



## WILDLIFE ANIMAL PROTECTION FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

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### **WAPFSA Official Opposition to the Reintroduction of Water Cannons, Gelblasters, Primers, Paint Ball Guns, Bear Bangers and Flashing Strobe Lights to Manage Baboons in Pringle Bay**

[The Wildlife Animal Protection Forum](#) (WAPFSA), is a forum consisting of thirty South African organisations that are all actively involved with the protection and conservation of wild animals and the natural environment in South Africa.

The members share a body of expertise from vastly different fields including, but not limited to, science, the environment, the law, animal welfare, human and non-human rights, social justice, the climate, the ocean, the indigenous perspective and public advocacy.

For the reasons expressed below in this document, WAPFSA members firmly oppose the Adaptive Management Plan to move the Pringle Bay baboon troop out of the urban area, announced by the Overstrand Municipality on the 29th of April 2024.

In particular, WAPFSA opposes the reintroduction of weapons as a means to manage the baboons in Pringle Bay, because there are good reasons to believe that it will have a negative impact on the welfare of baboons and will not solve the problems.

WAPFSA proposes that the municipality adopt a different approach, focusing on tackling the factors drawing baboons into residential areas, as detailed further below.

#### **Introduction**

WAPFSA is a highly regarded, influential forum widely acknowledged for providing an innovative framework for cooperation, problem-solving and networking among non-governmental organisations in South Africa, and for presenting a clear, strong and informed common position to various South African government agencies and other relevant bodies.

Recently, in a response to a letter from WAPFSA members, Ban Animal Trading and EMS Foundation, Minister Barbara Creecy said: *"The legislative mandate to regulate the well-being of wild animals, which has been included in NEM:BA as an amendment through the National Environmental*



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*Management Laws Amendment Act, 2022 (Act No. 2 of 2022), came into force on 30 June 2023 when Proclamation Notice No. 125 was published in Government Gazette No. 48869.*

*I now have the legislative mandate to prohibit activities that may have a negative impact on the well-being of wild animals, and to make regulations in relation to the well-being of wild animals. These legislative amendments will be initiated in due course."*

WAPFSA strongly supports the fact that non-human primates have high conservation value and national importance which requires regulation in order to ensure that these species are managed in an ecologically sustainable manner and are protected in compliance with Section 24 of the Constitution.

In this regard, WAPFSA members are growing increasingly concerned about:

(a) Incidents of Violence Towards Baboons and Women in Pringle Bay:

There was an unfortunate incremental number of officially reported acts of violence perpetrated against various women and baboons in Pringle Bay. The WAPFSA coordinator has a copy of the video and photographic evidence of these incidents and the responding SAPS CAS numbers. For the record, each of the unprovoked attacks on women and baboons has occurred in public areas in front of numerous witnesses.

WAPFSA is hereby officially appealing for the immediate cessation of the anti-baboon rhetoric and the dangerous disinformation campaign that is being allowed to perpetuate on social media, which is fuelling the aggressive behaviour of some of the men towards women and baboons in Pringle Bay. The WAPFSA coordinator also has numerous examples and copies of the disingenuous lies and the racist hate speech which is openly published on social media.

(b) The New Proposed Baboon Management Plan Announced by the Overstrand Municipality:

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, the Overstrand Municipality addressed the Ward 10 Committee regarding the adaptive [Baboon Management Plan for Pringle Bay](#) in order to move the Pringle Bay troop of baboons out of the Urban Area.

### **WAPFSA Member Organisations Directly Involved with the Protection of Chacma Baboons in South Africa**

Whilst this communication refers specifically to the protection and well-being of the chacma baboons in Pringle Bay, there are a number of WAPFSA member organisations that bring a wealth of experience and knowledge about the well-being, care and protection of chacma baboons in South Africa, these are, namely:

1. The [Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education](#) (C.A.R.E.) was established in 1989 and has successfully released over 12 rehabilitated troops of baboons. C.A.R.E. is based in the Balule Nature Reserve in Limpopo Province of South Africa, managing director Stephen Munro has a Bachelor of Science in Animal Care and has worked at C.A.R.E. since 2003. The assisting Managing Director of C.A.R.E. is Samantha Dewhirst who has a Master of Science in Primate Conservation and has worked at C.A.R.E. since 2006.



