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# **Human Wildlife Solutions**

## **Overstrand**

**Monthly Report**

**October 2023**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This monthly report covers the period from 1 October to 31 October 2023.

For the first time since March 2022, both the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops recorded no time in town for any members of the troops. This is also the third consecutive month that both troops recorded no time in town. It is hoped that the collaring of UNKM1 on 5 October will help HWS maintain this level of behaviour over the coming months.

The Hamilton-Russel and Onrus Troops were observed infrequently during October. The Onrus Troop was reported close to the urban edge on two occasions during the month, but no urban incursions were reported for either troop. As a result, no urban incursions were recorded across the eastern Overstrand this month.

Although baboon management by HWS in the Overstrand West was discontinued in July 2023, HWS has continued to receive some hotline calls from previously managed areas. During October there were seven such calls. These hotline messages were recorded and are presented in this report.

## **OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS**

### **VOËLKLIP TROOP**

#### **IN TOWN STATISTICS**

- Troop time out of town remained at 100% during October.
- Time out of town for individuals increased by 0.1% during October, from 99.9% to 100%.

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

**Table 1.** In Town Statistics for the Voëlklip Troop for October 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in October was 12 hours and 56 minutes.

#### **NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

- Members of the Voelklip Troop were absent from the urban area for the entirety of October.
- UNKM1 was captured on 5 October and fitted with a GPS tracking collar. UNKM1 was captured on the gravel Rotary Way before being transferred to a veterinary clinic where the male was sedated and assessed. After this assessment UNKM1 was fitted with a GPS tracking collar and a green tag on the right ear. The male was released the same day and

monitored closely for the next two days. UNKM1 reintegrated with the troop smoothly and showed no signs of stress or discomfort.

- An off-leash dog chased the Voëlklip Troop on 16 October near Rotary Way.
- Several bangers were fired by unidentified persons, once in the vicinity of Bouchard Finlayson Vineyards and once in the vicinity of the Hamilton Russell Vineyards.
- There were no urban incursions this month, and therefore no figure illustrating raids is included here.

