



## *Road kills of wild animals – the ignored human-animal interface*

In India, the impact of roads and traffic on wildlife has gained less research attention, except for a few studies that focus on road kills (Gubbi et al. 2012). The increase in construction of new roads and use of these roads can constitute many threats to wildlife including mortality resulting from collisions with moving vehicles (Teixeira et al. 2015).

Roads result in habitat loss and act as barriers to animal movement and direct mortality especially in fragmented landscapes (Grift et al. 2015). Did you know there are 64 million km of roads currently in excess on Earth which is enough for 83 round-trips to the moon (Ree 2015)? Important regions for biodiversity have extensive road networks (Ree 2015). Increased industrialization, population, and change in lifestyle are the reasons for the construction of new roads that continues to increase in rapid speed, especially in developing countries.

In spite of the speed limit boards put up next to roads, how often do we follow the rules and regulations? There should be some kind of monitoring system in place especially with respect to high bio-diverse regions in both protected and non-protected areas where there is frequent movement of wild animals. We need more research and citizen science can be an option to record all the information on wildlife that citizens encounter during their travel to different places.

The ecological and environmental impacts of roads are less known and are considered least priority in most of the developing countries. During a symposium, conservation at the cross-roads: ICCB–ECCB in 2015, a survey of ~600 practitioners was conducted globally, as well as insights were derived from the “Handbook of Road Ecology”, published in 2015. This handbook contains 62 chapters, written by over 100 authors from 25 countries



**Roadkill image of Small Indian Civet with speed limit signage of 65 km/hr**





focused on six key recommendations including important areas for biodiversity to be spared from road construction to ensure research data to be made widely available to conduct meta-analyses of such data. The need to build a more-sustainable global road network and implement effective evaluation of mitigation is the need of the hour (Ree 2015).

## Encounters with wildlife road kill in Kollegala and Hanur taluk

### Small Indian Civet *Viverricula indica* IUCN Red List: Least Concern

#### Encounter 1

Date: 02 January 2021; Time: 1600 h;  
Place: Chamarajanagara to Tirumakudalu-Narasipura highway.

Two road kills of Small Indian Civets were noticed and the distance between them was less than 10 m. One was found dead in the middle of the road and the other on the side of the road. The road is well maintained as there is toll system in place and the vehicles travel at a speed more than the speed limit signage of 65 km/hr.

#### Encounter 2:

Date: 09 January 2021; Time: 1000 h; Place: Hanur to Ajjipura road.

One road kill of Small Indian Civet roadkill was noticed near Arakanahalla which passes through MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. Information was provided to the forest department.



Roadkill image of a Small Indian Civet with close proximity with another individual



Roadkill image of a Small Indian Civet





Head & body length 51 cm; Tail 46 cm;  
Weight 3.5 kg



Roadkill image of a Small Indian Civet

### Encounter 3:

Date: 28 February 2022; Time: 1612 h; Place:  
Mysore to Kollegala road.

One individual road kill of Small Indian Civet was noticed near Tagarupura surrounded by agriculture land and paddy fields.

### Rusty Spotted Cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus*

**IUCN Red List: Near Threatened**

### Encounter 4:

Date: 09 December 2020; Time: 1830 h;  
Place: Hanur to MM Hills temple road.



An old roadkill image of a Small Indian Civet

One individual road kill of the smallest cat in the world was noticed just 2 km from Cowdalli to MM Hills temple road on the side almost 10 m from the sign board that says 'Wildlife Crossing Please Go Slowly', which also passes through MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. Information was provided to the forest department.

Head & body length 34 cm; Tail 24.5 cm;  
Hind leg height 15 cm; Height 25 cm.





Roadkill image of a Rusty Spotted Cat at dusk.



The prominent three lines on the head of the Rusty Spotted Cat.

## References:

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