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2. The [Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group](#) (BBBAG) are a group of volunteers who are working towards keeping the Betty's Bay troop of baboons free to roam. Since the devastating fire in January 2019, there has been an increase in baboon dispersion in the various neighbourhoods within Betty's Bay which has resulted in an increased number of baboons moving through the residents' properties.  
Whilst baboons have no interest in people they have a vested interest in human food waste. BBBAG are establishing methods for humans and baboons to co-exist without conflict, Rene Bisch and Pete Oxford, a Zoologist, are the founders of the Betty's Bay Action Group, they have been [featured](#) in [numerous articles](#) about their work with baboons in Betty's Bay.
3. The [Green Group in Simonstown](#) coordinates a baboon monitoring team for the protection and safety of the Seaforth troop and, in the evening, the Waterfall troop. Whilst the Green Group in Simonstown has also experienced negativity from residents who would prefer that the baboons be eradicated from the area, there are positive enthusiastic residents and business owners who support their program and their initiatives. The Green Group collaborates with Environmental NCC, the SPCA and TEARS and together they are establishing positive solutions to the human baboon conflict. It has been reported in the [media](#) that the baboons have inspired a lot of positive change in the community of Simonstown. The Green Group launched a pilot scheme for baboon-proof bins was launched in Simonstown and business owners are removing tons of wet waste from the waste system in order to feed farm animals.  
The Green Group in Simonstown has also worked for three years on a [recycling](#) project in order to deter the baboons from coming out of their natural habitat to an urban area that presents dangers to them.
4. The [EMS Foundation](#) and [Ban Animal Trading](#) are the researchers and authors of an acclaimed investigative report titled [Our Kin Discarded, South Africa's Cruel and Gratuitous Trade and Killing of Non-Human Primates](#). The report calls for an immediate moratorium on the trade, hunting and killing of indigenous primates and highlights the essential roles that baboons play in ecosystems and biodiversity.
5. [Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees](#) (KVET), is a community-based organisation which was established to ensure the humane protection of baboons in Pringle Bay following the mismanagement of the baboons over a number of years. This questionable management plan led to the documented death of a large percentage of the troop.  
KVET is striving to prevent human-baboon conflict and is attempting to promote peaceful coexistence between residents and baboons in Pringle Bay through education, advocacy and community engagement. KVET is committed to understanding and addressing the root causes of conflict by collecting data from the baboon's daily behaviour patterns and engaging with experts in order to foster a lasting legacy and preserve the rich animal and plant life in this region.

### **The Formal Establishment of Community-Run Organisation to Protect the Chacma Baboons and Mitigate Human Baboon Conflict in Pringle Bay**

Pringle Bay is a small village situated in a protected area of the Overstrand in the Western Cape of South Africa, WAPFSA members are in agreement that this village could become the perfect testing ground for a successful, holistic, modern forward-thinking community-based approach to living with baboons.

The importance of community engagement has become pivotal for a well-functioning democracy. Constructive relationships between communities and the institutions of government make community engagement not only desirable but necessary. Community engagement enables a better understanding of a community needs and aspirations.



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On the 18th of October 2022, at a meeting held by the Overstrand Municipality in Kleinmond, Mayor Rabie called upon the Kogelberg Biosphere village communities to come up with an alternative proposal for managing the baboons in the area.

A proposal for a non-profit Community Board of Environmental Trustees was presented to the residents as an option for baboon management which was well received by the majority who were present on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 in Betty's Bay and on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Pringle Bay.

On 30 March 2023, the Pringle Bay Baboon Information Officer (BIO) pilot programme was launched by KVET. Using trained, vetted locally engaged personnel, the BIO program's first obstacle was to manage the foreseeable complications arising from the increase of visitors to Pringle Bay during the Easter Holidays. At this time there was a general lack of human baboon conflict management in the Pringle Bay central business district.