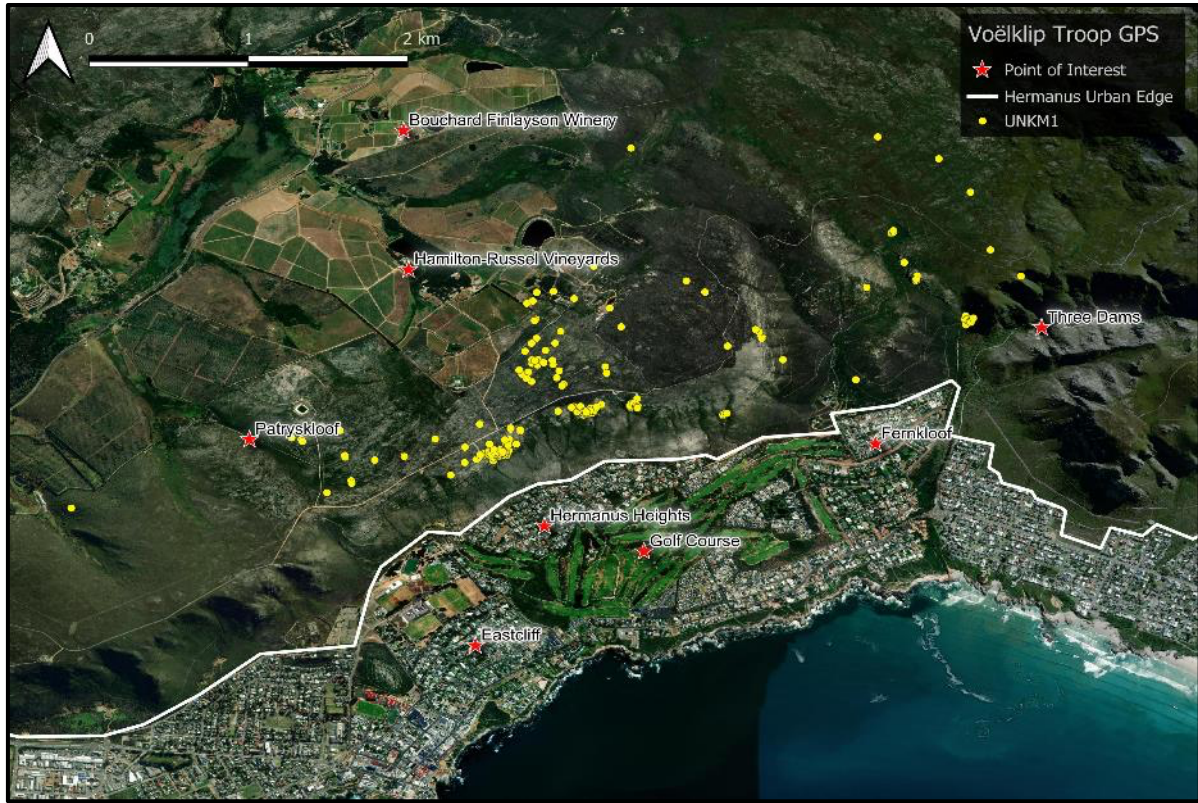


Figure 1. Map showing the movements of the Voëlklip Troop in October 2023 based on the GPS collar fitted to UNKM1.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																				
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																		
OVERSTRAND		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL			
BABOON TROOP: Voëlklip	VOËLKLIP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL			
MONTH: October	YEAR: 2023	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL			
Troop																																				
UNKM1 GREEN TAG	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 Sub-Male																																				
UnID Sub-Males	M																																			
UnID Males	M																																			
UnID Females	F																																			
UnID Female	F																																			
UnID Individuals								2																												
UnID Juveniles																																				
	%																																			
	0.0																																			
	0.0																																			
Troop																																				
Individuals																																				
Roost:	AM	2	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18				
Roost:	PM	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18				
Roost Sites		1	3	3	18	2	2	18	18	2	2	2	2	18	18	2	18	18	2	18	18	2	2	2	2	4	4	18	18	18	18	18	2	5	21	21
ID Features of Baboons		6	11	16	21	26	11	16	21	26	11	16	21	26	11	16	21	26	11	16	21	26	11	16	21	26	11	16	21	26	11	16	21	26		
General remarks																																				

Figure 2. The Voëlklip Troop incident sheet for October 2023.

## VOGELGAT TROOP

### IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of Town for the Troop remained at 100% during October.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 99.9% to 100% during October.

	% 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	+ 0.1	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00

**Table 2.** In Town Statistics for the Vogelgat Troop for October 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in October was 12 hours and 56 minutes.

### NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- No members of the Vogelgat Troop entered the urban area during October.
- The troop spent the majority of their time in the centre of their home range, often seen near Maanskynbaai and the Vogelgat Nature Reserve.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																		
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																
OVERSTRAND		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL	
BABOON TROOP:																																		
MONTH: October																																		
YEAR: 2023																																		
BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL	
Troop																																		
UnID Male	M																																	
UnID Males	M																																	
UnID Females	F																																	
UnID Female	F																																	
UnID Individual																																		
UnID Individuals																																		
UnID Juveniles																																		
UnID Juvenile																																		
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS			
Troop	0.0																																	0.00
Individuals	0.0																																	0.00
Roost:	AM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Roost:	PM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
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																				
		? Unknown																																
ID Features of Baboons																																		
General remarks																																		

**Figure 3.** The Vogelgat Troop incident sheet for October 2023.

## ONRUS TROOP

- There were 2 hotline reports concerning the Onrus Troop.
- On 13 October a report of baboons on the R43 near Vermont was received. When HWS field staff arrived on scene the baboons had already departed. However, it is suspected that the baboons were part of the Onrus Troop.
- On 29 October, a hotline call reported the presence of the Onrus Troop on Owl Rock. When HWS staff arrived, they observed the troop climbing the mountain in a northerly direction.

## HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- On 2 October, the Hamilton-Russel Troop and Voëlklip Troop exchanged vocalisations during the early afternoon, with both troops located near the Hemel-en-Aarde Road.
- On 28 October, vocalisations from an unidentified male were heard near the Hemel-en-Aarde Road. It was thought that this male belonged to the Hamilton-Russel Troop.
- On 29 October, approximately 15 baboons were observed along the Hemel-en-Aarde Road north of Bouchard Finlayson Winery. It was suspected that these baboons were members of the Hamilton-Russel Troop.

## VIRTUAL FENCE

- In the Eastern Overstrand, the Virtual Fence was not activated during October.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Two births were recorded in the managed troops in the Eastern Overstrand during October. Both births were recorded in the Voëlklip Troop. On 16 October, two infants were documented, one belonging to VKF6 and one to an unidentified female. There were no deaths or migrations recorded during October.

Troop	October	June	June	June	June	October 2023			Total observed Births (1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023)	Total observed Deaths (1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023)	Total observed Migrations (1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023)
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	29	27	37	39	2	0	0	2	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>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 3.** Population data for the managed troops in the Overstrand in October 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)	October 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 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

A total of fourteen hotline calls were received during October (**Table 5**), an increase of two from the previous month. Seven calls originated in managed areas, five concerning the Voëlkliip Troop and two concerning the Onrus Troop. No hotline calls reported baboons in the urban area. However, five calls were made to inform HWS of some baboon locations beyond the urban edge. One hotline call, received from the Fernkloof area, reported hearing gunshots between Fir and Main Road. No baboons were in this area at the time.

The remainder of the calls were received from unmanaged areas, with the majority of these originating from Pringle Bay.

Troop	Number of Calls received	Area	Types of Call
Voëlkliip Troop	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fernkloof (2)</li> <li>Hamilton-Russel (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enquiry/Comments (5)</li> </ul>
Onrus Troop	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onrus (1)</li> <li>Vermont (1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enquiry/Comment (2)</li> </ul>
Unmanaged Troops	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pringle Bay (3)</li> <li>Kleinmond (1)</li> <li>Betty's Bay (1)</li> <li>Da Gama (1)</li> </ul>	

