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## **Human Wildlife Solutions**

### **Overstrand**

**Monthly Report**

**November 2023**

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## INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 November to 30 November 2023.

November was the fourth consecutive month that both the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops remained 100% out of town. The only baboons that were recorded in town this month, were three individuals from the Voëlklip Troop that entered the urban area for one hour on one occasion during the month. The Onrus and Hamilton Russell Troops also remained 100% out of town during November.

An adult female from the Vogelgat Troop was collared during November. This has allowed HWS team to monitor the location of the Vogelgat Troop more accurately, thereby facilitating a more proactive management approach. An example of this includes the successful activation of the Virtual Fence to prevent the Vogelgat Troop from accessing town from the Vogelgat Valley to the east of Voëlklip.

The Hamilton Russell and Onrus Troops were observed infrequently during November. The Onrus Troop was reported close to the urban edge on one occasion. Interestingly, whilst the HWS field team monitored the Onrus Troop, it was noted that the troop often visited a pig farm where they gained access to feed provisioned to the pigs.

## OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS

### VOËLKLIP TROOP

#### IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town remained at 100% during November.
- Time out of town for individuals decreased by 0.3% during November, from 100% to 99.7%.

	% 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
<b>Troop</b>	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	00:00	00:00	00:00
<b>Individuals</b>	99.7	- 0.3	1	1:08	1:08	01:08	01:08

**Table 1.** In Town Statistics for the Voëlklip Troop for November 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in November was 13 hours and 54 minutes.

#### NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Members of the Voelklip Troop were present in town on one day during November. A hotline report was received on 7<sup>th</sup> Street at 10h20, informing HWS that two females with



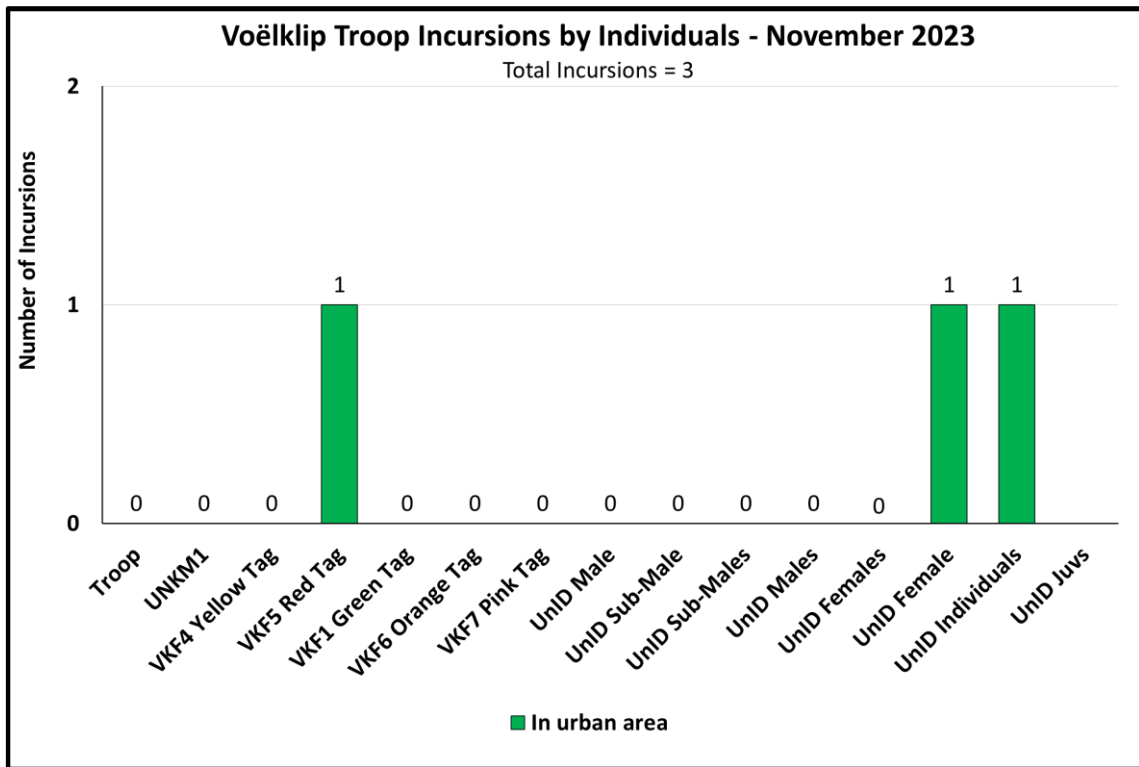


Figure 3. Graph showing incursion behaviour for members of the Voëklip Troop during November 2023.

