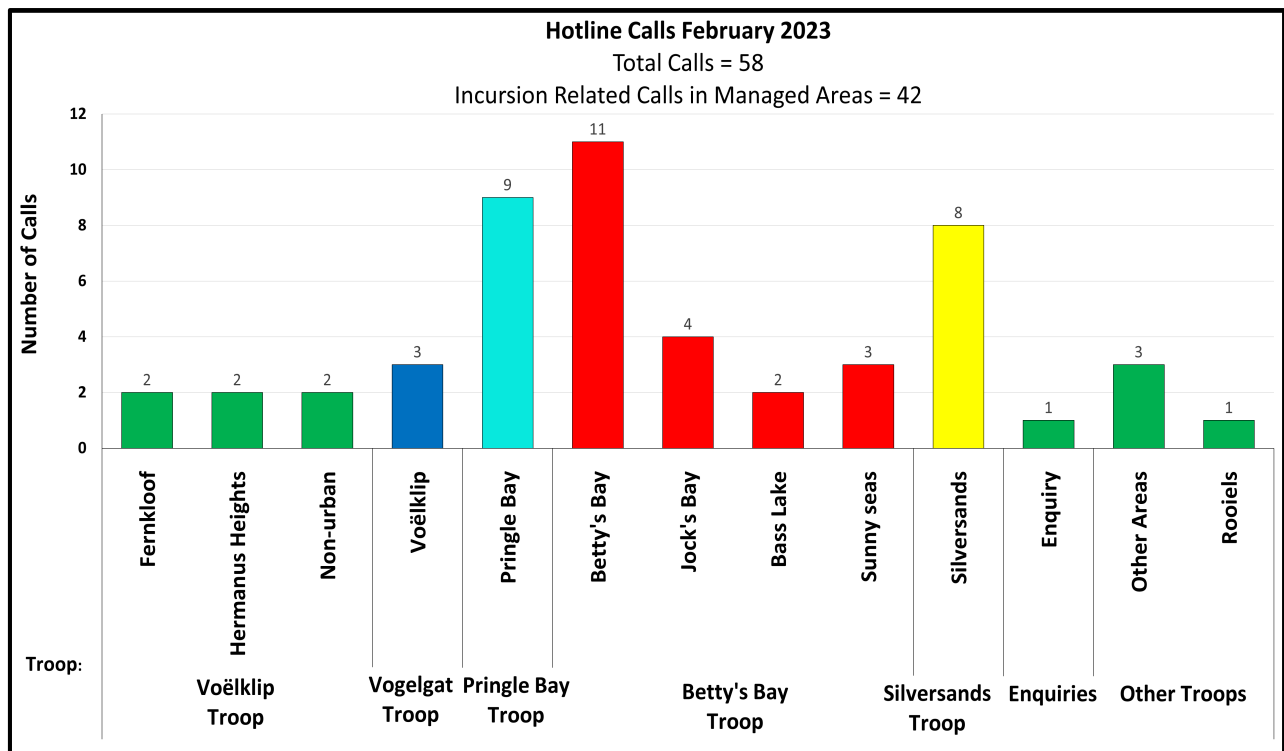


Figure 8.1: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas for February 2023. Incursion related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which baboon troops are known to occur and are actively managed.