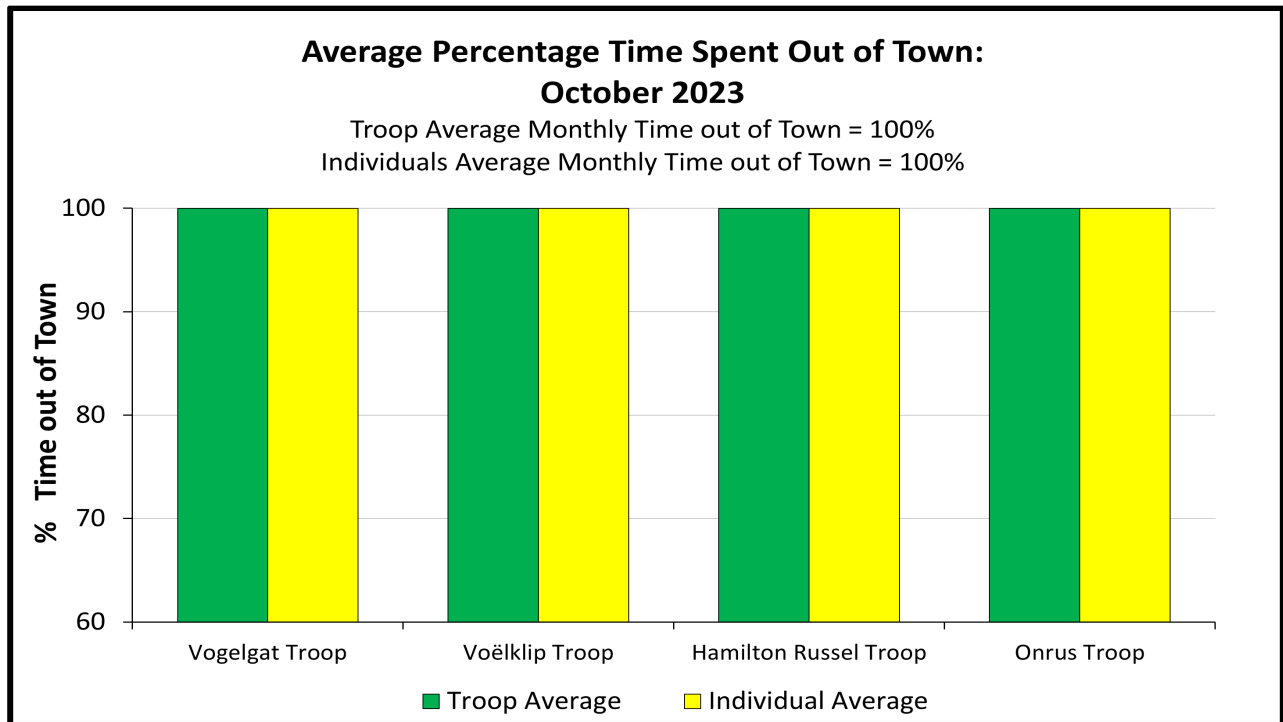
**Table 5.** Table summarising Hotline call trends for October 2023.

## RECORDED INCURSIONS

No baboons from managed troops were recorded in urban areas this month, and therefore no urban incursions were recorded. One bin raid was recorded outside the urban area at the Hamilton-Russel Vineyard Cottages. Due to the absence of urban incursions this month, no hotline figure is included in this report.

## PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

The average time out of town by troops in the eastern Overstrand during October remained at 100% (**Figure 4**). This marks the third consecutive month in which both troops have been absent from town. Similarly, no individuals from either troop were present in town during October. The Hamilton-Russel and Onrus Troops continued to be absent from the urban area, however the Onrus Troop was recorded in close proximity to town on two occasions during the month.



**Figure 4.** Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during October 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**

The total absence of baboons from the urban area during October bodes well for the coming festive season. The collaring of UNKM1 in the Voëklip Troop will help HWS staff members to preempt any movement towards Hermanus in the coming months. In regard to the coming festive season, and influx of tourists into the Overstrand, it is vital that appropriate waste management behaviour is communicated and enforced. This should help to reduce the attractiveness of urban areas for baboons. Special notice should be paid to the list of recommendations given above.

In light of the incident involving a dog off the leash above Rotary Way during October, it is pertinent to comment on the potential damage that can be caused by dogs off the leash. The impact of dogs on wildlife is well documented (Lenth, Knight, & Brennan, 2008), and off leash dogs can adversely affect baboon management in a serious manner, especially when baboons and dogs are involved in aggressive interactions. It should be noted that baboons will not attack a dog on the leash, but dogs chasing baboons will always cause stress to one or both parties, potentially resulting in injury or death to either animal. Furthermore, it should be noted that dogs on the leash are only allowed on certain paths in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve, and they are never allowed here off the leash

The behaviour of all troops in the eastern Overstrand has shown significant improvements over the past few months. It is hoped that the low level of human-baboon interaction experienced in October continues over the summer season. This goal should be feasible if appropriate waste management practices are communicated clearly to visitors, particularly those visiting properties close to the mountains.

**Human Wildlife Solutions CC.**

## **REFERENCES**

Lenth, B.E., Knight, R.L. and Brennan, M.E., 2008. The effects of dogs on wildlife communities. *Natural Areas Journal*, 28(3), pp.218-227.