

Kopa - Jopa road construction



Planting of a figtree at Kopa roundabout with the involvement of the local Headman Mutape Dzingire and a local lady Otilia Mikiseni.



Installation of hollow mountable kerbs at Duri to protect the edges of the curves.



Opening of side drains at the Paidamoyo slippage section as well as cut to spoil.



Bridge number 4 Makondo 1 crossing over Nhambwe river shuttering of upstream edge beam in preparation for concrete pouring.



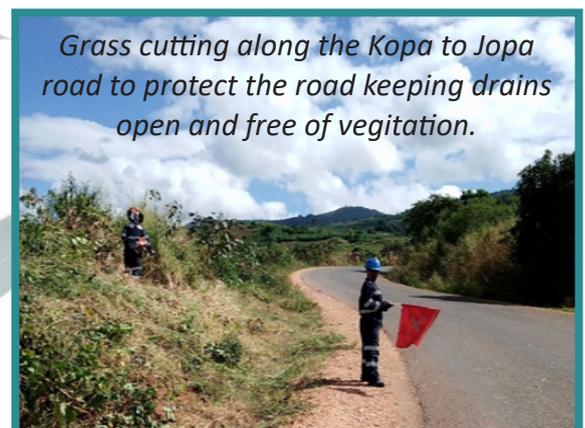
Upstream edge beam pouring of concrete complete. Excavation of the downstream trench for edge beam as well as levelling the surface for bottom slab concrete pouring.



Cut to spoil of expansive soils at swampy section and replacing with gravel.



Right: Construction of catchpits to direct water into the culvert.



Grass cutting along the Kopa to Jopa road to protect the road keeping drains open and free of vegetation.

Eucalyptus – Friend or Foe

By Caroline Fenwick

Thirsty Trees

Eucalyptus is a much-maligned tree and is widely considered to be an invasive, water guzzling pest.

“There are nearly a thousand species of eucalyptus, mostly Australian, only six are in fact classified as invasive in South Africa. The villains are the red river gum; two types of spider gum; karri; saligna gum and black ironbark.” Dr Hugh Glenn, Knysna- 2017

It is reported that Eucalyptus species in South Africa are responsible for the loss of 16% of the 1444 million cubic meters of water resources. They are thirsty trees.

In the past, gums were used to dry up wetlands, swamps, and marshes, to try to curb the incidence of malaria. They have become more widely used in a variety of ecosystems and processes. Not only does the tree provide sustenance for bees, but it provides shade, its oil is used in medicines and cosmetics. The species provides timber, fuel, wood, and paper.

The eucalyptus has developed plants suitable for every type of environment, it re-grows after cutting and is not browsed (except by koalas in Australia). So, to disregard the planting of these trees, just because they are exotic, is narrow minded. Areas, that have suffered from overgrazing and over farming and where erosion is far advanced, and where indigenous trees can no longer grow, might benefit.

These fast-growing trees, which are hardy, adaptable, and can withstand and survive in adverse conditions can promote the regeneration of an environment destroyed by human habitation.



21 Gumtrees have been planted in a row along the cut off drain at the Swamp section. Eventually it will dry this area up. Which will protect the road for the future.



*Left:
Culvert end
treatment-
construction
of retaining
walls for
erosion
protection.*



*Construction of wingwalls and retaining walls
for erosion protection*



Subsoil Drains

As drainage is of paramount importance for the road pavement, subsoil drainage is being carried out at Makondo 3 swampy section to get rid underground water.