After nine months, KVET, through the collection and analysis of data, has established valid reasons why the baboons in Pringle Bay are encouraged to spend more time in the village. The reasons are as follows:

### **1. Urgent Improvement of the Waste Management System in Pringle Bay Must be a Priority to Mitigate Human Baboon Conflict**



Pringle Bay Refuse Dump Site 2024

The Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees, who freely volunteer their services, and their advisors, have closely studied the data gathered by the BIOs about the behavioural patterns of the baboons who live in the Pringle Bay area and who frequent the village whilst moving between their various foraging sites and where they sleep from 7 am until 7 pm, seven days a week. The conclusions reached by KVET are backed up with expertise from scientists and primatologists. According to the [South African National Biodiversity Institute](#), Chacma baboons are opportunistic omnivores that feed on a wide variety of food items and are able to change their



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diet relative to what is available in the environment. They prefer feeding on bulbs, shoots, roots, seeds or fruit. Their diet also includes invertebrates, small vertebrates and seashore life. Fungi and lichens are eaten as and when they are available. They will also feed on refuse from human settlements.

Primatologist Dave Gaynor [said](#) that baboons have been in the fynbos ecosystem for two million years and have been a major proportion in terms of biomass. *“One can confidently say that if they are removed it is 100 percent sure to have an effect on the fynbos. Baboons play a significant role in plant dispersal and reproduction.”*

Research carried out in Pringle Bay by Erin Guth in 2005 [confirmed](#) that in terms of quantity, the baboons were effective dispersal agents depositing a seed rain rate of between approximately 12000 and 36000 seeds/km<sup>2</sup> during the study period and a mean of 46 seeds per faecal sample.

***“It is clear that baboons play an important role in the ecosystem and that we need them to forage in the fynbos. However, the village can be a tempting alternative with its possibility of high-calorie foods. Therefore, it is crucial that we keep the baboons from consuming human food by denying them access to our garbage and using baboon-proof bins. We can go further and baboon-proof our homes so they don’t raid our fridges and when it comes to our gardens, preserve the fynbos and not replace it with vegetable gardens and fruit trees and of course never feed baboons directly.”***

A number of [methods](#) have been tested over the past 20 years to solve the inconvenience associated with baboons trying to access and forage for anthropogenic food in the residents' homes, in residential and business garbage waste disposal bins and at the Pringle Bay waste dump site.

Therefore we can safely deduce that the analysed data of the baboon’s daily behaviour strongly suggests that an upgraded waste management programme should be a matter of priority to be considered by everyone who lives or chooses to visit Pringle Bay and everyone who utilises the Pringle Bay waste dump site including the residents of RooiEls.

KVET has utilized the information collected, consulted with experts and carried out research to compile a proposal for consideration and comment by the Overstrand Municipality, the Pringle Bay Rate Payers Association, the RooiEls Rate Payers Association and the residents of Pringle Bay and RooiEls for the improvement of waste management system in Pringle Bay.

KVET has also attracted a donor for the costs of the total overhaul and rebuild of the unsightly, ineffective waste dump site which is located at the entrance of Pringle Bay. This project is one of the most urgent areas to address since the baboons frequent the dump site numerous times a day. The dumpsite is no longer able to adequately meet the needs of the residents of Pringle Bay and RooiEls.

A generous donation for the infrastructure, which will be designed and constructed with valuable input from all the stakeholders, means that the Pringle Bay Rate Association, the RooiEls Rate Payers Association and the Overstrand Municipality do not have to readdress their budgets in 2024.



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### **2. There is a Well Documented Long History of Baboons Living in Pringle Bay and Frequenting Village**

In steep contrast to the narrative upheld by some residents in Pringle Bay, KVET and the Overstrand ECO Rangers are not taming the baboons or forcing them to stay in the village.

Baboons have always walked through the village of Pringle Bay, they have always entered the residences that are not baboon-proofed and they have always helped themselves to the refuse bins that are not baboon-proofed. However, they were less visible due to the fact that there were more green areas available to them to forage and hide in.

If you watch the [documentary](#) which was released twelve years ago, titled *Living With Baboons: The Town in South Africa Where Monkeys Rule*, it will give you an indication of the rapid development in Pringle Bay over the past decade and confirm the extreme loss of habitat for the baboons. The baboons now have no option but to walk along the roads, and more visible, there is no other way for them to reach their ever-diminishing foraging areas.

The aforementioned documentary features Craig Spencer who worked for the Overstrand Municipality in the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Craig Spencer is well respected in the wildlife environmental sector, he initiated the Marine Anti-Poaching Unit initiative in an attempt to try to curb abalone poaching in the southern coastal region of the Western Cape. [Craig Spencer](#) also initiated a number of poverty relief initiatives and was the manager of the Buffer Zone of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

Craig Spencer has provided valuable expertise and imparted his knowledge and experience of working with the Pringle Baboons to KVET.

