



Guideline

Low-volume Sealed Roads

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Foreword



The SADC road network of just over one million kilometres provides the dominant mode of freight and passenger transport and thus plays a vital role in the economy of the region. Unsurfaced low-volume roads constitute a substantial proportion of that network and impact on the lives of the majority of the region's population who live and work in rural areas. Many of these roads are being upgraded to a sealed standard following strategies that focus on poverty alleviation in pursuit of the region's broader goals of socio-economic growth and development.

The main purpose of the Guideline is to provide stakeholders with a synthesis of best regional and international practice in all aspects of low-volume sealed roads. In so doing, it will correct a shortcoming of other available guidelines and manuals that tend to be more narrowly focused on the technical aspects of relatively more heavily trafficked roads and, as a result, have limited applicability to low-volume sealed roads.

Funding for this Guideline has been provided by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). These co-operating partners continue to provide development assistance to the region in the transport sector aimed, in part, at improving the sustainability of low-volume sealed roads, coupled with direct poverty alleviation.

By promoting the adoption of a more holistic approach to the provision of low-volume sealed roads and the use of innovative best practice from the region, the Guideline will undoubtedly lead to a more efficient use of available road funding. This will result in direct benefits to all SADC countries and facilitate socio-economic growth and development, leading to a reduction in poverty.

I wish to thank our cooperating partners for co-funding this project as well as the UK Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) and the Norwegian Public Roads Administration (NPRA) for managing it. I also wish to thank all those who contributed their knowledge and experience to enable this Guideline to be produced; in particular, the Lead Authors, representatives from member states who were closely involved in its development and the international panel of experts who reviewed the document. I am convinced that all stakeholders will find the Guideline to be a valuable source of information for the more efficient and effective provision of low-volume sealed roads in the SADC region.

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Dedication

This guideline is dedicated to the memory of the late Eric Msolomba, former director of the SATCC Technical Unit, whose vision provided the motivation for this project, and whose dedication and leadership made this document possible.