

53479 The death Acre (Doodsakker)

These are emails and postings on the T4A Forum and it should be read bottom up.

From: Francois Rossouw
Sent: 28 May 2009 18:00
To: wouter@tracks4africa.com
Subject: Fw: Angola

translated

>This (Doodsakker) roete is now totally closed for traffic

Wouter, hier is fotos wat Koos van der Berg geneem het toe ons in die Doodsakker was. Onder die sand was 'n rotsmuur wat ingeval het. Die rotse soos jy kan sien, het die dele pad versper. Ek kon met my Fortuner om die eerste lot kom, maar die tweede lot was te erg. Dis nie rotse wat deur die spring oopgespoel het nie, die pad is nou totaal toe vir verkeer.
Groete, Francois



From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** Andries Marais
Sent: 25 May 2009 18:36
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com
Subject: [T4A] Re: Doodsakker continued

Amen.

One instinctively wonders why the name for it was coined. In many inherently dangerous endeavours there are solo adventurers who weigh themselves against the risks and then take a calculated risk but do not expose others (his back-up of friends and family?) to it. Has any one of the brave entrepreneurs who have tackled this silly journey been through there solo, just him and his unfailing Landrover?

Andries

-----Original Message-----

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com Behalf Of Wouter Brand

Sent: 25 May 2009 10:21

To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com

Subject: [T4A] Re: Doodsakker continued

Thanks for the report back

Doodsakker had been debated a lot on this and other Forums.. See attached the way it is modeled on the T4A map and the dual message on the road line 'Extremely dangerous' and 'Totally insane'

The bottom line for driving here is just this "Total insanity"..

You can only drive on a narrow stretch of beach below the high water mark. On the east you have a steep slipway dune belt and blocking any change of escape for 60km.. on the west you have the Benguela current and waves breaking against this steep slipway dune.

There are no cliffs on the stretch of beach... these are permanent rocks.. which the sea, in a matter of hours can cover or expose.. Drivability of this stretch of coast has little if anything to do with high or low tides.. let alone spring or neap.. and it has little to do with wave swells... and it has but nothing to do with seasons.

On this one you can believe me because the experts on this Forum have analyzed GPS tracks logs, comparing it with tide tables and wave swell.. and there is just no relationship.

Traversing this stretch of 'extremely dangerous' and 'totally insane' coast line depends entirely on LUCK.. and nothing else really.

"when it goes good it goes good.. when it goes bad it goes bad" ..

Doodsakker is a place where the tough and the strong and the macho of the so-called 4x4 fraternity go to make expensive offers to the travel gods.. and to test the limits of vehicle/travel insurance policies.

Doodsakker can and will be traversed.. it is the way it is.. but I've a moral problem with decisions taken here to expose women, children and the elderly to extremely dangerous and totally un-necessary risks.



-----Original Message-----

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com On Behalf Of David

Sent: 23 May 2009 13:33

To: Tracks4Africa

Subject: [T4A] Doodsakker continued

This morning the RSG 4X4 club reported back on their trip to Angola. They had to turn back 37km into the Doodsakker because of a mass of rocks which according to Francois Rossouw, the leader, "had fallen off a cliff". It sounds a lot like the experience of the Voetspore team, at

the same time last year. Yet when I was through there in November there was no sign even of a cliff. The logical conclusion would be that the sanddunes shift during summer, uncovering this obstacle, while at the same time eroding the beach.

RSG were there at spring low and managed to get back in time. They had to take the long route through the dunes from there.

Regards
David

Cillie Steenkamp sent a foto to the forum last year showing what looks similar to what Francois Rossouw described on Saturday. I think Cillie travels through there regularly. Maybe he can comment on the seasonality. I attach his photo again. It does look like cliffs in the background.



From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** Johan P Strumpfer

Sent: 2008 May 26 22:16

To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com

Subject: [T4A] Re: The Death Acre.. The Foz to Tombwa coastline track in Angola = Scary stuff

Robbie

>Were those other vehicles heavily loaded like your vehicle?