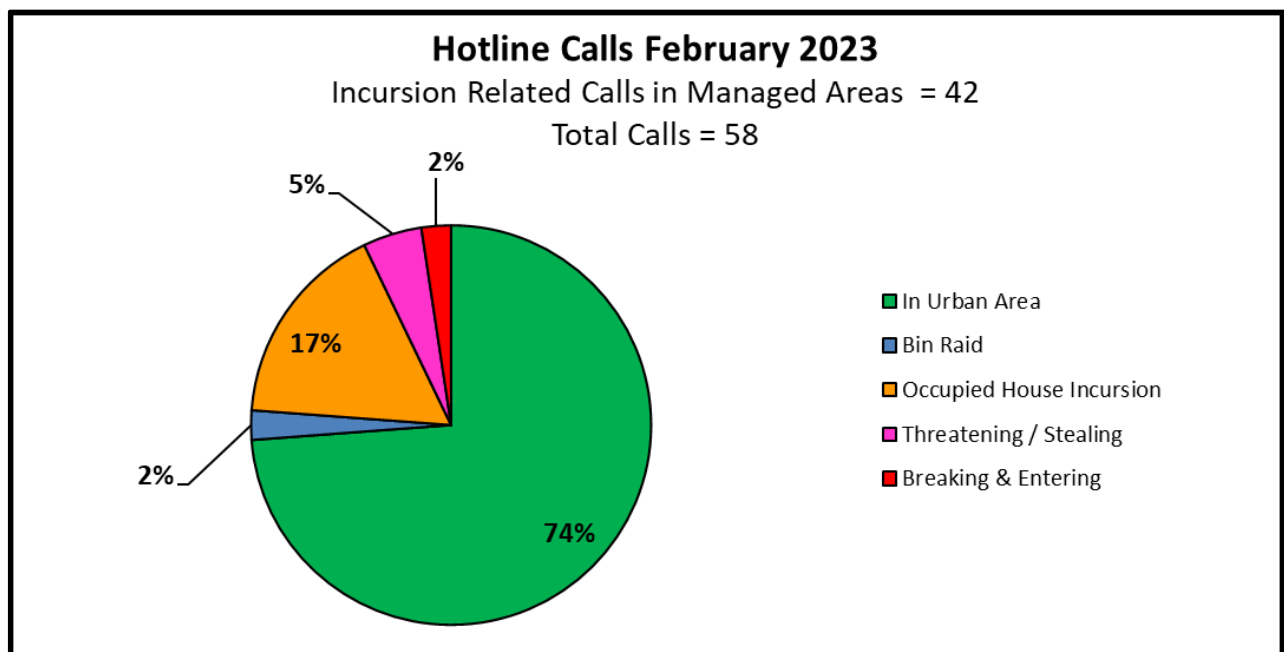


Figure 8.2: Composition of incursion-related hotline calls during February 2023. **Note:** This chart represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of known incursions by baboons.

RECORDED INCURSIONS

The total number of incursions recorded during the month decreased significantly from 352 in January to 298 in February (**Figure 9.1**) with the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Troop responsible for 93% of all incursions. In the Western Overstrand the number of occupied house incursions increased from 43 in January to 51 in February, with the majority (n =33) occurring in Pringle Bay. The number of threatening or stealing instances decreased marginally, with eight snatching instances documented. It should be noted that the one incident of snatching/stealing behaviour in the Hangklip Troop was attributed to PBM2, a recent immigrant into the Hangklip Troop. The number of bin raiding incidents was also low during February, with only four cases recorded across all managed areas.

