



BRIEFING DOCUMENT 1

CONSEQUENCES OF THE OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY BABOON MONITORING PROGRAMME IN PRINGLE BAY, MAY 2024 – APRIL 2025

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The Financial Cost to the Overstrand Municipality for the Adaptive Baboon Management Programme, May 2024 – March 2025)

Utilising the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 the following information was received concerning the costs to the Overstrand Municipality for the Adaptive Baboon Management Programme by a ratepayer living in Pringle Bay.

The information was requested from om Manager Liezl De Villiers, however this request was not acknowledged. The ratepayer then request the information from the Municipal Manager, three months later the information was received from Dennis Hendriks.

The cost to the Overstrand Municipality for ten months is R 2 468 138.00



Financial outlay for baboon monitoring in Pringle Bay

Period:		1 May to 30 Oct 2024	1 Nov 2024 to 30 Mar 2025	
Total Months		6	5	
Number of eco rangers		23	33	
Salaries	All Eco rangers	R690 000	R907 500	Total per month
Salaries	One Eco ranger	R5 000	R5 500	
Number of supervisors		6	8	
Salaries	All Supervisors	R288 000	R340 000	Total per month
Salaries	One Supervisor	R8 000	R8 500	
Training done in house		R0	R0	
PPE (clothing)		R66 786	R29 353	
Two-way radios		R0	R9 050	
Cell phones		R0	R0	
Bear bangers		R1 325		
Paintball markers		R38 970		
Flares		R0	R0	
Gel blasters		R6 200		
Gel blaster ammunition		R1 680	R1 235	
Paintball markers ammunition		R2 276	R1 393	
Transport costs		R53 306	R24 762	
Servicing Paintball markers		R6 302	R0	
Other Expenses		R176 845	R65 793	
TOTAL		R1 154 845	R1 313 293	R2 468 138

Financial outlay for monitors, Pringle Bay 2024			
Itemised costs		1 May 2024 to 30 October 2024 (5 months)	1 November 2024 to 30 March 2024 (6 months)
Number of "monitors"	Number of monitors eco-rangers	23	(+10) = 33
	Number of monitors supervisors	6	(+2) = 8
Salaries	Salaries (eco-rangers)	R690 000	R907 500
	Salaries (supervisors)	R288 000	R340 000
Training		R0 (done in-house)	R0 (done in-house)
Clothing including shoes and raincoats PPE		R66,785.88	R29 353,40
Two-way radios		R0	R9 050
Cell phones		n/a	n/a
Weapons Tools/equipment	Bear Bangers	R1 325	R0
	Paintball guns markers	R38 970	R0
	Flares	n/a	n/a
	Gel blasters	R6 200	R0
	Gel blaster ammunition (gel balls)	R1 680	R1 235
	Paintball ammunition (paintballs)	R2 276	R1 393
Transport costs	Transport to and from Pringle Bay	R53 305,99	R24 762,81
Servicing of paintball guns markers	Servicing of paintball guns markers	R6 301,90	R0
TOTALS		R1 088 059	R1 313 294

Fatalities and Injuries May 2024 – April 2025

A Dossier of evidence was handed to Mayor Rabie and the Municipal Manger on the 5th December 2024, with proof of transgressions, confirmed on video and images, carried out by the municipal staff resulting in acts of cruelty towards baboons.

Thereafter there were request for follow-ups and in-person meetings by several organisations, nothing ever materialised.

Verifiable evidence continues to be collected.

The Mismanagement of Baboons in Pringle Bay has resulted in the chaos of the Hangklip baboon troop moving in to the village.

Emboldened by the stance of the OM, some residents are taking up arms and killing baboons and or poisoning baboons – violence has become acceptable in Pringle Bay

The PB Baboon Troop is very small and the death and injuries under OM management, particularly the so-called Adaptive Baboon Management Programme, is severely affecting the genetic viability and social cohesion of the troop.