***“We have lost all the big herbivores already; baboons play an important ecological role here and should be left to move through the village. It does not take much to keep them out of your house. With a little effort, people can live with nature, but it takes a change in outlook and an adaptation to their lifestyles” he said.***

***“So when we talk about human/wildlife conflict, and in this case baboons in the residential areas of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, I always maintain that we should never forget some basic principles:***

- i. Baboons will always occur there and therefore always cause a challenge. This goes for anyone who wishes to build in a wetland, fire-risk areas, or a sand dune. Sacrifices must be made and solutions sought.***
- ii. Responsibilities must be shared and it is unfair to expect authorities to provide a silver-bullet solution. Property owners have an equal responsibility to protect their property and find solutions to reduce conflict.***
- iii. One should never allow conflict with wildlife to polarise a community. Especially when living in a natural area such as Kogelberg. It could rather unite communities.***
- iv. The management of animals that cause conflict cannot be solved with science. Engineering solutions and scientific input can reduce impacts and losses. But mostly, the ethical questions must be answered.***



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- v. *Any solution will require a lifestyle change. Sacrifices will have to be made. Baboons are not logical and critical thinkers. We are. Therefore, the Sacrifices must be made on our side.*
- vi. *I say again- any actions taken or remedial measures put in place, must be ethical. If ethics are ignored, the community will be divided and conflict shifts from the focal animal to our human neighbours. Primate vs primate, nonetheless. Our species has walked on the moon. We access the World Wide Web and communicate around the world on a phone the size of a cigarette box. Yet we cannot outsmart a baboon? This is only because we are not tolerant and compromising. We lose the moral high ground if we choose lethal solutions before all other ethical solutions have been exhausted.”*

### **3. Pringle Bay Residents Agree that Human Wildlife Solutions Negatively Altered the Baboon Behavior Patterns in Pringle Bay**

According to [information](#) published by residents of Pringle Bay, the baboons in Pringle Bay were managed very well by monitors hired by the Pringle Bay Rate Payers Association, until when, in November 2019, the Overstrand Municipality were persuaded to employ a Cape Town-based baboon management company, Human Wildlife Solutions, a service ultimately paid for by the ratepayer.

Almost immediately HWS, with permission of Cape Nature, began altering the normal foraging and sleeping patterns of the nineteen baboons belonging to the Pringle Bay troop. Their management strategy harassed the troop to such an extent that they changed the way the troop lived.

HWS started moving the baboon troop daily towards Buffelsdal. In the latter part of 2020, they chased the Pringle Bay baboon troop across the R44 into the dam area where they were restrained by force. These allegations are confirmed by video evidence as well as signed affidavits.

The void left by the small troop of baboons in Pringle Bay was filled by a troop numbering forty baboons who arrived from Hangklip in May 2021.

Human Wildlife Solutions was awarded additional emergency funding via a deviation tender process worth millions of rands of tax-payers money in order to, amongst other, monitor and push back this troop of baboons from Pringle Bay.

Due to insufficient scientific, geographical knowledge and or experience HWS did not realize that there was insufficient sustainable forage available in the Buffelsdal area and as a result the much smaller and weakened Pringle Bay troop returned to Pringle Bay.

### **4. Reasonable Expert Ecological Explanations for the Increased Baboon Activity in Pringle Bay**

To reiterate, one of the main functions of KVET is to collect data on the behaviour and daily habits of the baboons in Pringle Bay. This data is recorded in real time and then examined and analysed by a number of experts.





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Data collected by KVET BIOs and analysed and bolstered with interviews carried out with residents confirms that there is a notable increase in sustained baboon activity in Pringle Bay, with baboons from the Hangklip and Silversands troop increasingly making an appearance in Pringle Bay.

Another one of KVET's expert advisors is Jenny Parsons M.Sc. (Rhodes). Jenny Parson is a naturalist, nature photographer and a member of various conservation societies including the Botanical Society of South Africa, Birdlife South Africa and the South African National Biodiversity Institute Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers programme.