Essentially yes; all the vehicles were very similarly loaded. If you look at the rest of the pictures in Darryl's trip report you will see. We were all at maximum weight (lot of water, lot of fuel) at the start of this section; we refueled/filled up at Tombwa on the way South. We still had 7 days of driving left after this photograph was taken until the next refueling stop.

Regards

Johan S

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** luangwablondes@gmail.com
Sent: 2008 May 26 21:30
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com
Subject: [T4A] Re: The Death Acre.. The Foz to Tombwa coastline track in Angola = Scary stuff

Johan

Were those other vehicles heavily loaded like your vehicle?

Robbie

www.luangwablondes.com

>-----Original Message-----

>From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com On Behalf Of Johan P Strumpfer

>Sent: 2008 May 26 19:54

>To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com

>Subject: [T4A] Re: The Death Acre.. The Foz to Tombwa coastline track
>in Angola = Scary stuff

>

>> The whole place is dangerous... Your vehicle slowly sinking into the swamp

>> sand at Foz speaks for itself

>> http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl_Lampert/Angola_2003/ang248.html

>It is indeed my vehicle flat on its belly, just North of the Kunene mouth.

>It is interesting that two vehicles passed ahead of me over this spot (less

>than 5 minutes ahead). It sank when the sand surface over the underlying

>mud flat buckled. These sand covered mud flats is what caught the Voetspore

>guys as well. While I was stuck, another vehicle got stuck on its way to help

>me, on a similar sand covered mud pool. So the warnings are not only about

>the coast further North, but also around Foz du Cunene itself.

>

>Regards

>Johan S

>-----Original Message-----

>From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com On Behalf Of Wouter Brand

>Sent: 2008 May 26 16:45

>To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com

>Subject: [T4A] The Death Acre.. The Foz to Tombwa coastline track in
>Angola = Scary stuff

>

>Johan,

>
>You mail below and
><http://www.voetspore.co.za/dagboek.php?lang=A&article=125>
>refers = Afrikaans



>
>Yip.. I remember the debate at the time and the decision not to show
>this dreadful low water mark track on the T4A map.
>
>It was none different last year with the Bike team (Hennie Jordaan,
>Erik, Michnus, Fred and Nardus).. they too were caught by the high tide.
>In fact, a wave slammed Fred off his 1200GS into the dune. They too had
>to push the bikes up the steep dune.. some did not get higher than 3
>meters.. tying whatever ropes/clothes to the bikes to hold them away
>from the waves.. then waiting for the tide to change
>
>= dreadful.. and life threatening.
>
>I've given up on the debate to publish or not to publish this
>information on the T4A map.. The map speaks in no uncertain terms here.
>= NOT RECOMMENDED and EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
>
>Then again I think maybe we need a place like this.. like in medieval
>times and long before.. a place where you bring offers to the Travel
>gods.. a place where we must sacrifice things.. like an expensive 4x4 or
>an adventure bike every 5 years or so.. which is not the problem.. the
>problem is traveling here is LIFE THREATENING... this place can and it
>will take a human life.
>
>The Voetspore team were fully informed about the dangers of traveling
>this dreadful stretch of coastline.
>
>The whole place is dangerous... Your vehicle slowly sinking into the
>swamp sand at Foz speaks for itself
>http://reports.overland.co.za/Darryl_Lampert/Angola_2003/ang248.html



>

>

>>-----Original Message-----

>>From: Johan P Strumpfer

>>Sent: 2008 May 26 15:35

>>To: WOUTER Brand

>>Subject: Doodsakker - Scary stuff

>>

>>Hallo Wouter

>>

>>Sien verwysing hier onder, en kyk na die fotos op die web blad. En dan

>>onthou dat toe ons terug gekom het daarvan ek nie die "track" op T4A

>>wou gesit het nie. Ek dink dit was 'n wyse besluite.

>>

>> <http://www.voetspore.co.za/dagboek.php?lang=A&article=125>

>>

>>

>>Groete

>>

>>Johan Strumpfer