## VOGELGAT TROOP

### IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of Town for the Troop remained at 100% during November.
- Time out of town for individuals remained at 100% during November.

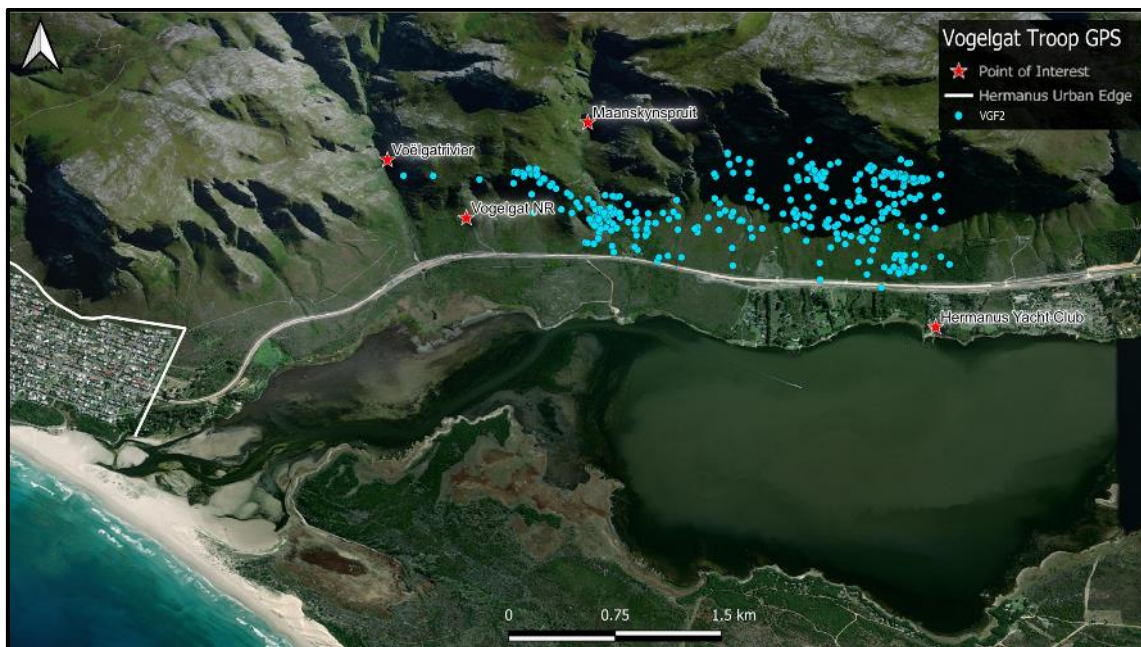
	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
<b>Troop</b>	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00
<b>Individuals</b>	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00

Table 2. In Town Statistics for the Vogelgat Troop for November 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in November was 13 hours and 54 minutes.

### NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- No members of the Vogelgat Troop entered the urban area during November.

- On 3 November an adult female, VGF2, was captured in the vicinity of the Maanskynsbaai Waterfall. The female was transported to a veterinary clinic to be sedated and undergo an examination before being fitted with a GPS collar. After recovering from sedation, the baboon was released close to the original capture site where she promptly rejoined the troop.
- The virtual fence was activated on 20 November and successfully deterred the Vogelgat Troop from moving west from the Vogelgat Kloof towards town.
- On 11 November the wild Stillwaters Troop was observed on Lagoon Road, near South Winds. The following day, this wild troop was observed near Stillwaters Forest .
- On 16 November both the Vogelgat troop and Stillwaters Troop were observed close together near the Stillwaters sleep site. The close proximity of the wild troop caused the Vogelgat Troop to move rapidly in a westerly direction towards Maanskynsbaai.
- Please note that due to a lack of incidents during November, there is no incident sheet for the Vogelgat Troop in this report.



