

MTUNZINI N2 ROAD UPGRADE

Northern KwaZulu-Natal, Near Richards Bay, South Africa
(Working in a sensitive wetland habitat)

PROJECT TYPE: Highway through sensitive wetlands

CLIENT:
South African National Roads Agency

DATE OF PROJECT:
June 2016

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The new highway crossed the Umlazi river and 22 wetland systems so careful wetland management was crucial. Due to the sensitivity of these swamp forests and wetland areas, Concor revised the project footprint area to minimise any forest need clearing.

A number of measures were put in place to protect the wetland areas on site, for instance the wetland soils were removed in separate layers so they could be reinstated. Several protected trees species such Powder Puff, Onion Wood and Swamp Figs were mapped out marked and protected from disturbance. Areas were clearly demarcated to control disturbance while access routes avoided the wetland areas. No vehicles or machinery were allowed to move through these areas.

All laydown yards, camps and storage areas were positioned outside wetland area or seeps and any refuelling was done in designated areas. Pylons were placed outside of the wetlands wherever possible and storm water managed to avoid erosion. Water control berms and sediment traps were used to prevent siltation from road layer works.

Special mitigation measures such as riprap, sediment traps, diversion berms and gabions were used through the highway wetland interface. The landscape was re-profiled while local wetland plants augmented the original seed bank.