Unacceptable Statistics May 2024 – April 2025

4 Baboon Deaths

1 Missing Female – Preliminary (Unconfirmed) Investigation - Killed

2 Serious Injuries

27th June 2024 juvenile baboon with infected suspected projectile wound on chest

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1HctvjV5Xe/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Facial injuries from paintball guns being fired at close range directly at baboons
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DW8ijCyYG/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Numerous similar injuries to baboons because of paintball guns fired at close range, were reported in July 2024 to NSPCA. We have copies of these written complaints.

Joey the Alpha male shot and killed in Pringle Bay 26th August 2024
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ayuLXXt6v/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Female Baboon Shot in Pringle Bay. Body Discovered 17th October 2024
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ABjv2vnqn/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Mismanagement of Baboons Resulted in Baboon Being Electrocuted – Entirely Preventable Incident, 13th January 2025
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AJRtEELDb/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Confirmation of Independent Laboratory Testing - Baboons are Being Purposefully poisoned in Pringle Bay, 19th February 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AJRtEELDb/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



The OM failure to engage meant that a letter of concern was sent to the NSPCA about Overstrand Municipality refusal to treat severely injured juvenile baboon in April 2025 or allow medical intervention by a wildlife veterinarian which the EMS Foundation offered to pay for.



Baboon being attacked by dog – another preventable incident



Death of male baboon 29th April 2025 - gun shot



The Adaptive Baboon Management Programme is causing Negative Public Perception and Possible Reputational Damage to the OM and DA

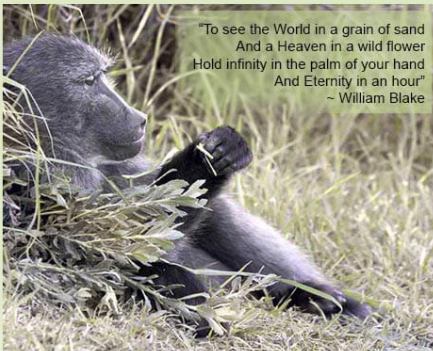
Public Petition: “Oppose Overstrand Municipality NEW Baboon Management Plan for Pringle Bay”. **3451 people** have signed the petition against the Overstrand Municipality’s Adaptive Baboon Management Programme for Pringle Bay this number will rise after the killing of the baboon on the 29th April 2025. See: <https://www.change.org/p/oppose-overstrand-municipality-new-baboon-management-plan-for-pringle-bay>

Reward Offered for the Successful Arrest and Prosecution

Reward Money

R51,600

**FOR INFORMATION LEADING
TO AN ARREST.
WHO SHOT JOEY?**



"To see the World in a grain of sand
And a Heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour"
~ William Blake

If you have information and can do an affidavit.
Contact Pringle Bay Conservation via Facebook
or 063 202 1105 whatsapp.

THANK YOU

Malicious Damage to Property, Intimidation and Assaults – there have been several blatant attacks on property belonging to residents and volunteers who are publicly against the *Adapted Baboon Management Programme*. For example:

- Volunteer for KVET car tyres slashed on Municipal Property – Pringle Bay beach 30th June 2024.
- Three residents in Pringle Bay have their tyres slashed in their properties, 18th November 2024.
- Vandals enter private property of KVET volunteer, and cause R78 000.00 damage to vehicle, 10th December 2024.

Because of the disinterest and failure to investigate these attacks on the property of residents in Pringle Bay by the OM officials, by law enforcement or SAPS, and because Mayor Rabie refused, to publicly acknowledge these attacks, several **private investigators** have been commissioned to investigate malicious damage to property. For example see: <https://www.mikebolhuis.co.za/post/project-ongoing-investigation-in-pringle-bay-western-cape>

Overstrand Municipality Failure to Engage with NGO's and Civic Organisations

Three well-known civil society organisations have tried fruitlessly to engage with the Overstrand Municipality, more than thirty wildlife conservation organisations have written to the Overstrand Municipality about the current mismanagement of the baboons in Pringle Bay, citing academic and scientific evidence and the misuse of current environmental legislation.