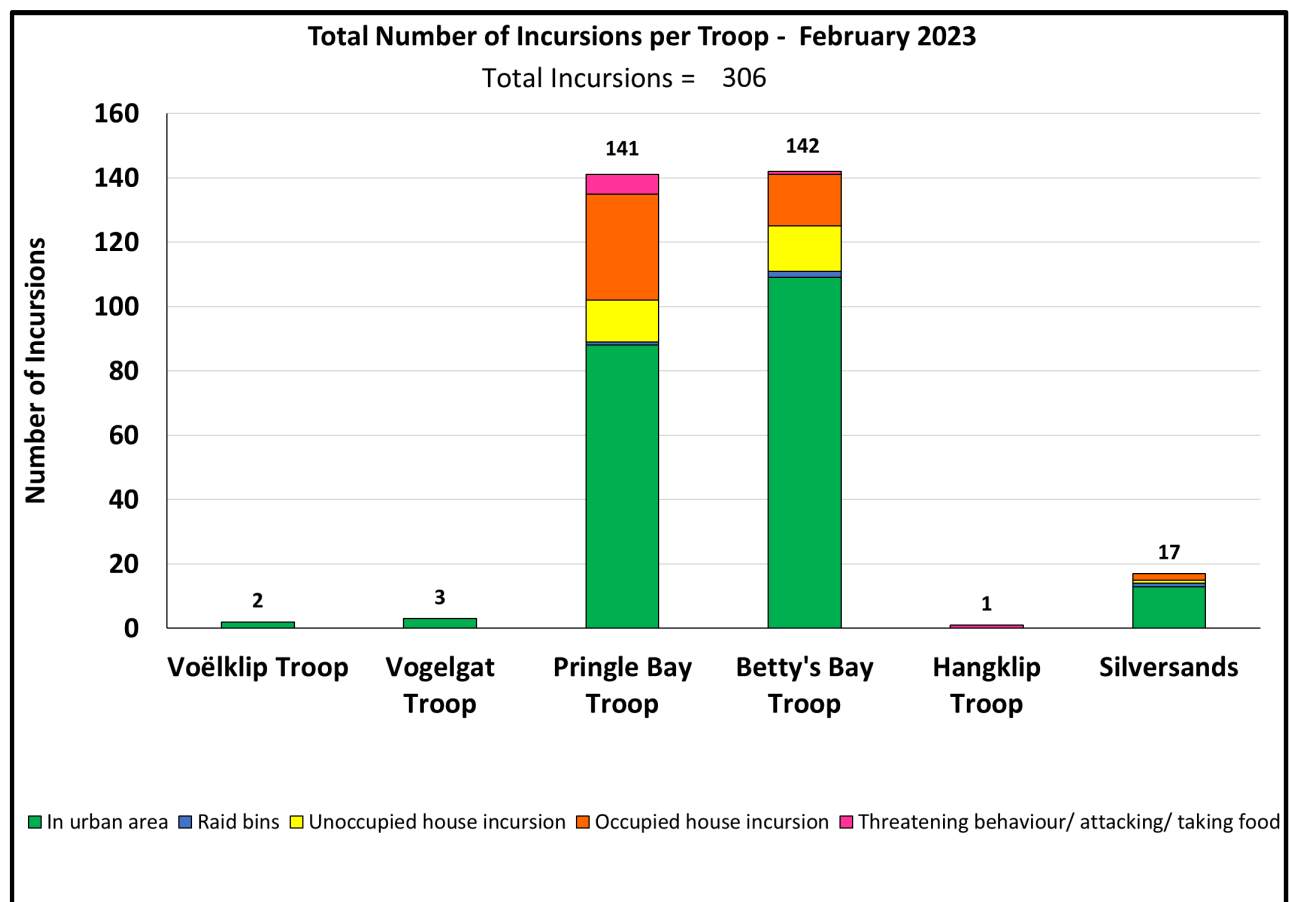


Figure 9.1 Total observed incursions per troop during February 2023. **Note:** Observed incursions are not hotline related, but are incursions observed by HWS Field Staff.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

The average time out of town by troops increased marginally from 94.3% to 94.4% during February (**Figure 9.2**), whilst individual time out of town decreased from 95% in January to 93.3% in February. The Pringle Bay Troop spent a highly significant portion of their time in town, and since December 2022 the troop has spent 35.3% and 39.1% of its time **in town** during January and February respectively.