Jenny Parsons majored in Botany and Geography in 1980 and completed her postgraduate BSc Honours in Geography specialising in soils and hydrology. She completed her MSc in Geography in 2021 and her thesis was titled ["Understanding Human Wildlife Conflict: A Geographic Study of the Pringle Bay Chacma Baboon Troop."](#) Part of this study included analysing data recorded of the movements of the Pringle Bay troop of baboons between 2017 and 2019.

Jenny Parsons has offered three perfectly reasonable ecological explanations as to why the Hangklip and Silversands troop of baboons is frequenting Pringle Bay. In her own words:

### **a) Alien Clearing Project Discussions 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

***The Kogelberg Botanical Society organised a Sustainable Development Workshop for the Kogelberg Biosphere Transitional Zone was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. I formed part of the Wildlife Care Group on the second day which was convened by Michelle Watson.***

***The other participants of the workshop included representatives from the Overstrand Municipality and Cape Nature including, Liezl de Villiers and Steve Gildenhuys. Interestingly baboon discussions were not included even though they are part of the human-wildlife conflict in the transition zone of the biosphere.***

***I specifically remember discussing with Corlie, Liezl and Steve the negative impact which the alien clearing project organised by the Kogelberg Nature Reserve and the Hangklip Conservancy, would have on the baboons in the area.***

***I made them aware that the removal of the alien vegetation en masse would have an impact on the Hangklip, Silversands and Pringle Bay troops food supply. Had this been properly considered in the planning stages it could have been possible to remove sections over time so that it was not an immediate but gradual impact.***

***I reminded them of the problem Cape Town had when the Table Mountain National Park initiated the pine tree removals and that a similar impact would be felt here. The consensus was however that there should be sufficient natural food supplies for the baboons even though the landscape will be changed quite dramatically.***

### **b) Controlled Betty's Bay Burn Area Discussion 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

***Cape Nature and the South African National Biodiversity Institute's Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers walked through the Overstrand Municipality Betty's Bay prescribed burn area on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.***

***This discussion was not attended by official representatives from the Overstrand Municipality. I have included remarks from Steve Gildenhuys, Cape Nature below.***

***This discussion was hugely informative as Ismail Ebrahim described the impact of fire on the fynbos. This was pertinent to the walk through in February and they were hoping to burn in March. I learnt that***



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*at the end of summer when it's dry, the fire intensity can cause damage to the flora and fauna while burning in the spring (e.g. Oct) the ground is still moist and the seed bank can boil and hugely impact the fynbos survival and recovery.*

*We discussed the closed burn approach but the attending officials soon realized that an escape for the fauna was required which meant this could not happen. I did ask if the baboons would be safe and mentioned that the burning of the alien vegetation plus the fynbos would impact the food supply of the Silversands, Hangklip and Pringle Bay troops. The decision was however taken to burn was purely for "fire risk" and not linked to conservation in any way.*

- c) *The Overstrand Municipal ECO Rangers Forced Dispersal of the Pringle Bay Troop of Baboons from their Natural Range*

*The presence of all three troops in Pringle Bay is a first!*

*There has, in the past, been interaction between the Hangklip and PB troops only. I am sure that moving of the Pringle Bay troop as I witnessed when walking on the beach) by the Overstrand Municipal Eco Rangers across the river to the northwest of the village is creating a void.*

*It is well documented that this void will be filled by one of the other bigger troops, especially when they realize that have access to human-derived foods, rubbish bins etc.*

*Any removal of adult males or further manipulation of the troop will escalate the current situation in my opinion. My advice is as follows: The Pringle Bay troop needs to be allowed to regroup to keep the other troop out (strength in numbers!).*

*The Overstrand Municipal Eco Rangers need to keep the Hangklip and Silversands baboons out of the village!*

### **5. The Pringle Bay Baboons are Not Returning to the Sleep Site Because the Hangklip and or the SilverSands Troop are Occupying the Ridge Above their Sleep Site**

As early as 1970 scientists from the Department of Zoology at the University of Pretoria and the Nature Conservation Division of the Transvaal Provincial Administration [stated](#) that ecological factors may result in variable social organisation and behaviour of baboons, the validity of any generalisations based upon some field studies of baboons should be re-assessed. Baboons in this study preferred sleeping sites in the rocky krantzies in the kopies which are similar to those in the Western Cape according to the study.