Below are examples of some of their communications:

EMS Foundation, 2nd May 2024

“The EMS Foundation NPO is a South African social justice NGO with the primary purpose of alleviating and ending suffering, raising public awareness, empowering, providing dignity to and promoting the interests of vulnerable groups, including wild animals. We have a special interest in biodiversity and we support the five interrelated principles of social justice, namely: equity, access, diversity, participation and rights. We are cognizant of the entanglements of oppression and is committed to the promotion of inclusive justice, showing compassion across species and working to build a better future for all through campaigns, research, analysis, advocacy and holding government to account. The EMS Foundation sees access to information, openness, accountability and transparency as the oxygen of democracy.

Our Foundation has already built a state-of-the-art boxing club and community facility and 3 high school classrooms to service the communities of Zwelihle and Mount Pleasant. This year we are building 6 more high school classrooms. Once completed the high school, together with academic qualifications, will also offer advanced technical study opportunities to the youth which will guarantee them employment. We are also generously, financially support the local boxing club in Zwelihle. This boxing club

is well known in South Africa and abroad, recognized in boxing circles for its ability of producing national boxing champions. Besides being the home of boxing champions, the club forms an important safety hub for the youth, this hub played an important role during the global COVID-19 pandemic. The EMS Foundation supported food for the many people living in Zwelihle and this was distributed from the boxing club. The club has also become a safe-haven for much younger children who have no parents to care for them in the afternoons after school.

As you may be aware, our vision and interests extend beyond humans to the protection of the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations of South Africans. Therefore, part of our support in the Overstrand is also carefully considered assistance for the protection and safekeeping of South Africa's natural environment, including the protection and well-being of the Chacma baboons in this region.

Unfortunately, in relation to environmental issues unfolding in the Overstrand, the municipality appears to be maligning and refusing to engage with legitimate NGOs and civil society who have a lot to offer in terms of problem solving, particularly in relation to human-baboon conflict, harmonious coexistence, and funding towards waste management solutions. This is most undemocratic and sadly reminiscent of apartheid-style power politics. Moreover, in relation to baboon management in the Overstrand there has also been questionable financial deviations.

The EMS Foundation supports the work of a community driven baboon programme in the Kogelberg, where locally engaged, properly trained and vetted personnel collect data on the baboon behavior, operated by a locally based NGO. This team of men and women have meticulously collected data about the baboon behavior more than a year under very trying circumstances. South African primate organizations who are members of the *Wildlife Animal Protection Forum of South Africa*, a forum consisting of thirty organizations who are all also members of the ministerial appointed Wildlife Well-Being Forum, are in full support of the community programme and this NGO.

It is regrettable that the Overstrand Municipality has publicly maligned the necessity of this important data collection process. The community run organization has also repeatedly requested meetings with the environmental department to discuss the information that has been collected, to no avail.

The data collected suggests that baboons are attracted to the present waste transfer site which is at the entrance of Pringle Bay village. Built many years ago it has outgrown its purpose. The current design does not allow for the waste to be secured so it has become a seven-day week all day and night restaurant for the baboons.

The community-led programme has engaged with locally based businesses who are qualified to rebuild the dump site in such a way that the waste will be secured. The EMS Foundation has agreed to fund these costs. The design and a full proposal were presented to the waste management department at the Overstrand Municipality and whilst they were very enthusiastic at the time, apparently, the Ward 10 Counsellor, Theresa Els, was of the view, unacceptably and incredulously, that there may be an ulterior motive for this offer and has not bothered to acknowledge the generous offer whilst at the same time admitting that the Overstrand Municipality does not have the budget to carry out this refurbishment themselves.

The most damaging part of the current untenable situation is that representatives from the Overstrand Municipality, whilst refusing to speak to the EMS Foundation or the local NPC, have instead chosen to engage only with residents who would prefer to have the baboons permanently and violently removed from the village. Ignoring any semblance of neutrality, the Overstrand Municipality position is leading to an upsurge in violence not only towards the baboons but of greater concern is the level of violence displayed towards women who are collecting data. This has escalated to such an extent that the EMS Foundation has engaged the services of criminal lawyer Willian Booth.