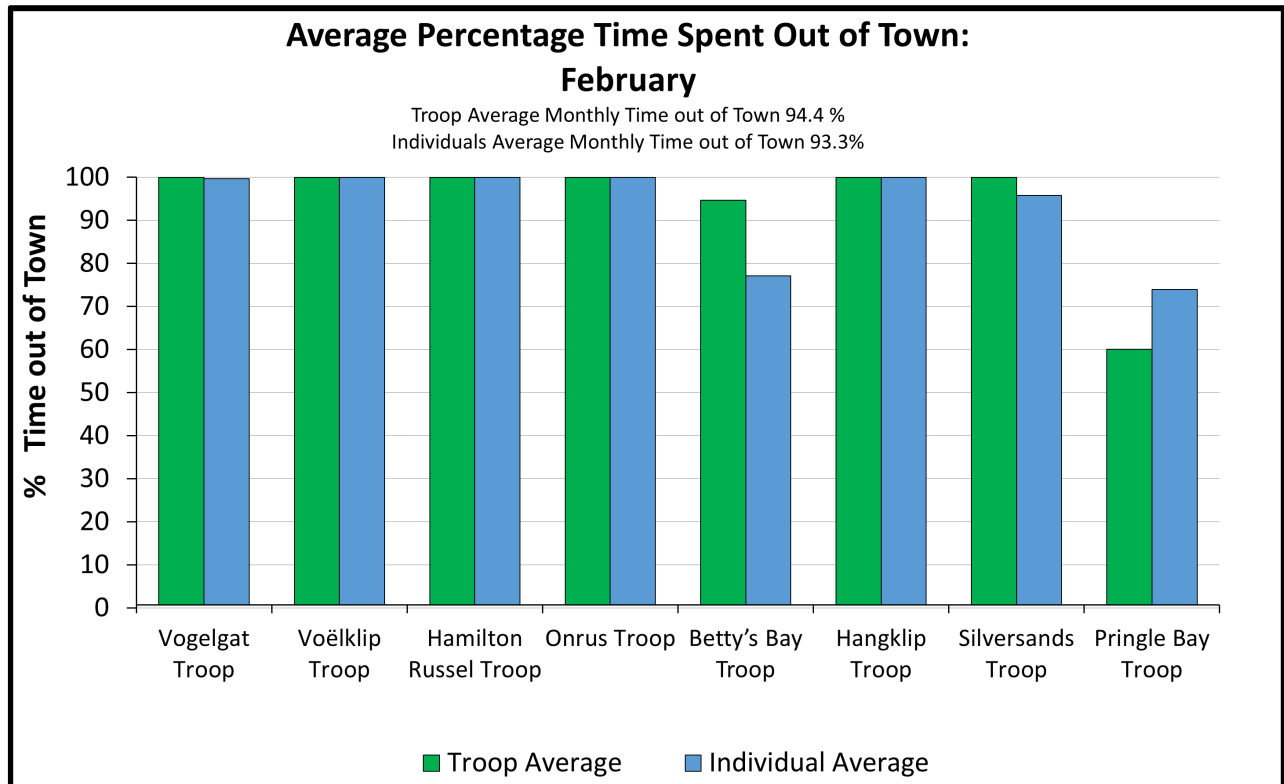


Figure 9.2 Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during February 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ripening **fruit on fruit trees** in baboon-affected areas should be harvested to remove the attractant for baboons. **This is particularly important now during summer.**
- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings.
- Residents should **not** put out their waste **the night before** collection day.
- All bins used in baboon effected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked.**
- 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.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon proofed.
- Residents are strongly discouraged from feeding 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

During February both the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops continued to be absent from the urban area, with individuals from each troop spending less than an hour in town during the month. This is the second consecutive month that the Voëlklip Troop has been absent from town, whilst the Vogelgat Troop has been absent for the last five months. Additionally, there were no bin raids or assertive incursions recorded at all through February. This is remarkable given the high volume of visitors to Hermanus during the summer months and the subsequent increase in availability of human derived food sources.

In the Western Overstrand there were mixed results in Betty's Bay. The troop spent less time in town during the month, whereas individuals from the troop spent an increased amount of time in town. In Pringle Bay there was a slight drop in the number of incursions recorded during the month. This is likely due to two factors; a) the shortened month, and b) the absence of PBM2 from the troop since he had dispersed to the Hangklip Troop. Despite the relative decrease in recorded incursions, the high number of house incursions by juveniles in the Pringle Bay Troop is cause for great concern. If juveniles are confident enough to raid occupied houses while still so young, they are only likely to be more confident and brazen when they reach adulthood.

The most important event that occurred during February was the removal of PBF1's GPS radio collar. The satellite collar was removed on the grounds of a welfare issue as the strap was rubbing on the neck of PBF1, leading to hair loss and skin abrasions. The cause of this females' 30% increase in body weight and neck diameter cannot be associated with pregnancy because she was pregnant on both occasions, and pregnancy in baboons has never been associated with such a large and sudden increase in body weight. It should also be noted that a weight of 25 kg for a female is 10 kgs heavier than the average bodyweight for female baboons across South Africa, and only about 4 kg less than the average body weight for wild adult male baboons in the western and eastern Cape (Jolly, 2012). This weight is also 58% heavier than the average weight for females previously measured by HWS in the western Cape (15.5kg). Rather it is suggested that the increase in body size was associated with a metabolic disorder.

Over the last year PBF1 made 66 house raids, a 600% increase from the previous 12-month period (January 2021 – January 2022). Baboons which have easy access to calorie dense human derived food sources, such as on the wine farms in Constantia and dump sites in Amboseli National Park, have been recorded to suffer from obesity, tooth decay and Type 2 diabetes. It is very possible therefore that PBF1's sudden increase in body weight may be related to Type 2 diabetes (Leith *et al.*, 2020, Kemnitz *et al.*, 2002). It could also lead to cardiometabolic syndrome (Higgins *et al.* 2010).

The removal of PBF1's radio collar, accompanied by the loss of the Hangklip Troop collar, means that there are now no collared baboons in the Overstrand West. In Hangklip, the lack of the remote monitoring tool jeopardises the continued absence of the Hangklip Troop from the urban area, especially with the arrival in the troop of PBM2 who is very likely to pass on raiding behaviour to his new troop members. In Pringle Bay, the lack of a collar severely constrains management efforts because field staff cannot utilise the collar to locate the troop when needed.

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