Partnering to protect wildlife with EWT

The N4 Toll Route between Tshwane and Maputo forms the backbone of the Maputo Corridor and is essential to the economy of Mozambique and South Africa. However, although road infrastructure development is essential for social and economic development it can come at a price for the fauna which habitat the areas where such infrastructure is being developed.

The flow of vehicles on national roads, particularly when reckless driving is involved, can have a direct negative impact on wildlife, with many species at risk from wildlife-vehicle-collisions which often result in an animal's death (aka roadkill).

To curb this environmental concern the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) developed and introduced the Road Ecology Research Project that provides scientific advice on how to minimise negative environmental impacts of transportation when constructing new, yet essential, roads. This initiative gave rise to a partnership between TRAC and the EWT which focuses on the establishment and management of a comprehensive wildlife incident database through the collection of data from the N4 toll road.

TRAC's patrol vehicles, which travel the route on a daily basis, form an intrinsic part of this joint venture. Because they are tasked to ensure the road remains clear of debris, which includes dead animals, they have the responsibility of doing the ground research on wildlife road kills. As part of this partnership all of our patrol team members were trained by EWT in wildlife incident data collection, species identification and snake handling. They also received training on data collection and management so they could record the number and type of wildlife killed daily on the N4 Toll Route.

Through this project the EWT and its partners hope to eventually determine the best solutions in ways of reducing roadkill.

The public are also free to report road kills either directly to the EWT by email: roads@ewt.org.za or submitted or via the EWT Road Watch app which can be downloaded from iTunes and Playstore.