



URGENT

TRANSMITTED BY EMAIL

Date: 20 November 2025

TO: **Overstrand Municipality** Your ref.:

Att: Mr Archie Klaas, Executive Mayor Mayor@overstrand.gov.za

Cc: Dr Dean O'Neill, Municipal Manager mm@overstrand.gov.za

CC: **National Council of SPCAs**

Att: Ms Megan Schroeder, National Inspector, Wildlife Protection Unit Wild5@nspca.co.za

From: Sarah Kvalsvig sarah@greencounsel.co.za

Total pages: 2 Our ref: E040-050/SDK

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Dear Sirs

REMOVAL OF TRACKING COLLARS FROM CHACMA BABOON INDIVIDUALS IN HERMANUS AREA, OVERSTRAND

1. We refer to previous correspondence regarding this matter and note that the operation to remove the collars is proceeding; with at least one collar now removed from a female.

Expertise grounded in experience

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2. In that regard, our instructions are that it is clear from the condition of the female baboon's neck that the collar was far too tight and removal of the collar was way overdue.
3. As stated in previous correspondence, stakeholders still have no information regarding how the municipality intends to remove the remainder of the collars. Our instructions are that the current operation appears to be proceeding in a very *ad hoc* manner and apparently without supervision by any animal welfare organisations or experts.
4. Accordingly our instructions are again to request that you provide stakeholders with information about the methodology that is being adopted, and in particular:
 - 4.1. Our instructions are one of the collared females is likely to be pregnant. How is her safety and that of her unborn baby to be safeguarded? What methodology is to be employed to remove the collar from this female without endangering their health? In this regard we note that a pregnant baboon (named PBF1) was successfully captured in Pringle Bay in 2023. Will the same methods be used?
 - 4.2. We note that the first baboon was darted without capturing her. The instructions of our client's vet are that it is critical in that case that baboons are closely monitored after darting. What measures are in place to ensure the safety of sedated baboons from interference by residents, traffic and other hazards while they are sedated and/or recovering from sedation?
 - 4.3. What information has been given to residents as to the operation taking place in various urban areas? How will baboons be protected from interference by residents and how will residents be protected from potentially agitated baboon troop members?
5. Finally, kindly provide an undertaking that the Municipality will no longer place collars on baboons for purposes of tracking them, nor cause nor allow this to be done. Our instructions are that the impacts on well-being of collars means that their use is not justified from an animal well-being perspective, unless they are used in a limited manner and only for scientific research, and not tracking.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours sincerely

CULLINAN & ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED

Per: SD Kvalsvig