Sleep sites have a particular smell and are marked with accumulations of dung and urine. The sleep sites are typically situated beneath overhanging rocks midway between the upper and lower slopes of the mountains. Sleep sites are selected for protection Baboons approach their sleep site in the late afternoon and occupy the site by dusk. Troops start their ascent as early as mid-afternoon.

Importantly the study [indicated](#) that the baboon troops do not attempt to occupy sleeping sites until they had scanned the cliffs at length from beneath.

A study published in the American Journal of Primatology in 1982 titled [Baboon Sleeping Site Preferences and Relationships to Primate Grouping Patterns](#) suggests that sleeping sites for baboons are not easily defended from other troops because they are large and usually three dimensional.

This same study confirms that encounters between troops at sleeping sites may result in the displacement of one group to an alternative sleeping site or a less preferred site.

According to the same study, baboons select nocturnal roosts with characteristics which suggest that choices of alternatives are based primarily upon their degree of security from predation.



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A [study](#) published in 2012 concludes that Leopards do not preferentially favour baboons as prey but they are considered the primary predators of baboons across Africa. Even in areas where baboons are abundant, their contribution to the leopard diet seldom exceeds 5% of biomass. It is suggested that the group's vigilance and their high mobility when escaping may limit leopard predation.

A [sleep study](#) conducted on a troop of wild baboons revealed that face a slew of ecological and social demands that can disrupt sleep, specifically baboons sacrificed sleep to stay awake in new environments and to remain close to their group mates, regardless of how much they had slept the prior night or how much they exerted themselves the preceding day.

The team of scientists from the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour and the University of California [revealed](#) that *“Baboons are highly vulnerable to night-time predation and their fitness depends on maintaining strong social bonds. Trading off sleep to maintain alertness in novel, risky environments and to remain close to group-mates during the night may therefore represent an essential adaptation.”*

As previously stated, data collected by KVET BIOs and analysed and bolstered with interviews carried out with residents confirms the fact that there is a notable increase in sustained baboon activity in Pringle Bay, with baboons from the Hangklip and Silversands troops increasingly making an appearance in Pringle Bay.

The data includes the range of areas on any given day, where the baboons forage naturally and where they drink when they access food waste or gain entry to residences.

Furthermore, and of great importance, the Pringle Bay troop is not returning to their sleep site, they are choosing instead to sleep on the roofs of some of the residences in Pringle Bay.

The reason that the Pringle Bay troop is not returning to their sleep site has been explained by Jenny Parsons.

KVET has visited the sleep site and can confirm that the ridge above the sleep site is occupied by either the Hangklip or Silversand troop of baboons. The co-ordinates of the area have been recorded and other data has been recorded.

Two female baboons have given birth recently, it is unlikely that the Pringle Bay troop would risk exposing their infants to the dangers of fighting for position with another troop of baboons.

### **Overstrand Municipality Announces Adaptive Management Plan to Move Pringle Bay Troop Out of the Urban Area on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2024**

According to a communication received by KVET on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 from Mayor Rabie, “The Overstrand Municipality is committed to keeping the baboons outside the urban edge, this has been the position she said since the inception of the programme in 2020.”

*“By habituating baboons and suggesting that it is acceptable for them to sleep in town on the roof and balconies of residences is not fair on the broader community in the area.”*

KVET would like to take this opportunity to deny, in the strongest possible terms, that they are habituating the baboons or encouraging them to sleep in the village. Please note that the baboons are wild animals and therefore cannot be encouraged to sleep in the village.



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In 2021 the residents of Pringle Bay [highlighted the following points for change](#), these points are still applicable today:

- A. No resident wants the baboons in their houses, but they also don't want baboons constantly harassed, chased and shot at.
- B. A shepherding approach needs to be followed by all monitors. The previous system used in Pringle Bay by the PBRA/PBBAG was an excellent method of managing the baboons. The monitors were polite and loved the baboons. They also notified residents by blowing whistles, clapping and ringing doorbells when the baboons were in the area.
- C. Under no circumstances should a baboon be targeted for removal or killing in the Biosphere.
- D. The infringement of private property needs to stop. Pringle Bay residents are tired of seeing battles in their gardens. Plots are crossed on foot by monitors, damaging sensitive fynbos.
- E. Waste management needs to be addressed. Baboon-proof bins must be used by residents. The public bins scattered all over the Overstrand need to be fixed and maintained to prevent baboon access. Holidaymakers need to be made aware by rental agents and/or homeowners of the baboons. Homeowners also need to ensure any waste is disposed of in the correct way, e.g. taken to the dump, not left on the side of the road.
- F. Signage at holiday homes, restaurants and shops must be erected. The message should be clear: no feeding of the baboons, no illegal dumping.
- G. No shooting or injuring of baboons. Fines must be imposed if anyone is found doing any of the above.
- H. New residents should be made aware by estate agents that they live in a biosphere and it has animals that we need to protect. An information welcome pack should be provided to all new residents, and new builds and placed in the rental properties for the educational value it can provide regarding the presence of baboons in the area.
- I. Houses must be baboon-proofed and access by baboons prevented. Special groups within the village should be set up to advise new residents on baboon proofing, etc. Building plan approval should be conditional on the inclusion of baboon proofing.
- J. Shop owners in the central business district should display baboon information in their windows and have information pamphlets available to the public. Baboon-proofed bins and baboon safety doors should be requirements for all business owners.

### **Conclusion**

WAPSA Members Oppose the Adaptive Management Plan to Move Pringle Bay Troop Out of the Urban Area Announced by the Overstrand Municipality on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

WAPFSA hereby officially opposes the reintroduction of weapons as means to manage the baboons in Pringle Bay.

WAPFSA is hereby officially appealing for the immediate cessation of the anti-baboon rhetoric and the dangerous disinformation campaign that is being allowed to perpetuate on social media, which is fuelling the aggressive behaviour of some of the men in Pringle Bay.



## WILDLIFE ANIMAL PROTECTION FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

KVET has conducted meetings with the South African Police Services and a criminal attorney and can confirm the activities that they are carrying out in Pringle Bay are not illegal. KVET is not collecting data on the residents of Pringle Bay, they are not hindering or obstructing the Overstrand Municipality employees in any manner whatsoever.

KVET is carrying out valuable community work in Pringle Bay at no cost to the Overstrand ratepayer.

A number of baboon experts, who have vast documented experience working with the Pringle Bay troop, have offered their learned opinions about the current baboon behaviour in Pringle Bay. A non-violent, transparent management strategy agreed upon by all stakeholders must be sought so that the troop can safely enter their sleep sites.

The Municipality should be encouraged to rebuild the waste dump site at no cost to the ratepayers and to make sure that residents baboon-proof their homes and the waste bins.

Kind regards,

**Stefania Falcon**

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ON BEHALF OF WAPFSA

<http://wapfsa.org/>



### SIGNING MEMBERS OF WAPFSA

AllRise	CEO -Director	Attorney Kirsten Youens
Animal Talk Africa	Founder	Wynter Worsthorne
Ban Animal Trading	Director	Smaragda Louw
Beauty Without Cruelty -South Africa	Chairperson	Toni Brockhoven
Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education	Director	Stephen Munro
Community Led Animal Welfare	Founder	Cora Bailey
Co-Operative and Policy Alternative Center	Co-Founder and Board Chair	Prof Vishwas Satgar
Dzomo La Mupo	Founder – Director	Mphatheleni Makaulule
EMS Foundation	Executive Director	Michele Pickover
Future 4 Wildlife	Co-Founder	Stefania Falcon
Gifted for Good	Env. Education	Jabu Myeni



## WILDLIFE ANIMAL PROTECTION FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

Global White Lion Protection Trust	CEO Founder	Linda Tucker
Green Group Simonstown	Founder	Laura Pasanisi
Institute for Critical Animal Studies (Africa)	Director	Les Mitchell
Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees	Chairperson	Liezl Smith
Monkey Helpline	Co-Founder	Steve Smit
Ocean Not Oil	Founder	Janet Solomon
Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary	Co-Founders	Liz and Cathrine Cornwall-Nyquist
Parliament for the People	Founder	Vivien Law
Rhinos in Africa	Founder	Megan Carr
Southern African Faith Communities' Env. Institute	Executive Director	Francesca De Gasparis
South Peninsula Khoi Council	Senior Chief	Stephen Fritz
Southern African Fight for Rhinos	Director	Lex Abnett
Vervet Monkey Foundation	Founder	Dave Du Toit
Wild Africa Fund	Director	Guy Jennings
Wild Law Institute	Director	Cormac Cullinan