**Figure 4.** Map showing the movements of the Vogelgat Troop in November 2023 based on the GPS collar fitted to VGF2.

## **ONRUS TROOP**

- The Onrus Troop was first observed on 19 November close to the Hemel-en-Aarde road.
- There was one hotline report on 22 November concerning the Onrus Troop, informing HWS that baboons were in the vicinity of Owl Rock Road, Onrus. When field staff arrived at the location the baboons were seen on the mountain above the road. It is possible that a banger heard the previous day may have been responsible for this particular movement towards town.

- On 23 November the Onrus Troop was observed crossing the R320 (Hemel-en-Aarde Road). The troop was observed moving east towards Camphill where the troop foraged at a pig farm. Speaking to staff at the farm it was discovered that the troop often frequents the area to forage on food that is given to the pigs. The troop was observed at the pig farm on four more days during the latter part of the month.

## **HAMILTON RUSSELL**

- A wild troop was followed on 23 November from Tallies Waterfall in a northerly direction until it was lost to the north of the Galpin Hut. During this time a preliminary count indicated that the troop was comprised of 58 individuals, including five adult males.
- The Hamilton Russell Troop was heard vocalising on 10 November, and was observed on the cliffs on the western side of La Vierge Winery on November 27. This troop was estimated to include 25 Individuals.

## **VIRTUAL FENCE**

- In the Eastern Overstrand, the Virtual Fence was used on one day during November.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

### **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

No births or deaths were recorded in managed troops in the Eastern Overstrand during November. Additionally, no migration activity was noted during the month.

Troop	October	June	June	June	June	November 2023			Total observed Births (1 November 2023 to 30 November)	Total observed Deaths (1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023)	Total observed Migrations (1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023)
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	29	27	37	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vogelgat	N/A	22*	29	27	27*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Onrus	N/A	N/A	25*	24*	24*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton Russel	N/A	N/A	21*	25	25*	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 3.** Population data for the managed troops in the Overstrand in November 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 will be counted twice a year in December and 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 - June 2023)	2023/24 (July 2023 - June 2024)	November 2023
Management	3	0	1	0	0	0
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	9	10	1	0
<i>Direct *</i>	1	2	8	8	1	0
<i>Indirect **</i>	0	0	1	1	0	0
Natural	2	7	7	4	0	0
Unknown	0	0	2	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 4.** Causes of baboon deaths since November 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

A total of twelve hotline calls was received during November (**Table 5**), a decrease of two from the previous month. Eight calls originated in managed areas, six concerning the Voëlklip Troop, one concerning the Hamilton Russell Troop, and one concerning the Onrus Troop. The remainder of the calls were received from unmanaged areas, with the most originating from Betty's Bay.

Troop	Number of Calls received	Area	Types of Call
Voëlklip Troop	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voëlklip (3)</li> <li>Hamilton Russell Farm (2)</li> <li>Fernkloof (1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baboons in urban area (3)</li> <li>Non-urban location (2)</li> <li>Enquiry (1)</li> </ul>
Hamilton Russell Troop	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hamilton Russell Farm (1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baboons in the area (1)</li> </ul>
Onrus Troop	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onrus (1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baboons in the area (1)</li> </ul>
Unmanaged Troops	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pringle Bay (1)</li> <li>Betty's Bay (3)</li> </ul>	