The EMS Foundation has had independent primatologists and ecologists to do a site visit to Pringle Bay and to study the important database that has been collected over the past year in order that a Report may be drafted. This Report, will be published at no cost to the rate payers of the Overstrand could hold the vital clues as how to manage human baboon conflict in a sustainable harmonious way.

It is a great shame that the Overstrand Municipality town planners and environmental department did not take into consideration the significance of protecting the baboons natural foraging area in Pringle Bay, which is alluded to in the introduction of the proposed new Overstrand Municipality [Adaptive Baboon Management Plan for Pringle Bay](#), while instead permitting the unprecedented growth of the urban sprawl of the village.

In addition, the municipality is failing to enforce its own bylaws, particularly in relation to waste management, or introducing any non-violent or humane mitigation measures. These should be the very first steps in any baboon management plan.

The introduction to this Plan states that the baboons are attracted to human derived food, however, the very relevant fact that the baboons visit the Pringle Bay waste dump site on a daily basis is, peculiarly, not included. The dump site is inadequate and not baboon proof, the Overstrand Municipality and the Pringle Bay Rate Payers Association have ignored the opportunity of having the entire site rebuilt at no cost to the Overstrand rate payer. It has been scientifically proven that the baboons will not be attracted to human derived food waste sites if they achieve no satisfaction from them.

It has also been well documented that there are also numerous waste bins in the central business district of Pringle Bay that are not baboon proofed. There seems to be no political will or available law enforcement capability to fine the residents who refuse to baboon proof these bins which attract the baboons to the village, on a daily basis. Numerous residents in Pringle Bay refuse to baboon proof their homes, some continue to feed birds and other wild animals.

Instead, the Overstrand seems to want to use the baboon management methodologies devised by HWS, an external management company. These methodologies were so unsuccessful that it resulted in the cruel deaths of numerous baboons and has left a deeply divided community in Pringle Bay.

Moreover, they were also not successful in Cape Town and the HWS contract was terminated. We have seen video evidence recorded from December 2022 to March 2023, of the baboon management organization employed by the Overstrand Municipality at considerable cost to the rate payer to manage baboons with paintball guns. It is unfortunate to note they also chose to shoot at the baboons whilst they are peacefully foraging at their sleep sites, this fact was reported in the media, see:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2021-05-31-baboon-management-city-of-cape-town-shows-its-spiteful-side/>

We have also seen the same organization fail at keeping the baboons out of Pringle Bay by using paint ball guns, the same organization that failed on the Cape Peninsula. We therefore have to question why the decision has been made to re-employ these unfavorable and violent methods to pretend to manage baboons, and we have to

question why the Pringle Bay Rate Payers Association has supported this plan.

The Overstrand Municipality has prevented meaningful consideration or comment by a wide-range of stakeholders and interested and affected parties and the municipality is out of step with South Africa's constitutional imperatives.

In the above-mentioned Plan there are no links or references provided which enable further engagement by persons seeking to understand particular proposed actions, and it is replete with unarticulated assumptions, generalizations and lack of terminological precision or explanation. It falls short of what is expected of a rational and lawful government strategy/plan/policy.

The Plan reflects critical failures in relation to transparency, public participation and accountability. There has been no opportunity for stakeholders and civil society to access the document or the plan, convene and discuss its import. We are not aware of any road-shows assisting in explaining it to the public and, overall, it reflects a top- down approach to policy making at odds with legal requirements for public participation and best practice.

We draw sharp attention to the requirements of public participation in section 99 read with 100 of NEM:BA; the principles of NEMA; section 4 of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 3 of 2000; and the repeated emphasis on meaningful consultation and public participation in environmental matters by the courts.

It is implicit in the South African constitutional scheme that environmental plans / policies / strategies must contribute to the right of everyone to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations. This means that any strategy must be conditional on contributing to short-, medium- and long- term environmental protection. Section 24(b)(iii) of the South African Constitution is one of three distinct obligations imposed on the State which give effect to the section 24(b) "environmental protection" right.

The obligation to prevent environmental harms is a discrete obligation imposed by section 24(b)(i), while the obligation to promote conservation is imposed by section 24(b)(ii).

