



Conférence Européenne
des Directeurs des Routes
Conference of European
Directors of Roads

SAFEROAD

Safe Roads for wildlife and people - Cost-efficient mitigation measures and maintenance practice

Research project funded under the CEDR Transnational Road Research Programme

CEDR Call 2013: Roads and Wildlife - Cost-efficient Road Management/Cost-efficient Mitigating Strategies

CEDR Call 2013: Roads and Wildlife is a Transnational Road Research Programme organised by CEDR (Conference of European Directors of Roads). The funding partners for this programme are Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands and UK.

Details	
Acronym:	SAFEROAD
Start:	April 2014
End:	March 2016
Budget:	EUR293.4k
Co-ordinator:	E.A. van der Grift, ALTERRA, NL
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Partners:	SLU, Sweden MINUARTIA, Spain CALLUNA, Sweden INR, Germany RODIS, Ireland NINA, Norway
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Website:	N/A

Project Summary:

The aim of this project is to improve our understanding of the functioning and effectiveness of different road mitigation strategies in order to find the most cost-efficient way to reduce the impact of roads on wildlife and simultaneously enhance traffic safety. The project aims to generate new scientific knowledge and insights on methods to help prevent wildlife mortality due to animal-vehicle collisions and to assure that the barrier effect of roads is reduced sufficiently to maintain viable wildlife populations, such as the construction of wildlife crossing structures. The aim is also to transfer this knowledge into practical guidelines and tools, so it can be easily accessed and used by road agencies and other stakeholders.

Our approach in this project is to bring together existing knowledge and best-practices from across Europe and beyond, re-analyse existing data through meta-analysis in order to identify road mitigation effects that do not become obvious in data analysis of a single project, collect and analyse new data, and increase our understanding in road mitigation and road maintenance through case studies and demonstration projects. No research matters, if it doesn't reach the people and institutions it was meant for. That is why we view our deliverables in this project not as 'endpoint' but as 'starting point'. Through a pro-active and end user-oriented communication approach we aim to widely communicate the findings of this project, to policy makers, road planners, road managers, researchers, consultants and, to some extent, the general public.

In our consortium we have included both scientists and practitioners. Hence, we are able to address the questions of the CEDR research programme with a scientific approach, while never letting the practicality and feasibility of our recommendations out of sight. We are collaborating with experts outside our consortium, and even outside Europe, to make sure that we collect and use all state-of-the-art knowledge and experiences available around the globe. We will use all opportunities to include stakeholders, such as professionals from road agencies and others that deal with the challenges of road-wildlife conflicts, e.g. through workshops and meetings where feedback can be provided on research approaches or draft versions of our deliverables.

The project will identify mitigation strategies and maintenance practices that are most effective in reducing road-wildlife conflicts. It will provide direction for future mitigation works to ensure best-practice mitigation that is both cost-efficient and ecologically-effective. Consequently it will help establish a sustainable green infrastructure across Europe as well as safe roads for people.