

Project Update: January 2011

In the continuation of the work, I have so far recorded additional 38 animals that have been knocked down. The trend still remains that birds have the highest percentage mortality than any other groups of animals. It is interesting to note that the number of animals killed reduced drastically between the months of September and December. This reduction in number of mortality at the peak of the rainy season may be due to the fact that animals have abundance of resources (food, water cover etc.), which made them not move often from one habitat to another - thereby reducing their use of the road. In December 2010 however, the routine fire management may have made them reduce their activities around the road. It was also noted that the average speed of motorists along the road is 81.1 km/h as against the recommended 30 km/h. I also observed that some scavengers like spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*) take advantage of the road kill as food. This was the case when a crested porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*) was knocked down. All I met at the scene was its spines and blood on the road, and beside the road the paw prints of spotted hyaena dragging the corpse away.

No particular section of the road has been implicated as a 'red zone' yet, although when all the data is combined, then we may see a trend. The abstract of the work was accepted for poster presentation at SCCS Cambridge.



A snake species killed on the road



Senegal Thick-knee knocked by vehicle.



The blood and spines of Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*).