The Plan ignores the imperative underscored by the *White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity* to exercise a duty of care which “avoids, minimises, or remedies adverse impacts on biodiversity”.

Furthermore, the Overstrand Municipality fails to consider prevention of environmental harms, environmental safeguards and the mitigation hierarchy and fails to provide a workable risk-mitigation framework or to indicate that any risk assessment has been undertaken in respect of the proposed actions put forward in the Plan.

The Plan is not aligned with constitutional imperatives regarding the essential links between biodiversity, conservation and animal well-being. The requirement that the well-being of animals is considered is among the objectives of NEM:BA, recognized as an element of the common-law (as is recognition of animal sentience), and integral to constitutional conservation imperatives as they pertain to biodiversity. The important link between the well-being of individual animals, conservation imperatives and the constitutional foundation of a caring and humane society is key.

The Plan is far from the legal understanding of the inter-relationship between environmental protection, animal well-being, conservation and the values of dignity, compassion and humaneness which are foundational to South Africa's constitutional democracy.

The Plan ignores the legal and ethical imperatives of animal welfare and well-being and on that basis the EMS Foundation opposes the plan in its entirety and once again demands that there is proper, democratic, unbiased stakeholder engagement.

To conclude, we are less concerned about how our Foundation, as an investor and funder totally committed to the well-being (both human and non-human) of the Overstrand area, is being treated by the municipality, and more concerned about the municipality's lack of proper, democratic stakeholder engagement with residents, civil society and NGOs.”

<https://emsfoundation.org.za/letter-of-objection-re-overstrand-municipality-idp-and-baboon-management-plans-2024/>

Unfortunately, the aforementioned, comprehensive letter of objection was ignored and thus on the 31st May 2024 the EMS Foundation was forced to ask their lawyers to send a Letter of Demand: <https://emsfoundation.org.za/letter-of-demand-use-of-inhumane-baboon-management-methods-in-pringle-bay/>

Wildlife Animal Protection Forum South Africa, August 26th 2024

The [Wildlife Animal Protection Forum of South Africa](#) (WAPFSA) was established as a vehicle to engage with government on wild life issues, and to put wild animals onto the political agenda based on ethical and compassionate conservation and harmonious coexistence within nature.

WAPFSA is a civil society network currently consisting of twenty-eight (28) South African-based protection, conservation, environmental and community-based organizations that share certain common values, expertise and objectives.

WAPFSA's activities are underpinned by an understanding that the inter-relationship between environmental protection, animal well-being, conservation and the values of dignity, compassion and humaneness are foundational to our constitutional democracy. WAPFSA also advocate for the concepts of UBUNTU, the intrinsic value of wild animals and an integrative policy approach.

Collectively, WAPFSA offers the South African government, a body of expertise from scientific, animal welfare, rights, social and climate justice, indigenous knowledge, public advocacy sectors and environmental law experts.

WAPFSA non-human Primate Working Group has a particular interest in the management of chacma baboons in South Africa and has engaged with the Province and the Minister on several occasions. WAPFSA comments on the Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan are reflected and published on the SANParks website.

Members of WAPFSA are part of the Ministerial Wildlife Well-being Forum, instituted by the Department of Forestry, Fishery and the Environment (DFFE) in May 2023, by special request of former Minister Barbara Creecy, to consult organisations focused on best practices for the protection of wildlife, with the view to implement the provision of animal well-being in conservation practices.

False and Misleading Information Lead to Aggressive Onslaught Towards Baboons and the Humans who Protect Them

A volunteer based, registered non-profit organisation called Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees (KVET) whose mission it is to ensure the humane management of the Pringle Bay baboon troop and to prevent human-baboon conflict has publicly been accused of taming the Pringle Bay baboons.

Pringle Bay

A study carried out in Pringle Bay by a primatologist has confirmed that the Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees *KVET BIOS* were *never witnessed attempting to influence the baboon troop movement in Pringle Bay*.

According to the report, *the baboon's movement in the village was minimally, if at all, influenced by the presence of either the KVET BIOS or the Overstrand Municipal baboon*

monitors.