**Table 5.** Table summarising Hotline call trends for November 2023.

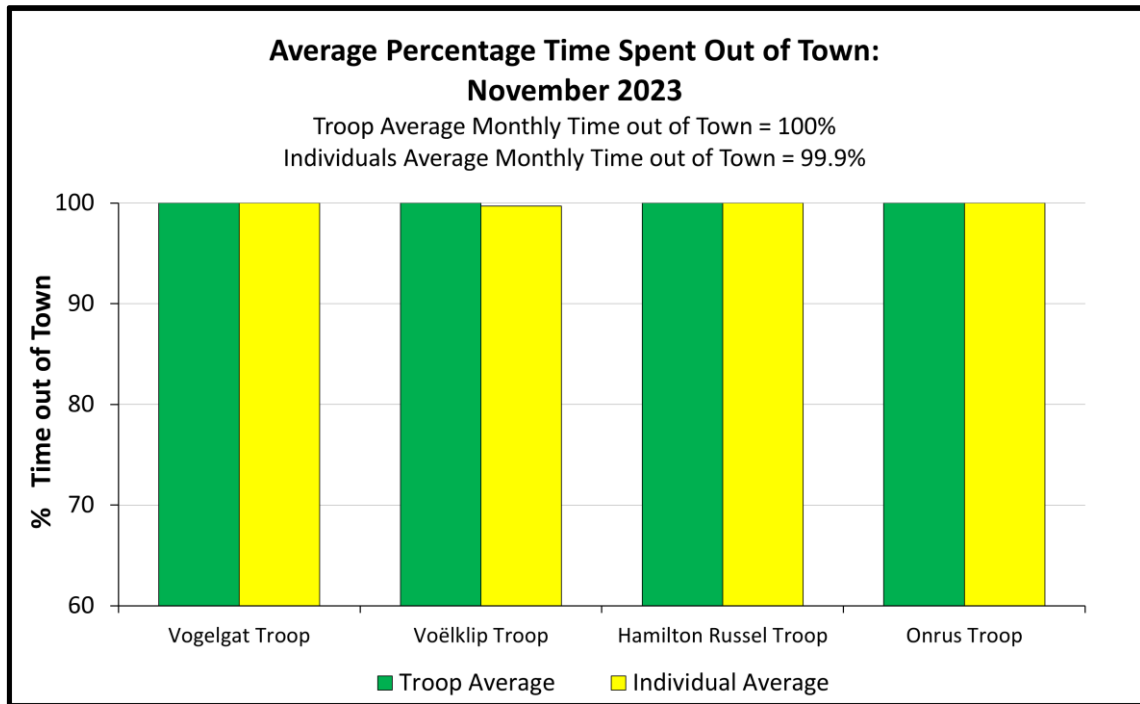
## RECORDED INCURSIONS

Three baboons from the Voëlklip Troop entered the urban area on one occasion during November. During their brief time spent in town there were no recorded incursions such as bin raids or occupied house incursions. Due to the low number of incursions recorded during the month no figure displaying incursion behaviour is included in this report.



## PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

The average time out of town by troops in the eastern Overstrand during November remained at 100% (**Figure 5**). This marks the fourth consecutive month in which all four troops have been absent from town. No individuals from the Vogelgat troop were present in town during November, with only three baboons from the Voëlklip Troop entering town for one hour and eight minutes during the month. The average individual time out of town was 99.9%. The Hamilton Russell and Onrus Troops continued to be absent from the urban area, however the Onrus Troop was recorded in close proximity to town on one occasion during the month.



**Figure 5.** Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during November 2023.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings and starting on the edge of town and working inwards.
- Residents should **not** put out their waste **the night before** collection day.
- **Refuse bags** should not be left lying open on the sidewalk and easily available to baboons.
- All bins used in baboon effected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon proofed.
- Ripening fruits should be removed from fruiting trees.
- Residents are strongly discouraged from feeding wildlife, including birds. Bird seed is a powerful attractant for baboons.

- Residents are encouraged to record and report the feeding of wildlife to the municipality, CapeNature, or to the baboon hotline (072 028 0008).
- Dogs should always be on a leash when walking in an area where baboons may be present. This is mandatory in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve.

## **CONCLUSION**

Apart from a single incident of three Voëlklip baboons entering the urban area on one day during the month, all the managed baboon troops in the Overstrand East remained out of town for the whole of November. This is a positive continuation of trend set over the previous three months in which all the troops remained 100% out of town.

The fitting of a new radio collar onto an adult female in the Vogelgat Troop has already yielded positive management benefits, allowing HWS staff to implement a more proactive management approach towards the Vogelgat Troop.

During November HWS rangers spent time trying to establish where best to capture and collar members of the Onrus and Hamilton Russell Troops. During this time HWS discovered that the Onrus Troop made frequent visits to a pig farm where they foraged for feed provisioned to the pigs. This particular behaviour could have significant negative repercussions. For example, such close contact between the pigs and the baboons could lead to zoonoses being transferred between the pigs and the baboons, and potentially onto humans as well.

Finally, with the end of year holiday season now upon us, residents and tourists are asked to take particular care not to leave any waste around in plastic bags etc., because this can easily lead to baboons being attracted into town.

### **Human Wildlife Solutions**