The rhetoric expressed by some residents in Pringle Bay that KVET has negatively influenced the behaviour of the baboon troop in Pringle Bay is therefore false and deliberately misleading.

Analysed data, collected over a period of more than a year also indicates that there has been a reduction in the number of so-called *house raids* by the baboons who live in Pringle Bay in comparison to when the baboons were managed by a company contracted by the municipality called Human Wildlife Solutions.

Despite the condemnation of over three thousand participants and supporters of a petition, the human-baboon conflict in Pringle Bay is once again being addressed through short-term mitigation and incident preparedness measures, which includes the deployment of deterrents and or possible lethal control methods. Lethal, because the shooting of baboons with paint ball markers is indiscriminate with no regard to lactating females and or infants and juveniles.

Read the full statement: <https://wapfsa.org/statement-of-support-for-baboons-in-pringle-bay-baboons-have-intrinsic-value-our-moral-obligation-towards-baboons-in-the-wild/>

Baboon Interest Group (BIG), November 24th 2024

<http://www.babooninterestgroup.org.za/2024/12/04/big-open-communication-to-the-environmental-department-of-the-overstrand-municipality/>

The [Baboon Interest Group](#) (BIG) is a formalized alliance of organizations in the Overstrand, specifically established as a vehicle to engage with municipalities, regional and provincial conservation agencies, law enforcement agencies and national government on subjects which include developing policies for the sustainable and ethical long-term wellbeing, welfare and protection of Chacma baboons, and the natural environment in which they live and on which we all depend.

The [South African Local Government Association](#) published guidelines for the roles and responsibility of Councilors, Political Structures and Officials. These guidelines submit that the objective of local government is to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.

Furthermore, according to these guidelines, it is your responsibility as local government officials, to promote a safe and healthy environment and to encourage the involvement of communities and community organization in matters of local government.

It is regrettable that although, on the 4th November 2024, you acknowledged Mayor Rabie's request to contact us, you have deliberately gone against her instruction and taken the decision not to do so.

In order to assist you, in your [official capacity](#) described on the Overstrand Municipality website "*to manage environmental management and conservation to ensure integrity and perseverance of the natural and cultural environment*" the factual content of the attached document [BIG Baboon Facts for Pringle Bay](#) will be helpful.

This document is necessary because, currently, the disinformation campaign about the factual history of baboon-human interaction in Pringle Bay is widespread.

This disinformation includes defamatory, targeted messages spread purposely to mislead residents and visitors to Pringle Bay, which includes false rumors and misconceptions about the baboons themselves, the role of Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees – KVET and other voluntary wildlife organizations working diligently in Pringle Bay, the so-called success of the current Overstrand Municipality Adaptive Baboon Management Plan, and the Pringle Bay waste dump site.

BIG strongly disagrees, and has evidence to challenge your assessment that the Adaptive Baboon Management Plan is successful in Pringle Bay, an opinion that you have shared with residents of Pringle Bay.

BIG is working diligently to combat disinformation and to debunk common myths and falsehoods through [social media](#), press releases, a newsletter, mailings and our [website](#).

The [BIG Baboon Facts for Pringle Bay](#) conveniently provides residents and visitors to Pringle Bay with the correct factual information which will thereby reduce misinformation. It would be prudent for your department to familiarize yourselves with the content of this document so as to assist the municipality with making judicious decisions in relation to baboons.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information. We have a dossier of images and videos of the questionable behavior of your appointed Overstrand Baboon Monitors who have supposedly received training and have police clearance certificates.

Offer to to Rebuild the Waste Site in Pringle Bay Disregarded



Situated at the entrance to Pringle Bay opposite the school, is the waste “transfer” dump site in Pringle Bay is an eyesore which, despite all attempts and efforts by the Overstrand Municipality, cannot cope with the amount of rubbish that is delivered there all day long by residents, holiday makers and passersby. Pringle Bay village has outgrown the capabilities of this site.

The so-called transfer station attracts baboons and other wild animals to the village. The EMS Foundation offered to rebuild the site completely and to work with the waste management department of the Overstrand Municipality. The OM completely disregarded this opportunity.